

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, September 29, 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 (<i>arrived at 6:36 pm</i>)
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7 (<i>virtual – arrived at 6:02 pm</i>)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10
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
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Pam Macintosh, Manager of Planning Services
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Peter McCracken, Mgr. of Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 2022, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity’s Official Welcome Launch being cancelled due to Hurricane Fiona, Councillor Sandeson inquired about a new date for the event. No updates were

available as yet, however, as soon as a new date is confirmed, Council would be notified.

Councillor Gregory arrived at this point in the meeting.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on September 15, 2022:

Debert Water Utility – Three-Year Operating Budget

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves the three-year Debert Water Utility operating budget (2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25) as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Tatamagouche Water Utility – Three-Year Operating Budget

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget (2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25) as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Property Matter – Debert Incubator Mall

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council authorizes staff to proceed with an RFP for the disposal of the Debert Incubator Mall as discussed in closed session.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Business Park Advisory Committee (DBPAC) – minutes from meetings of August 2 and September 6, 2022:

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee meetings of August 2 and September 6, 2022, be received.” Carried unanimously.

Brief discussion was held on design standards for the housing development and the Committee’s role regarding the airport. It was confirmed by the CAO and the Chair of the DBPAC, Councillor Benoit, that residential development and gateway into the Park are the main topics of discussion for the Committee. Any decisions relative to the airport would be the responsibility of Council.

Tatamagouche Water Utility – minutes of meeting of August 23, 2022:

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the minutes of the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee meeting of August 23, 2022, be received.” Carried unanimously.

Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting of August 24, 2022:

As referenced in the minutes, the CAO advised Council of the need to appoint a new member from the North Shore River Restoration Group to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the vacancy on the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee be referred to the Nominating Committee and that staff proceed with advertising to fill the vacancy.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting of August 24, 2022, be received.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

November Presentation Meeting Date

Council was advised of a conflict with the November Presentation Meeting date and the NSFM Fall Conference.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the November Presentation meeting date be changed to Tuesday, November 8, 2022.” Carried unanimously.

Consolidated Financial Statements – Authority to Approve

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That October Council Committee be granted authority to approve the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2022.” Carried unanimously.

Sidewalk Plow, Tender Award

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that this item deals with a tender issued to replace the oldest of the Counties four sidewalk plows, a 2001 Trackless Sidewalk Plow. A tender was issued on August 18th and advertised on the Municipal and Provincial websites, with two bids received by the September 2nd closing. Both bidders included a \$5,000 trade in value for the 2001 unit. Staff are recommending the tender be awarded to low bidder, Saunders Equipment.

Discussion was held on the significance of the optional accessories as well as the \$5,000 trade in value included in the bids. Concern was expressed with the amount being on the low side and the likelihood of receiving more if disposed of through auction.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council authorizes staff to purchase a Sidewalk Plow from Saunders Equipment for a total financial commitment of \$173,130 including rebated tax, with source of funds being the Public Works Vehicle Reserve.” Carried unanimously.

Councillor MacKenzie arrived just prior to the vote on the above motion.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That when tendering for equipment and vehicles, language be included in the tender specifying quotes should be for both with and without trade-in values of existing equipment and vehicles.” Carried unanimously.

Post Storm Management

Staff spoke briefly on the significant damages caused by Hurricane Fiona across the County; the many power outages still being experienced; damage countywide including that to municipal infrastructure; impacts on municipal services; and challenges being faced in responding to the needs of everyone. Staff continue to work diligently to find options to address these needs. A high-level overview of what has been done to date and a presentation of preliminary post-storm management plans were provided.

