



Regular Meeting of Council

April 26, 2023

PRESENT Warden Eleanor Roulston
Deputy Warden Michael Perry

Councillors: Sandra Garden-Cole Tom Isenor
 Keith Rhyno Wayne Greene
 Walter Tingley Carl MacPhee
 Elie Moussa Norval Mitchell
 Eldon Hebb

STAFF Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Sue Surrette, Director of Finance
Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. Graham Scott, Manager of Economic & Business Development
Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
Ms. Alana Richards, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Roulston called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Roulston respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION

A moment of silent contemplation was observed.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

C23(102) On the motion of Councillors Greene and Mitchell:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C23(103) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Greene:

Moved that the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) and March 29, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

A complete copy of “Correspondence for Information” is attached to and forms part of the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

A complete copy of “Correspondence for Decision” is attached to and forms part of the agenda.

ITEM 52 - HERH FUNDING REQUEST - HERH IS REQUESTING GRANT FUNDING TO COVER THE COST OF A 2 HOUR PRIVATE SWIM FOR SAFE GRAD

C23(104) On the motion of Councillors Greene and Moussa:

A. Tapper

Moved that Council approve the Grant request from Hants East Rural High to cover the cost of a two-hour swim for safe grad and provide the same opportunity to Hants North Rural High, and Avon View High School for Safe Grad activities.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 46 - COUNCIL IS ASKED TO ENDORSE A LETTER OF THANKS TO MINISTER LOHR FOR RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE NEW PROVINCIAL SUSTAINABLE SERVICES GROWTH FUND (SSGF).

C23(105) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Greene:

CAO

Moved that Council endorse the letter as drafted to Minister Lohr to express thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Municipality for receipt of grant funding under the new provincial Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF).

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 21 - JOINT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (JRТА) PLAN & OVERVIEW. JRТА IS AVAILABLE TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL UPON REQUEST.

C23(106) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Mitchell:

CAO/J.Woodford

Moved that Council invite the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRТА) to present at an appropriate time during a future Executive Committee Meeting

(following community consultation).

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 14 - 2023-2024 NSFM MEMBERSHIP INVOICE INCLUDING THE AMANS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEE

C23(107) On the motion of Councillors Greene and MacPhee: CAO/S.MacEwan

Moved that Council direct staff pay the 2023/2024 NSFM Membership Invoice, (and any variance to be funded from the NSFM/FCM Reserve).

MOTION CARRIED

Nine (9) voting in favor. Two (2) voting against. Councillors Moussa & Rhyno voting nay.

ITEM 8 - FCM - RETROACTIVE RCMP COSTS

C23(108) On the motion of Councillors Tingley and Moussa: CAO

Moved that Council endorse the resolution and authorize the Warden to execute and send the resolution to the Federal Government as written.

MOTION CARRIED

REPEAL - COVID 19 PROPERTY TAX FUNDING FINANCING PROGRAM POLICY

C23(109) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Hebb: S.Surette

Moved that Council having given notice, give approval to rescind the Covid 19 Property Tax Financing Program Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

UNIACKE BUSINESS PARK - CAPITAL PROJECT

The Director of Infrastructure & Operations and Manager of Economic & Business Development presented a report titled “*Uniacke Business Park - Phase Three*”, dated April 18, 2023. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all committee members.

C23(110) On the motion of Councillor Greene and Deputy Warden Perry: A.Clarkson/
J.Hulsman

Moved that Council Municipal Council approve a Capital Budget of \$800,000 for Capital Project #20-035, to be funded from Business Park Lot Sales Reserves; and, that Capital Project# 20-016 Lift Station Upgrade Industrial Way in the Elmsdale Business Park be funded through the urban service rate through debt and, that Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution and the Resolution for Preapproval for the financing of the Lift Station

Upgrade Industrial Way capital project in the amount of \$850,000 as attached to the Council Agenda Report dated April 26, 2023 and; that the average interest rate of the debenture not exceed the rate of 6.0% and for terms not to exceed 20 years for the financing of the Lift Station Upgrade Industrial Way.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CORPORATE & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

[27:22]

Deputy Warden Perry as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, presented the report on the Corporate & Residential Services Committee from the meeting held on April 18, 2023. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions came forward as a result of that meeting:

PENSION VALUATION REPORT

C23(111) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Greene:

CAO/S.Surette

Moved that Council authorize:

- 1. The final December 31, 2022 actuarial valuation be filed based on the results as outlined in the report to Corporate & Residential Services Committee, dated April 8, 2023, Results: Tri Annual Actuarial Review - December 31, 2022;***
- 2. Pension payments as required by legislation are approved for payment into the Plan;***
- 3. The definition of average earnings for service prior to January 1, 2023, be upgraded to December 31, 2022 earnings, with no pension being greater than the best five years income of the employee, for those employees who are retiring between May 1, 2023 and September 30, 2026 only, and that these special payments, as they arise, be funded through the pension reserve fund;***
- 4. The employer contribution rate be 5.32% for contributions on earnings after January 1, 2023 and adjusted by future cost certificates/pension valuations as legislation requires;***
- 5. The Actuary be asked to do the standard upgrade calculation as part of the December 2025 actuarial review. This calculation will upgrade the definition of average earnings (to redefine average earnings to December 31, 2025 earnings with no pension being greater than the best five years income of the employee); and,***

6. That Plenus Consultants be appointed as the Actuary for the Municipality of East Hants pension plan.

MOTION CARRIED

WELL AND SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

C23(112) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Mitchell: A.Clarkson

Moved that Council that Council direct staff to move forward with the implementation of a one (1) year pilot program up to \$200,000 using 2022/2023 Deed Transfer Tax surplus funds; with the family household income eligibility threshold of \$90,000 regardless of how many people live in the home; using all other terms as outlined in the staff report titled “Well & Septic Loan Program” as attached to the April 18, 2023 Executive Committee agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

FIRE SERVICE FUNDING POLICY (FIRE TRAINING)

C23(113) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Hebb:

Moved (later amended) that Council approve the policy amendments to the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the April 18th Corporate and Residential Services Committee agenda.

C23(114) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Greene:

Moved to amend Motion C23(113) to add “and to also allow costs to be recovered for the new policy criteria starting April 1, 2023”.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

For further clarification, Motion C23(113) is as follows: A.Clarkson

That Council approve the policy amendments to the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the April 18th Corporate and Residential Services Committee agenda and to also allow costs be covered for the new policy criteria starting April 1, 2023.

BARRIERS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS (DISCUSSION)

C23(115) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Greene: A.Clarkson

Moved that Council direct staff to remove all of the barriers in Council Chambers.

MOTION CARRIED

Eight (8) voting in favor. Three (3) voting against. Warden Roulston, Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor MacPhee voting nay.

C23(116) On the motion of Deputy Warden Perry and Councillor Mitchell:

Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Mitchell, as Chairperson of the Planning Advisory Committee, presented the report on the Planning Advisory Committee from the meeting held on April 18, 2023. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions came forward as a result of that meeting: [39:37]

PLN20-001 ELMSDALE LUMBER COMPANY - CONTAINERIZED BIOCHAR FACILITY

C23(117) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Moussa: J. Woodford

Moved that Council give initial consideration to substantially amend an existing Development Agreement for a containerized biochar production facility on lands located at 604 Highway 2, Elmsdale (PID 45082773) to enable a public hearing; and authorize staff to schedule a public hearing.

Discussion was held and staff addressed questions from Councillors.

MOTION CARRIED

Nine (9) voting in favor. Two (2) voting against. Councillors Mitchell & Garden-Cole voting nay.

BYLAW P-1300 BLASTING BYLAW

C23(118) On the motion of Councillor Mitchell and Moussa: J. Woodford

Moved that Council direct staff to consult with the stakeholder community on the Draft Blasting Bylaw.

MOTION CARRIED

PLAN UPDATE - FUNDY EROSION ZONE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

C23(119) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Greene: J. Woodford

Moved that Council amend the draft East Hants Official Community Plan to include new provisions for the Fundy Erosion Overlay Designations and Zones as outlined in the staff report presented to Planning Advisory Committee on April 18, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

PLAN UPDATE - ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN FRONT YARDS

C23(120) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Greene: J. Woodford

Moved that Council direct staff to add provisions to the draft planning documents that would enable existing accessory structures within front yards in serviced areas to be treated as legal land uses.

MOTION CARRIED

Ten (10) voting in favor. One (1) voting against. Councillor Rhyno voting nay.

C23(121) On the motion of Councillor Mitchell and Deputy Warden Perry:

Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

EH SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the EH Source Water Protection Advisory Committee, presented the report on the EH Source Water Protection Advisory Committee from the meeting held on April 12, 2023. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. No motions came forward as a result of that meeting. [55:02]

C23(122) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Moussa:

Moved the adoption of the report.

MOTION CARRIED

WARDEN'S REPORT

Deputy Warden Perry assumed the Chair.

The Warden provided a verbal report on her recent activities.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided verbal reports on their recent activities. Staff addressed questions from Councillors. The following motion came forward.

CROSSWALK IN ENFIELD

C23(123) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Moussa:

J.Hulsman

Moved that Council direct staff to send a follow up letter to the Minister of Public Works regarding a proposed crosswalk in Enfield.

MOTION CARRIED

SETTING DATE & TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

C23(124) On the motion of Councillors Greene and Moussa:

Moved that the Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In Camera) be May 9, 2023 and the Regular Meeting of Council be held on May 17, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

C23(125) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Greene:

Moved that Council adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED



Approved By: Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Date: April 27, 2023



Approved By: Eleanor Roulston, Warden

Date: May 17, 2023

/AR