

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
Held Virtually

Minutes of Meeting
October 6, 2020

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councilor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

1. Call to Order

A Public meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held virtually Tuesday, October 6, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton.

2. Additions to Agenda

- i. Mi'kmaq History Month – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton
- ii. Halloween – Councilor H. MacDougall
- iii. Active Transportation Lane – Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “to approve the agenda with three additions”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

- i. Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health
Maggie MacDonald, Healthcare Recruitment Navigator provided Council with an update from the organization including the development of a website, networking to date, the organizations approach to recruitment efforts, and how municipalities can help. A Q&A with Council followed the presentation.

5. Acknowledgements

- i. Condolences
 - Long serving Councilor Jim King lost his daughter Nancy King suddenly. Condolences were shared with Jim, Helen and their family.
- ii. Other Acknowledgements
 - Mi'kmaq History Month
 - Treaty Day – October 1st

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- i. Public Meeting September 1, 2020
There were no errors or omissions

- ii. Emergency Meeting September 4, 2020
There were no errors or omissions
- iii. Emergency Meeting September 18, 2020
There were no errors or omissions

7. Business Arising from Minutes

- i. Councilor H. MacDougall requested an update from the September 1st minutes regarding correspondence to be sent to our local MP Mike Kelloway and Minister of Finance Bill Morneau on the negative financial impacts of COVID-19 on the Town. CAO T. Doyle said there were recent announcements made with respect to operating funding for Municipalities, and we are very concerned with how this may be allocated. We are working to understand better how this funding has been allocated, and have contacted the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the local MP Mike Kelloway's office to get more details, and advocate for sharing based on actual losses as opposed to the gas tax funding formula. We will follow up as necessary to advocate for the Town.
- ii. Councilor H. MacDougall requested an update from the September 1st minutes regarding items identified as action items for the Cape Breton Housing Authority relating to Sunset Manor. CAO T. Doyle stated it was time for an update from the Housing Authority on the previous issues identified, and would be following up with them for an update.
- iii. Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie requested an update on the Lease with the Strait of Canso Yacht Club from the September 1st minutes. CAO T. Doyle stated that the lease has been drafted, but the text regarding the history around the facility and the relationship between the Town and the Strait of Canso Yacht Club was still being drafted by the yacht club members.

8. Council Committee Reports

- i. Report from the Committee of the Whole September 15, 2020

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall "That Town of Port Hawkesbury Council removes lots 146 and 147 Elm Court from a list of Town properties listed for sale." MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall "That Town of Port Hawkesbury Council request that the Eastern District Planning Commission begin the process to designate 141 – 149 Elm Court to O-1 Open Space from R-1 Residential Single Unit." MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjusts tax account #02417502 in the amount of \$151.55 plus accrued interest due to loss by fire in accordance with MGA section 69A." MOTION CARRIED.

- ii. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minute September 15, 2020
MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver
“That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the September 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes.”

9. Motions from In Camera Session October 6, 2020

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton declared a conflict. Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie assumed the position of Chair.

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall to “approve the Chief Administrative Officer to continue negotiation and execute a lease agreement in accordance with in camera discussions.” MOTION CARRIED.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to review

11. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions

12. Other Business

- i. Election Staff Wages, CAO, T. Doyle

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie “that the schedule of election wages be approved as presented.” MOTION CARRIED

- ii. Council Expenses, CAO, T. Doyle

No expenses to report. It was determined that there were cell phone reimbursements to Council that have not been included in the historical Council Travel Expense report, and will be adjusted moving forward.

13. Approved Additions

- i. **MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver “that the Mi’kmaq flag be raised for the duration of October.” MOTION CARRIED**

- ii. Councilor H. MacDougall asked about advertising around guidelines for Halloween. CAO T. Doyle advised that advertising would be going out in advance of Halloween reiterating the COVID-19 protocols endorsed by Public Health which would be included on our website, social media, and the local papers.

- iii. **MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall that the Town of Port Hawkesbury write a letter to the Minister of Labour & Advanced Education requesting confirmation that the sidewalk committed by the Nova Scotia Community College connecting to the Active Transportation Lane will be constructed.”**

Discussion followed on the appropriate individual to address the correspondence.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall to “amend the main motion to have the letter directed to Nova Scotia Community College President Don Bureaux.” MOTION CARRIED.

Council returned to the main motion. **MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor H. MacDougall "that the Town of Port Hawkesbury write a letter to the Nova Scotia Community College President Don Bureau requesting confirmation that the sidewalk committed by the Nova Scotia Community College connecting to the Active Transportation Lane will be constructed."** MOTION CARRIED.

14. Future Meetings

The future meetings of Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- i. Swearing In Ceremony Tuesday November 3, 2020
- ii. Committee of the Whole Tuesday November 17, 2020

15. Public Question Period

Reporter Bill Dunphy of the Inverness Oran asked when Council would return to in-person meetings. CAO T. Doyle stated that the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing have only recently allowed Council's to meet in-person with stipulations around masks, distancing and capacity. The topic will be revisited in November for discussion with Council.

Reporter Bill Dunphy of the Inverness Oran asked about Halloween advertising in the Inverness Oran. CAO T. Doyle stated that the Inverness Oran is considered a local paper, and the Halloween restrictions would be advertised in both local papers, and the Town appreciates the support the Inverness Oran provides.

16. Adjournment

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor M. MacIver "that the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns the June 24, 2020 Public Meeting at 8:45 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Dec. 7, 2020

Date

TDD

Approved by: TDD

Terry Doyle, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Erin MacEachen

Recorded by: Erin MacEachen

Erin MacEachen
Director of Finance