Following the presentation, detailed discussion on the post-storm clean-up was held with many suggestions and information being shared including:

- Tree and yard debris collection;
- Waiving tipping fees for yard/tree debris to mid-November;
- Challenges with equipment and truck availability;
- Type of equipment and possible trucking configurations for collection process;
- Early cost estimates;
- Limits to size of trees to be picked up;
- Pros and cons of hauling debris vs. chipping;
- Satellite drop-off locations;
- Collection be limited to residential properties;
- Approximate time frame to collect materials;
- Consistent messaging to the constituents;
- Authorizing the CAO an upset limit for clean-up plan.

Discussion also was held on disaster relief funds being made available from other levels of government with concern expressed regarding the stipulations around funding for the tree debris.

Staff also advised Council of the possibility of accelerating the next deadline for applications under the Community Trail Funding Program. There is approximately \$60,000 available in the fund which could be made available to groups to assist with clean-up of trails in the County.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That staff be directed to implement a post-Fiona clean-up plan and October Council Committee be authorized to modify the plan.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the CAO be authorized up to \$500,000 to implement the post-Fiona clean-up plan with source of funds being the Operating Reserve.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the January deadline for the Community Trail Funding Program be fast-tracked and that the \$60,000 currently in that fund be made available to community group applications to assist with post-Fiona clean-up.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Boutlier

“That a letter be written to the Premier and copied to the MLAs expressing concerns relative to the stipulations/difficulties in accessing the \$250 Disaster Relief Funding for tree removal.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That an appreciation/thank you letter be written to the CFFA for their efforts in road clearing immediately following Hurricane Fiona, as well as for the comfort centres opened in the communities.” Carried unanimously.

Additional discussion was held regarding the many organizations, businesses, community groups and individuals, stepping up to assist post-Fiona. It was agreed that staff would look into a media release and/or recognition program to acknowledge all organizations and individuals. Council members were asked to supply staff with a list.

Correspondence - ACTION

**Laura Cunningham, Capital
Program Administration Officer,
NS Public Works**

Letter and accompanying documentation regarding paving priorities under the Cost Share Agreement.

Moved by Councillor Boutillier and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the letter regarding paving priorities under the Cost Share Agreement be received for information purposes.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

Rotary Club of Truro

Email dated August 25, 2022, regarding the Annual Rotary Club Community Yearbook.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Boutillier

“That Council approves placing a one-third page ad in the 2023 Rotary Community Yearbook, consistent with previous years.” Carried unanimously.

Michael MacGillivray

Email to Councillor Parker regarding a request for a sidewalk and crosswalk between Weston Drive and Regency Point Drive, connecting Lexington and Saywood neighbourhoods.

Councillor Parker advised that this request was made to him from constituents who are aware of a sidewalk being done from Old Courthouse Branch and Regency Point, cost shared with the Village of Bible Hill. There is a small stretch from Lexington to Regency Point on the opposite side of the road, approximately 150 to 200 feet in length, that is dangerous and the residents are requesting that a sidewalk be considered due to safety concerns.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the request for a sidewalk from Lexington to Regency Point be referred to staff to bring back costing information for Council consideration.” Carried unanimously.

Pam Macintosh, Manager of Planning Services

Memo to Council concerning an application for a rezoning amendment made by Dalhousie University Agriculture Campus, Pictou and Vimy Roads, Bible Hill.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the application for a rezoning amendment made by Dalhousie University Agriculture Campus, Pictou and Vimy Roads, Bible Hill, 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 months of June, July and August, 2022.

Building Inspector

A copy of Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the months of June, July and August, 2022.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Johnson

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Future Use Options – Former Salmon River School Property

Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, provided a brief update on the former Salmon River School Property noting that staff intend to introduce a detailed Action Item at Council Committee in October for Council discussion and consideration.

Councillor Johnson advised that he would like opportunity to present his findings relative to property prior to staff's report. The CAO and Director of Community Development indicated that it would be beneficial to have all information presented to Council at the same time. Any information provided by Councillor Johnson could be included with the package with opportunity to speak on his findings at the meeting.

Reports from Councillors

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Parker

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:02 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:56 pm." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie and seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:57 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary