

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: February 21, 2023
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Leon Landry
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Lisa Emery
Councillor Dale Fawthrop

Members Absent Councillor George Baker

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Krista Crossman, Director, HR & Customer Services
Kim Jones, Director, Corporate Communications/Clerk
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Jeff Bacon, Business Development Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Deputy Mayor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That the agenda be approved with the addition of 3.8 L.A. Animal Shelter Request to Present, to be added to the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That the consent agenda be approved with the removal of 3.6, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 5.4 and 5.7, as well as the addition of 3.8

MOTION CARRIED

1.3 Approval of Minutes

1.3.1 January 16, 2023

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That the minutes of the January 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved as included in the agenda package.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 Queen Jubilee Medal Recipient Fire Chief Greg Jones

Mayor Kogon presented Fire Chief Greg Jones with the Queen Jubilee Medal.

2.2 Cumberland Public Libraries

Library Director Denise Corey presented on behalf of the Cumberland Public Library.

3. Council Direction Requests

3.1 Community Support Grants Policy

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

That Council refer the Community Supports Grants Policy with the amendments discussed to the February Council meeting for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Community Arts Council Committee Policy

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That Council forward the Community Arts Council Committee Policy to the February Council meeting for repeal.

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Covid 19 Property Tax Financing Program Policy

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That Council refer the COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Program Policy to the February Council meeting to be repealed as the payment term relating to this policy ended in January 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

3.4 Downtown Business Advisory Committee Policy

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That Council forward the repeal of the Downtown Business Advisory Committee Policy 10350-23 to the February Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3.5 Recognition of Local Businesses

Moved By Deputy Mayor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

That at the March 2023 Committee of the Whole, staff bring back a discussion paper for further consideration on the feasibility of hosting a gala event to recognize the businesses in the Town of Amherst, and further that this include consulting with the Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce, Amherst Downtown Business Association, and/or any other organizations deemed appropriate by staff.

MOTION CARRIED

3.6 Request to Present

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That staff be directed to contact the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 10, to make a presentation to Council.

MOTION CARRIED

3.7 55+ Summer Games

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That the Community Living department forward the notice of intent to submit a bid and begin the recruitment process of a steering committee to include Town staff, member(s) of Town Council, and members of the public (examples may include 55+ Club, sporting associations, service clubs etc.).

MOTION CARRIED

3.8 Request to Present

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That staff be directed to contact the L.A. Animal Shelter to make a presentation to council.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Information Items

4.1 Isthmus of Chignecto Correspondence

Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.

4.2 Cumberland County Youth Development Center

Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.

4.3 Hotel Marketing Levy

Councillor Emery asked if the Wandlyn Inn and Airbnbs had been contacted. The Business Development Officer responded that the Wandlyn Inn is in the County, and that Airbnbs are challenging to trace.

Councillor Davidson asked if they could be provided with data regarding the number of stays.

Staff advised that the Municipality of Cumberland's Council have instructed their staff to engage the Town of Amherst and industry partners to discuss what a regional levy could look like. Town of Amherst staff were advised that these discussions will commence once economic development positions in the County have been filled.

4.4 CAO Task Report

The CAO will arrange a meeting with Council and staff to determine agenda items to be discussed at a future meeting with Municipality of Cumberland representatives.

4.5 Town of Amherst Facebook Page

Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.

4.6 Strategic Priorities Update

Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.

4.7 Cornerstone Funding Update

Information item; no further direction given.

5. **Monthly Reports**
Moved By Councillor Fawthrop
Seconded By Councillor Davidson
That the following monthly reports be approved as part of the consent agenda:
- 5.1 **Community Living**
 - 5.2 **Corporate Communications**
 - 5.3 **Financial Services**
 - 5.5 **HR and Customer Service**
 - 5.6 **Operations**
 - 5.8 **Police Services**
 - 5.9 **Police Services**
 - 5.10 **Solid Waste Education and Enforcement**

MOTION CARRIED

5.4 **Fire Services**

Councillor Emery noted that the Fire Department will be celebrating their 140-year anniversary this year, and asked if there is a specific date. Chief Jones replied they have conflicting information on this at this time, however they are working to confirm the date and he will provide more details further to this hopefully at the next meeting.

5.7 **Planning & Strategic Initiatives**

Councillor Emery noted the information provided in the report regarding the date, time and place for Meet the Candidates event was incorrect. The event actually took place on Sunday, February 5th via Zoom. The Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce uploaded the videos to youtube with a link via their Facebook page that day, with CFTA replaying the event on February 7th and February 9th.

6. **In Camera**
Moved By Councillor Fawthrop
Seconded By Councillor Emery
That the Committee move to an In Camera session.

MOTION CARRIED

7. **Adjournment**
Moved By Deputy Mayor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Emery
That the meeting be adjourned.

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor