

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2014

Location: Board Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Mayor Robert Small
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Frank Balcom
Councillor Robert Bird
Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery
Councillor David March
Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present: Greg Herrett, CAO
Vince Arbing, Treasurer
Roger MacIsaac, Director CED
Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning
Ben Pitman, Director TPW
Bill Crossman, Fire Chief
Ian Naylor, Acting Police Chief
Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant
Kim Jones, Policy and HR

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. O'CANADA

3. HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS

3.1. Presentation to Council on behalf of Canadian Cancer Society

Sharon Bristol presented Council with a Special Recognition Award in appreciation of the Town's outstanding commitment and dedication to the Canadian Cancer Society - Nova Scotia Division.

3.2. Presentation to Brandon Sutherland-Metz

Cst. Jason Galloway presented a certificate to Brandon Sutherland-Metz from the Royal Canadian Humane Society in recognition of his presence of mind and quick and appropriate actions in a significant life-threatening situation.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Councillor George Baker
Seconded By: Councillor David March
To approve the agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

5.2. Approval of Minutes - December 16, 2013

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
Seconded By: Councillor George Baker
To approve the minutes of the December 16, 2013 regular meeting of Council as circulated.

Motion Carried

6. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

6.1. Scent Awareness-Reduction Policy

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
Seconded By: Councillor Robert Bird
That Council approve a new Scent Awareness / Reduction Policy, number 4500-03 to reduce the use of scented products in Town owned buildings.

Motion Carried

PURPOSE:

To promote an understanding and awareness of the adverse health impacts on people with sensitivities when exposed to commonly used scents, such as cologne and perfume, and to provide a safe work environment by limiting exposure to these scents to the greatest practical extent possible.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Town of Amherst recognizes the importance of providing a safe work environment which includes keeping exposure to all scents at as low a level as is practical. Given the highly public nature of municipal services, the Town should also consider the health and safety of its citizens in limiting their exposure to scents in Town owned buildings and offices. Therefore, the Town will work toward becoming a scent reduced zone.

DEFINITIONS:

Scent: Refers to fragrances, aromas or perfumes that add smell to the air. Scents can be found in personal care products such as perfumes, aftershaves, colognes, shampoos and conditioners, soaps, body lotions and deodorants. Scents are also found in cleaning supplies, air fresheners, fabric softeners and laundry detergent.

POLICY:

In recognizing the adverse health outcomes of scent sensitivities, Town of Amherst employees, during the course of their work, will refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, and overly scented cosmetic products. The Town will make an effort to promote scent sensitivity awareness among staff.

6.2. Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Accessory Buildings

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery

That Council approve first reading of a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw that will restrict accessory buildings to a combined 80 square meters for properties smaller than 4,048 square meters (one acre), and 5% of the total lot area where the property is 4,048 square meters (one acre) or more in area, and schedule a Public Hearing on the matter in Council Chambers on February 24, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Motion Carried

**Town of Amherst
By-Law to Amend the Land Use By-Law P-2**

1. This is a by-law to amend the Land Use by-Law of the Town of Amherst with respect to the matter of accessory building regulations.

2. In the Land Use By-Law, *Section 4.1 (a) Accessory Buildings* is amended as follows:

4.1 (a) Changing the words "*A detached accessory building*" to say "*Detached accessory buildings*"

(vi) deleting the word "*and*" at the end of the paragraph;

(vii) Changing the paragraph from "*exceed 80 m2 in total ground floor area.*" to "*in the case of multiple accessory buildings, exceed a combined ground floor area of 80 m2 of all such buildings; and*"

And by adding 4.1 (a)(viii):

(viii) have a combined ground floor area greater than 5% of the lot area, where the lot area is 4,047 m2 or greater.

6.3. Appointment of Police Chief

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery

Seconded By: Councillor Frank Balcom

That Council formally appoint Ian Naylor as Chief of Police effective immediately.

Motion Carried

6.4. 2014-2015 Capital Budget (General and Water)

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council approve the Town of Amherst Capital Budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year as presented in the amount of \$5,484,010 and the Amherst Water Utility Capital Budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,825,000 to be funded as follows:

<u>Town of Amherst</u>		<u>Amherst Water Utility</u>	
Capital from revenue	\$ 539,000	Depreciation Funds	\$ 190,000
Gas Tax Funding	786,200	Capital from Revenue	35,000
Long Term Debt	2,539,998	Contribution from County	<u>2,600,000</u>
Reserves	708,402		\$ 2,825,000
Carryover Items	533,974		
Provincial Grant	230,000		
Fund Raising	<u>146,436</u>		
Total	\$ 5,484,010		

And further, that Council approve in principle the subsequent four years' Capital Budget plan as presented:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
2015 – 2016	\$ 4,484,300
2016 – 2017	4,064,100
2017 – 2018	2,577,250
2018 – 2019	3,289,150

Motion Carried

To be clear, the second part of this motion contemplates the approval of the amounts for the years 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 for planning purposes only; this is not the authority to spend, nor is it necessarily the final and complete listing.

6.5. Funding Request - International Women's Day Luncheon

Deputy Mayor Emery declared a conflict and excused herself from the Council table for the discussion and decision on this matter.

Moved By: Councillor Frank Balcom

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$100 under the Town's Community Support Grants Policy in support of the International Women's Day Luncheon being held in Amherst on March 7, 2014.

