

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

Date: May 21, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present
Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Charlie Chambers
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Leon Landry
Councillor Lisa Emery

Staff Present
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Kim Jones, Director, Corporate Communications
Krista Crossman, Director, HR & Customer Services
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Mayor Kogon gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Chambers

To approve the consent agenda with the removal of 5.2 Community Living Monthly Report and 5.10 Police Services Monthly Report.

MOTION CARRIED

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes

1.4.1 April 15, 2024

The minutes of the April 15, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as included in the agenda package as part of the consent agenda.

1.4.2 May 2, 2024

The minutes of the May 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as included in the agenda package as part of the consent agenda.

2. Presentations

2.1 Cumberland Acadian Society

Morris Haugg and Bill Casey presented on behalf of the Cumberland Acadian Society. They are asking Council to send a letter of support to Parks Canada requesting enhancement of the Beaubassin site, as well as for Council's support for the summer Acadian Festival.

3. Council Direction Requests

3.1 Vacation / Holiday - Non-Union Employees Policy

Councillor Baker arrived at 4:39 p.m.

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Landry

That staff make further amendments to the Vacation/Holiday - Non-Union Employees Policy, specifically a more gradual approach to vacation entitlement, and bring the amendments back to the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Street Banner Policy

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That Council forward to the May 27, 2024 regular meeting approval of an amendment to the Street Banner Policy Appendix A to add Acadian Day, as well as approval of the Cumberland Acadian Society MOU with the Town of Amherst to hang Street Banners as per the Street Banner Policy and further authorize the CAO to sign on the Town's behalf.

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Ice Helmet Policy

Moved By Councillor Chambers

Seconded By Councillor Landry

That no amendments be made to the Ice Helmet Policy (72300-10).

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.4 **Auxiliary Policing By-Law**
Moved By Councillor Davidson
Seconded By Councillor Landry
That Council approve of the creation of an Auxiliary Police Officer By-Law and forward it to the regular meeting on May 27th for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.5 **Smoke Free Recreational Places By-law**
Moved By Councillor Emery
Seconded By Councillor Baker
That no amendments be made to the Smoke-Free Recreational Places Bylaw C-12.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.6 **Capital Paving**
Moved By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop
Seconded By Councillor Chambers
That Council forward to the May 27, 2024 regular meeting, the award of the Capital Paving Tender (RFT-24-22) to the lowest compliant bidder, Costin Paving (Dexter Construction), at their unit prices based on our estimated quantities in the total amount of \$841,750 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.7 **Active Living Strategy**
Moved By Councillor Davidson
Seconded By Councillor Chambers
That Council forward to the May 27, 2024 regular meeting, the Active Living Strategic Plan for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

4. **Information Items**

The following information were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- 4.1 **By-law and Policy Review Update**
Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.
- 4.2 **Strategic Priorities Update**
Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.
- 4.3 **CAO Task Report**
Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.
- 4.4 **Community Support Grants**
Information item only; approved as part of the consent agenda.

5. **Monthly Reports**

The following monthly reports were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- 5.1 Business Development
- 5.3 Corporate Communications and IT
- 5.4 Business Connector
- 5.5 Financial Services
- 5.6 Fire Services
- 5.7 HR and Customer Services
- 5.8 Operations
- 5.9 Planning and Strategic Initiatives
- 5.11 Solid Waste Education and Enforcement

5.2 Community Living

Deputy Mayor Fawthrop asked that this item be removed from the consent agenda, specifically to speak about Food Insecurity and if there are any plans to address this over the summer months. The Director of Community Living Sharon Bristol responded that there are no specific plans at this time, however, several initiatives are underway including the Town's support for a basic income, the desire to create a county wide coalition to work cohesively, including bringing the major food suppliers to the table, and that discussions are currently being had around market bucks. She also spoke to the recent Food Summits that were held, and indicated she would share the document from the May meeting with Council.

5.10 Police Services

Councillor Emery asked that this item be removed from the consent agenda, and asked Chief Pike for an update on the number of discarded needle complaints. Chief Pike responded that there has been a huge increase everywhere, and that there are other options for people to dispose of used needles however people are still not using these disposal sites.

- 6. Closed Session
Moved By Councillor Baker
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop
That the Committee move to Closed Session.**

MOTION CARRIED

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Kogon adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor