

**COUNCIL**

**MARCH 22, 2016**

**#16-05**

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward  
Councillor David Harrison  
Councillor Norman Rafuse  
Councillor Ron Shaw  
J. Raymond Hickey, CAO  
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Rafuse, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Agenda be approved as presented.**

**Motion carried.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes dated February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 (#16-03) and the Special Council minutes dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (#16-04).

Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as circulated.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2016**

**Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward**

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**1. Taylor Redmond – Main Street Ambassadors** – Taylor Redmond proposed the idea of renting office space that has become available on Main Street as a home base for the Main Street Ambassador project.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that Taylor seek feedback from the business community regarding their support for the office being in the proposed location.

2. **Band Hall Tax Status** – A representative from the Band Hall Association met with the Committee to propose tax free status for the Band Hall and that the agreement turning the property over to the Band Association be amended to remove the clause giving the Town of Parrsboro right of first refusal if the Association decided to sell the building.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that tax free status be granted for the Band Hall building and property. The Committee, however, recommended against amending the agreement as the intent of the clause is to ensure that the building is maintained for community function.

3. **Bylaw Amendment** – The Committee further discussed the request from the Board of Trade that the Town's bylaws be amended to permit small scale businesses in the Residential Zone.

Following the discussion the CAO was asked to contact our Planner to draft an amendment to our Land Use Bylaw for this purpose.

4. **King Street Update** – The CAO reported that there had been some cost overruns associated with additional work undertaken during the King Street water project.

After a discussion the Committee requested that the CAO contact our engineers regarding this issue.

5. **Spring Clean-Up** – The Committee discussed details of the upcoming spring clean-up and recommend that it take place this year during the week prior to the long weekend in May rather than the week after as has been the practice. Information regarding accepted items and pick-up schedule will be advertised in advance of the event.

6. **Tax Exemption** – The 2016 tax exemption for low income homeowners was reviewed with the Committee recommending that the amount of the exemption and income levels remain the same as in 2015. Those with a total household income below \$17,500 are eligible to apply for an exemption of \$350.00, while those with a total household income between \$17,500 and \$19,500 are eligible to apply for a \$100.00 exemption. Details of how to apply and application deadline will be advertised in the local paper and on the Town's website.

7. **Volunteer Awards** – The Committee was advised that there were three nominations for Outstanding Volunteer: Linda Littlejohn, nominated by the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society; Gerald Strong, nominated by the Parrsboro and Area Foodbank; and Sandra Spence, nominated by the Parrsboro Radio Society; and one nomination for Volunteer Family: Judith and Todd McCall, nominated by the Greville Bay Ship

Building Museum Society. It was noted that a dinner recognizing these outstanding volunteers will be organized once the new Recreation Director assumes her position.

**8. Street Light** – A request for a street light from a resident on Mill Street was brought to the Committee and will be investigated.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Finance Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

Deputy Mayor Ward noted that on behalf of Town Council she would like to thank all volunteers and congratulate those who have been nominated this year.

**Motion carried.**

## **(b) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2016**

**Report given by Councillor Harrison**

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Dan Troke, President and CEO of Housing Nova Scotia will be meeting with Town Council on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to discuss programs that he had spoken about at the UNSM Conference to do with partnering with developers.

**Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee report be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

## **(c) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2016**

**Report given by Councillor Rafuse**

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The Economic Development Committee met recently with members David Beattie, Thomas McLaren, Tom McLaren, Wendell Gallagher and myself. Topics of discussion focused on what can be done to improve the town. Most ideas centered on the entertainment/food industry as well as using the beautification of our landscape and tides. The idea of holding an open meeting with the public was discussed with all agreeing that this was a good idea. The Committee is working on a date with the hope that there will be a good turn out with many ideas coming forth.

**Moved by Councillor Rafuse, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the Economic Development Committee report be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

**(d) PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2016**

**Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward**

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**Tree on Civic Grounds** – It is recommended that the Public Works Department cut down a dead tree on the civic grounds and remove the stump.

**New Truck** – The new ¾ ton truck has arrived that will replace the 1998 truck that has outlived its usefulness.

**MacKenzie Park** – The Superintendent reports that some trees were cut back in MacKenzie Park to permit more room to plow snow and that it has worked out well this season.

**#3 Well Pump** – There have been some issues with the pump in well #3 resulting in the need to order a new part for the well mechanism. The Works Department has been fortunate in being able to keep the pump working in the interim with repairs.

**Letter RE: Use of Copper Piping** – The Superintendent and CAO will be meeting to draft a letter that will be posted on our website and Facebook page explaining why copper tubing is used for water hook-ups instead of plastic.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the Public Works Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

**LIBRARY REPORT**

**MARCH 2016**

**Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward**

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**(a) January Statistical Report for Parrsboro Branch –**

- 108 open hours
- 2 children's programs with 14 participants
- 82 information questions
- 16 hours of Wifi use
- 213 hours of computer use

- 1619 items circulated
- 187 items placed on hold

(b) **Lighting** – The Public Works Department replaced some lights that were burned out.

(c) **Electrical** – There are electrical issues when the air conditioning unit is used in the summer. This should be checked out by an electrical contractor.

(d) **Entrance Door** – The entrance door casing needs to be replaced as the existing casing has rotted resulting in difficulty keeping the door closed.

(e) **Furnace Filter** – Public Works will replace the furnace filter.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Library report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Board of Trade** – Mayor Smith noted an email from David Beattie, President of the Parrsboro and District Board of Trade, inviting Council to attend the organization's Annual General Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall. The Hon. Bill Casey will be the guest speaker.

Deputy Mayor Ward also recommended inviting the Economic Development Committee, of which Mr. Beattie is a member, to the meeting with Dan Troke.

Councillor Rafuse indicated that he would look after this.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Councillor Harrison, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Mayor

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CAO