Motion Carried

6.6. Funding Request - Bantam Girls Basketball

Moved By: Councillor Frank Balcom

Seconded By: Councillor Robert Bird

That Council approves funding in the amount of \$250 under the Community Support Grants Policy to help fund the Amherst Cheetahs Bantam Girls Basketball Tournament being held in Amherst February 7, 8 and 9, 2014.

Motion Carried

6.7. Funding Request - EBC Girls Basketball

Moved By: Councillor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 under the Town's Community Support Grants Policy in support of the E B Chandler Grade 8 Girls Basketball NSSAF Tournament that took place in Amherst January 16, 17 and 18, 2014.

Motion Carried

7. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor March presented the following report on behalf of the Planning Advisory Committee.

The Planning Advisory Committee met on January 6, 2014. The Planner presented a proposed amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to restrict accessory buildings to a combined 80 square meters for residential properties smaller than 4,048 square meters (1 acre), and 5% of the total lot area where the property is 4,048 square meters (1 acre) or more in area. A Public Participation Opportunity was held on the proposed amendment, but there were no members of the public in attendance. The Committee approved a motion to recommend the amendment to Council.

Vacant citizen positions on the Committee were advertised in the Amherst News, seeking expressions of interest by January 31. These vacancies are (1) to replace Terry Farrell; and (2) Dale Fawthrop's term will be expiring this month.

The Committee had a dinner on January 13 with former long-time PAC member Terry Farrell to thank him for his nearly 20 years of service and present him with a gift on behalf of the Committee.

8.2. Amherst Youth Town Council

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Youth Town Council:

The Amherst Youth Town Council last met on December 9 and during that meeting members worked in small groups to coordinate the topics and information for a report to present to Council. This report is still being created with the hopes of meeting with Council and presenting the final product in March.

In December, with the resignation of one of the committee member, Council approved the appointment of a new County resident member, Chris Hill.

In the coming weeks, the current AYTC members will be teaming up with past AYTC members to volunteer at this year's 24 Hour Physical Activity Day in Amherst.

Our first meeting of the New Year was held on Tuesday, January 21 and the main topics on the agenda were to continue to work on the presentation for Council as well as set our goals for the next nine months.

8.3. Downtown Business Advisory Committee

Councillor March presented the following report on behalf of the Downtown Business Advisory Committee:

Downtown Business Advisory Committee (DBAC) members met last on January 14th in Council Chambers.

The Business Recruitment Sub-Committee did not have any new information to report.

The Communications Sub-Committee reported that a new bicycle shop and skate sharpening business has opened across from the Amherst Stadium

The Marketing Sub-Committee reported that the Passport Program wrapped up successfully, but support and interest was down in comparison to the 2013 program. The Marketing Sub-Committee held two meetings in January to discuss initiatives for 2014. The downtown business community is interested in the Amherst 125 schedule of events, but will not be leading an initiative on their own; however, they do wish to co-promote with various scheduled 125 events.

The Festivals & Events Sub-Committee reported that most bookings are complete for the 2014 Blueberry Festival and they will begin to meet regularly beginning in February.

The Downtown Business Advisory Committee Policy amendments were circulated and discussed with recommendations being forwarded to Town Council. A memorandum from CAO, Greg Herrett concerning the current situation of DBAC was circulated and discussed.

The next DBAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers.

9. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Cumberland Public Libraries

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of Cumberland Public Libraries:

Food For Fines

In its 10th year, Food For Fines is a program where all Cumberland Public Libraries will forgive fines in exchange for non-perishable food items. This year the Four Fathers Library collected 461 food items for the Amherst Food Bank, and forgave 338 fines which totaled \$858.

January Programs

Monday Storytime is back for 2014! The Four Fathers Library's Storytime is for children ages 2-5 and their parents or caregivers; it happens Monday mornings 10-11am. We read stories sing songs; make lots of noise and kids get a half hour of play time. No registration required just drop in on Monday.

C.A.R.T (Children and Adults Reading Together), a popular pre-school program that teaches children the fundamentals of reading and their parents or guardians ways to incorporate literacy into everyday activities, has started the winter session in Amherst. For more information about C.A.R.T contact the Amherst Library.

Did you know?

Currently, the Four Fathers Library is offering computer courses; sessions include Apples, Windows and Androids...Oh MY! and Social Media 101, as well as one-on-one bookable time with a computer trainer on Saturdays. Call the Four Fathers Library for more information or to sign up for courses.

Find out what's going on

Check out the library's webpage (www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca) to see our Calendar of Events and get information on upcoming programs.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@CumberlandPL) to get information on coming events, find out about new books and movies, and see pictures of our programs.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Small reported that he and the Deputy Warden from Cumberland met with NSCC's Senior Leadership Team and leading manufacturers in this part of Nova Scotia on Friday to discuss "Meeting the Needs of Industry." The focus of this workshop was to identify ways of supporting the workforce of tomorrow by ensuring they have the necessary skills to pass entry requirements in industries, and looking at ways to improve negative attitudes. NSCC is looking at partnering across provincial borders in terms of certifications; they are serious about helping rural Nova Scotia and are demonstrating that in their programming.

He invited the entire community to participate in the annual 24 Hour Activity Day, which will be held on February 8.

On motion by Councillor Rhindress, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Town Clerk and CAO

Robert Small
Mayor