

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday April 3, 2023
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland, Chair
Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor Paul Saulnier
Councillor William McCormick

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. PUBLIC HEARING

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

None.

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Agenda for April 3, 2023 be as approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 Andrea Hyslop Municipal Advisor-Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Mayor Cleveland welcomed our Municipal Advisor Andrea Hyslop to the meeting. Andrea is making rounds to Towns and Municipalities to meet and chat with Council's and staff. Andrea provided a small update on the work being done on the Code of Conduct this will be coming out in the near future. Mayor Cleveland also expressed the challenges and concerns regarding the RCMP and paying for members which they don't have. The housing challenges were discussed and in particular the former Siesta Motel there is a program that they already be aware of However Andrea will send that information along to the CAO to forward off to them. The Coastal Protection Act is being halted and more consultation will be done. Council thanked Andrea for

coming to tonight's meeting and listening to the concerns. The CAO informed Council that it was Andrea that was a key player in obtaining the Fire Rate from the school so much thanks goes out to Andrea for that hard work on our behalf.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 March 6, 2023

Councillor McCormick noted that the rate discussed for the Mount Street Property should be specified to be \$8.83 per sq. ft. annually an amendment will be done to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of March 6, 2023 be approved as amended to include the word annually to the Mount Street Property lease motion.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 NSFM Spring Workshop

Deputy Mayor Bartlett has confirmed that the Digby Fire Department will be overseeing the Casino night and Tide and Timber has confirmed they will provide the music for the upcoming NSFM Spring Workshop.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Chief Administrative Officer was presented. The CAO is reporting that the Justice Department has established the budget for RCMP services under the PPSA for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The costs for the Town of Digby are \$1,067,924 up 6.04% over the 2022-23 costs. There is a meeting with the Contract Administrator of Public Safety, CAO's and representatives of the Finance and Treasury Department. The Subdivision applications for the property on Harris Road, Shore Road and Third Avenue have been sent to the Subdivision Officer and to the Registry to be registered. Once completed Council will have to determine who we will be listing with. The mini home will be soon located to the vacant lot on Sydney Street and Carleton Street.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

There is one recommendation coming forward from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that Council approve the purchase of insurance for the 2023/24 for the Town of Digby in the amount of \$107,496 through our insurance broker, Brokerlink.

Motion Carried.

G.3 Waste Check Report

The Report was circulated in the package. Mayor Cleveland attended this meeting for the first time since the change to Council members on Committees. There was discussion about the benefits increasing costs and the GM is investigating into alternative provider options.

G.4 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The report was distributed in the meeting package. The splash park was the recipient of a large provincial grant which was wonderful news for them. Talks are ongoing with the DRHS regarding the Community use of Schools they are feeling positive that an agreement will be in place by June.

G.5 Digby Fire Report

Digby Fire Committee met on January 17th there was lots of discussion on purchases that will need to be done sooner than later.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Digby Fire Report be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.6 Special Committee of the Whole

On March 27, 2023 the Committee of the Whole met to discuss the Community Grants submitted for the 2023-2024 Year. Deputy Mayor Bartlett declared a conflict of interest.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the following Community Grants be awarded for the 2023-2024 year.

Digby Food Bank \$1,725

Wharf Rat Rally \$5,000

Friends of Ferals \$2,000

Lobster Bash \$5,000

Digby Area Tourism Association \$7,000

Scallop Days \$5,000

Digby Cancer Help Fund Assoc. \$ 500

Southwest Biosphere Reserve Assoc. \$ 500

Digby Downtown Business Assoc. \$5,000

Trinity Anglican Church \$ 500

Christmas on Maiden Lane \$2,000

Digby Curling Club \$2,500

Tri County Pregnancy Centre \$ 475

Fundy Chorale \$ 500

Total Grants \$37,700

Motion Carried.

G.7 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met on March 29th to review the applicants for the Marketing and Promotions Levy Committee along with the Digby Area Recreation Commission and Joint RCMP Police Advisory. There was a lot of great candidates

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council make the following appointments:

Appointment of Charles Otter to the Marketing and Promotions Levy Advisory Committee (operator appointment) for a term of three years.

Appointment of Saskia Geerts to the Marketing and Promotions Levy Advisory Committee (citizen appointment) for a term of two years.

Appointment of Jennifer Gillis to the Digby Area Recreation Commission (citizen appointment) for a term of three years.

Appointment of Wayne Griffin to the Joint RCMP Police Advisory Board for a term of three years.
Motion Carried.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 None.

We did receive correspondence from Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing advising us of a grant to support infrastructure under a new program call Sustainable Service Growth Fund there are terms and conditions attached to the grant. Agreement has not yet been signed.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Digby Area Senior Safety Society

Digby Area Senior Safety committee met and they are asking for a small increase over the previous Fiscal year from all three of the funding partners.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Digby and Area Seniors' Safety Society request for funding in the amount of \$20,800 for the 2023/2024 fiscal year be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

I.2 Town of Digby Spending Authority and Business Continuity

This request comes forward every year to allow spending to continue on until Council has approved the general operating budget for the year.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council approve one-half of the Operating Budget for 2022/2023 in the amount of \$2,286,494 for the purpose of providing spending authority and business continuity in the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023, and until a full Operating Budget is presented and approved by Council.

Motion Carried.

I.3 Water Street fire

Mayor Cleveland happened to be sitting in the marina parking lot when the fire began at the Water Street building last week. There was nine fire departments who responded with assistance to the scene. Mayor Cleveland suggested drafting a letter to the property owner to see if he might have any interest in selling the lot or even both lots as he does own the lot next to the property that was destroyed by fire. Council directed the CAO to draft some correspondence to see the property owner would have any interest in discussion regarding the town purchasing the lot. Mayor Cleveland would also like to draft a recognition letter to the Digby Fire Department for their participation during the Water Street fire.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that Council send the Digby Fire Department a letter of appreciation.

Motion Carried.

J. **IN CAMERA**

J.1 **Personnel**

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Council move into In Camera for Personnel.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Council move out of In Camera Session.


Motion Carried.

L. **ADJOURNMENT**

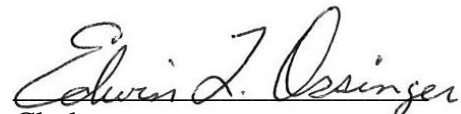
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Turnbull at 7:34 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk