

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted in-person and virtually combined, on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Mayor Blair began by acknowledging that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Council members in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7 (virtually)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10 (virtually)
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Tim Smith, IT Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item #9b, Liaison & Oversight Committee; and,
- Item #9c, Presentation Request.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Blair noted a minor correction on page 105 under Development Reports and Building Permit Stats. The date should read February 2022 instead of February 2021 in two instances.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meeting held on March 31, 2022, be approved as amended.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on April 13, 2022:

Personnel Policy 6.15 Holidays

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council approves the amendments to Personnel Policy 6.15 Holidays, as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Virtual Meeting Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves amendments to the Council Virtual Meetings Policy, as presented; and,

That the Voting Procedures for Virtual Meetings Policy be repealed.” Carried unanimously.

Update – Request to Purchase Municipal Land, Cross Road, Great Village

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves that the Municipal property located on Cross Road in Great Village, be declared surplus, listed at fair market value with a real estate company.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Nominating Committee – Report from Meeting Held on April 25, 2022

The Deputy Mayor assumed the role of Chair so the Mayor could present the report from the Nominating Committee.

Mayor Blair presented the report from the Nominating Committee meeting held on April 25, 2022, as circulated on table for this evening’s meeting.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves that James Riemersma from Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers and Paul McKenna from Leading Edge Enterprises be appointed as business representatives on the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee; and,

That Kathy Barnhill be appointed as a citizen representative on the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

At this point, the Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

ACTION ITEMS**Budget and Tax Rate Approval**

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that Council met on April 11, 19 and 25, 2022, for budget deliberations resulting in a balanced budget, with no change to tax rates for fiscal 2022-23.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the 2022-23 Operating Budget be approved with the additions and deletions as set out at the Council Committee meetings held on April 11, 19, and 25, 2022, with the residential tax rate being held at \$0.885, and the commercial tax rate being held at \$2.28; and,

That the following Tax Resolution be approved, as presented:

TAX RATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipal Council of the County of Colchester is required to levy rates which it deems sufficient to raise the sum required to defray the expenditure of the Municipality of the County of Colchester for the current twelve-month fiscal period;

RESOLVED that pursuant to **Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act**, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester estimates that sums amounting to **\$27,651,181** are required for the lawful purpose of the Municipality for the year ending **March 31, 2023**, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the abatement and losses which occur in the collection of the taxes for the said year which may not be collected or collectible;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council authorize the levying and collection of a rate of **eighty-eight- and one-half cents (\$0.885)** on each \$100.00 of the assessed value of the residential and resource property assessed in the **2022** Assessment Roll;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council authorize the levying and collection of a rate of **two dollars twenty-eight cents (\$2.28)** on each \$100.00 on the assessed value of Commercial Property assessed in the **2022** Assessment Roll;

FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to **Section 78 of the Municipal Government Act** in lieu of all rates and taxes of the Municipality, an owner of forest property to which the said section applies shall pay tax equal to twenty-five (25) cents per acre on holdings of 50,000 or less and forty (40) cents per acre on holdings greater than 50,000 acres and where an area, village or commission rate is levied for fire protection, the owner shall pay an additional tax of one (1) cent per acre;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby requires payment of said rates to be made to the Tax Collector or Treasurer of the said Municipality on or before the 31st day of August, **2022**;

FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 12% per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after the 31st day of August, 2022.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

On the request of Councillor Parker, Council agreed that communications relative to the decision on J Class Roads be communicated in the County Newsletter and on social media, and that residents with concerns should be directed to their local MLA.

**PCAP Funding Application,
Debert Housing, Sewer Servicing**

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that staff is seeking approval of Council to support an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for a new sewer line on Tracker Road in Debert. The PCAP offers up to 50% funding for water, sewer, and solid waste projects.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council supports an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for the construction of a new sewer line on Tracker Road in Debert, with total anticipated County commitment of \$200,000.” Carried unanimously.

**Heart’s Haven Memorial Park –
Authority to Approve**

Councillor Benoit recused herself from discussion on this matter.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council authorizes May Council Committee to consider approval of the extents of the Heart’s Haven Memorial Park.” Carried unanimously.

**Temporary Borrowing Resolution
– Authority to Approve**

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council grants authority to May Council Committee to consider approval of a Temporary Borrowing Resolution related to the Fundy Discovery Site.” Carried unanimously.

**Liaison & Oversight Committee
(LOC) (Truro & Colchester
Partnership for Economic
Prosperity)**

Councillor Parker provided an update on recent concerns of Council regarding the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) reduced funding for Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP) and structure of the Board; and, delays with implementing a levy.

Regarding the Chamber, Councillor Parker noted that funding will be reduced drastically over the next year. How this affects the Board structure will be addressed through the Memorandum of Understanding which is currently under review.

The hotel levy, which was being worked on by TCPEP, RECC, and staff, came to a standstill during the COVID pandemic. However, the consensus Liaison Y Oversight Committee regarding the levy was that this belongs with the Province, and they are working on this. Until such time that the Province implements a levy, any work at the municipal level will not likely progress. It

was suggested that this be brought back to Council to write letters to our three MLAs requesting this be addressed at the Fall Session.

Discussion was held on the work done by municipal counterparts prior to COVID, and challenges encountered; and, the importance of continuing to work on the implementation of the levy and requesting MLAs to support legislation that would enable municipalities to deal with levies.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council authorizes the Mayor to send letters to the three MLAs requesting that the issue of a levy be addressed at the Fall Session.” Carried unanimously.

Presentation Request

Referring to annual grant recipients, Councillor Patton advised that she noted a surplus when reviewing the financial statements for Scotia Pool and thought that receiving an update from the organization would be of benefit to Council, especially the new Council members. It was suggested that the annual funding be withheld until a presentation has been received, and possibly getting them in for the May presentation date.

Discussion was held on policy requirements for annual grant recipients; timelines for a May presentation being insufficient; concerns regarding withholding funds; treating all annual grant recipients the same; and accelerating presentations from all annual grant recipients, beginning with Scotia Pool in June.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That all annual grant recipients be scheduled to make a presentation to Council by January 31, 2023.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - ACTION

**Candy Keillor, Community
Engagement Specialist,
Operations Smiles Canada**

An email to Mayor and Council dated April 3, 2022, regarding a proclamation for the Longest Day of Smiles on June 19, 2022.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality proclaim June 19, 2022, as the Longest Day of Smiles.” Carried unanimously.

Mirko Petricivic

Email to the CAO dated April 11, 2022, requesting a proclamation for World Press Freedom Day.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality proclaim May 3, 2022, as World Press Freedom Day.” Carried unanimously.

Penny Augustine, Raissa Tetanish, and Cassandra Dash, Bonaventure Condo Corporation

A letter requesting the Municipality take over ownership of the road at Bonaventure Place between #8 and 84.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the letter from Penny Augustine, Raissa Tetanish, and Cassandra Dash requesting the Municipality take over ownership of the road at Bonaventure Place between #8 and 84 be referred to staff.” Motion carried (*Councillor MacKenzie opposed*).

Brian Wood, Chair, TAAC Revitalization Project

A letter received April 12, 2022, from Brian Wood regarding funding for the TAAC Revitalization Project.

It was noted that Mr. Wood is scheduled to make a presentation to Council at their presentation on May 3rd.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the letter from Brian Wood regarding funding for the TAAC Revitalization Project be deferred to next Council, after receiving the presentation from Mr. Wood.” Carried unanimously.

Pam Macintosh, Acting Manager of Planning Services

A memo to the Mayor and Council dated April 25, 2022, regarding a rezoning application from Justin Gloade.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the memo from Pam Macintosh, Acting Manager of Planning Services, regarding a rezoning application from Justin Gloade be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of March 2022.

Building Inspector

A copy of Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of March 2022.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the reports from the Development Officer and Building Inspector be received.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package and ‘On Table’ for this evening’s meeting.

Mayor Blair noted that she was not able to attend the Holocaust Remembrance event at the Veteran’s Memorial Park on April 27th. Councillor

Lomond noted that she was unable to attend the Library Board meeting on April 26th and attendance at this evening's meeting was virtual rather than in-person.

The CAO noted that there is one additional Negotiations item that was missed during the approval of agenda earlier this evening. With Council's approval, he would like to add this to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Parker

"That one additional Negotiations Item be added to the agenda in Closed Session." Carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That the meeting go into closed session at 7:23 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:04 pm." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – RECC

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Parker

"That the Mayor be instructed and authorized to send a letter to the Chair and members of the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society/RECC Board, thanking them for their volunteer time and dedication to the RECC, as well as outlining the Municipality's position indicated in this motion; and,

That the Municipality does not support the proposal submitted by the General Manager of the RECC to the Farm Loan Board on February 24, 2022. Further, the Municipality does not support i) amending the Memorandum of Association for the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society to broaden the mandate as currently set out, ii) amending the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Truro to provide for a changed mandate for the RECC to enable the operations set out in the February 24, 2022 proposal or the financing thereof, or iii) amending the current operating agreement with the RECC to enable the operations indicated by the February 24, 2022 proposal or the financing thereof." Carried Unanimously.

Council directed that this letter be copied to the Farm Loan Board and Truro Town Council." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:07 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Venio
Recording Secretary