

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
January 9, 2024**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Mark MacIver
Councillor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councillor, Jason Aucoin
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen (Virtually)

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio and virtually on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

2. Additions to Agenda

- i. Joint Council Meeting – Councillor, J. Aucoin
- ii. Winter Parking – Councillor, J. Aucoin

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, H. MacDougall “THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves January 9, 2024, Public Meeting Agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

There were no gallery presentations.

5. Acknowledgements

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton made the following acknowledgements:

- The Town’s 135 anniversary of the of Incorporation
- Councillor, M. MacIver Acknowledge the Corah Program at NSCC – Terry would add to the FB Page on the Town.
- Councillor, H. MacDougall noted that he read an article from the University of New Brunswick school website/paper about long time town residents Jim and Rilla McLean. The article spoke about the James and Rilla McLean Memorial Bursary which will be awarded for the first time in September 2024. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton noted that she was happy to see the article as Rilla was a strong advocate for accessibility throughout the region.
- CAO, T. Doyle acknowledged the recent passing of Allana MacInnis a long time resident and contributor to education in the Strait Area and the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- i. Joint Public Meeting of Council – December 19, 2023
There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.
Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton noted that she will be including the month of December for her Committee of the Whole report.

8. Motions from In-Camera Session

There was no In Camera Session.

9. Correspondence

The correspondence was reviewed that was circulated in the agenda package regarding a letter of support for Cape Breton local Immigration Partnership.

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, M. MacIver, “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury send the draft letter to the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership” MOTION CARRIED.

10. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions for the October 3rd Public Meeting.

11. Other Business

- i. Council Expenses, CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle, gave an update on Council Expenses for the month of December. He reminded the gallery that Council expenses are posted on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website.

12. Approved Additions

- i. Joint Public Meeting – Councillor, J. Aucoin

He stated that there have been many discussions on holding joint meetings with Richmond County and Inverness County Councils. In the past staff have presented to the municipalities asking for support funding for SAERC Pool. He expressed that he would like to hold a meeting with each council in advance of the budgetary process.

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had communications with Richmond County to look at various dates. She is hoping to have a date in set for February. She noted that it is a great opportunity and would like to have the Warden, Mayor, Deputy’s and CAO’s to have a meeting in advance to discuss agenda items that can be agreed upon before setting the dates.

Councillor, H. MacDougall would like to make a motion to advance the agenda discussion.

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “That Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CAO to reach out to counterparts in Richmond and Inverness to hold a meeting before the end of February.” MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Winter Parking – Councillor, J. Aucoin

Councillor, J. Aucoin expressed that he wants to have a towing company tow cars that are parked illegally during snowstorm events. He would like to see improvement in the winter parking enforcement.

MOVED Councillor, J. Aucoin SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “THAT staff contact the tow companies with the documentation in place to tow the vehicles that are parked illegally within the next 7 days.”

THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.

CAO, T. Doyle provided clarity that the Town does not have a Winter Parking By-law and the enforcement would rely solely on the RCMP as the parking infractions would fall under their jurisdiction. The RCMP stated very clearly that they would tow vehicles if there was a safety concern. CAO, T. Doyle has asked for legal advice multiple times from the Town Solicitor with respect to parking.

Councillor, H. MacDougall has one comment stating that one tow will help a lot and word would spread quickly. He will bring this item to the next meeting Police Advisory Committee on January 16th.

Deputy Mayor, M. MacIver mentioned that staff could reach out to HRM. Or other municipalities to research their by-laws and policies.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie would like to know if the RCMP can inform Council how many vehicles need to be addressed.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton would like to know the definition of a safety hazard.

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “THAT the Chief Administrative Officer reach out to RCMP and try to resolve the towing issue by the Committee of the Whole Meeting.” MOTION CARRIED.

13. Future Meetings

The future meetings of the Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- i. Public Hearing

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

- ii. By-Laws and Policies
- iii. Committee of the Whole
- iv. Special Public Meeting of Council
- v. Public Meeting of Council

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

14. Public Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

15. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns January 9, 2024, Public Meeting at 7:31p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

February 21, 2024

Date



Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administration Officer