

MINUTES
TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
REGULAR COUNCIL
January 21, 2008
9:00 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, January 21, 2008 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Mayor John Kinsella, Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe, Councillors Phil Roberts, Sherman Hudson and Doug Shaffner, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson, Municipal Intern Tammy Bernasky, Recreation Director Grant Potter and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. Carolyn Sloan of the Spectator and several members of the public were also in attendance.

Regrets: Councillor Ron Boulding.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

December 17, 2007

Motion # 1

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Roberts, approval of the regular Council minutes dated December 17, 2007, as presented. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Under Correspondence add:

{b} E-mail message from the Wharf Society

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

January 21, 2008

Motion # 2

It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, approval of the agenda dated January 21, 2008, as amended. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS None

PRESENTATIONS None

Mayor Kinsella suggested that the motions regarding the skatepark be brought forward as those in attendance were present for that discussion. Council agreed and the first motion was made.

Motion #3

It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner to revoke the previous recommendation to Council regarding the Skatepark, which reads “... acceptance and approval of the preferred site location for the Skatepark as 752 St. George Street.”

Mayor Kinsella explained that considerable opposition was received regarding the location of the skatepark. He said that everyone seems to be in favour of a park but the location continues to be the main issue. He also said that the Site Selection Committee was asked to review the recommendation and submit another location for approval. The proper procedure is to have the current motion revoked so that another recommendation could be made to Council.

Grant Potter, Recreation Director for the Town said that the soccer field location ranked among the among the top five in the site selection process but a letter has been received from a near by property owner. The property owner states that a number of his tenants do not approve of the site. Mr. Potter said that it has been agreed that a “time out” be called to allow time for the Site Selection Committee, Council and the Active Living Coordinator to review and consider the entire situation. Councillor Roberts suggested that the site be moved closer to the high school parking lot and further away from the residential property. He also suggested a site near the French Basin Trail parking area and the old pump station location on St. Patrick’s Lane and Champlain Drive.

Mayor Kinsella said all members of Council continue to be supportive of the project and want the park to be sited in Annapolis Royal. He said that the Town wants to welcome families and Council is not trying to get the park built outside of Town limits. The floor was opened for discussion.

Wendy Knowlton said that she was representing the Health Board and Women’s Place; she is enthusiastic about the park. She said that young families need to be attracted to rural Nova Scotia communities. She said that she is disappointed that the process has been stalled. The youth who have worked on the project have gone above and beyond in an attempt to make this park a reality. She stated that she has not seen the petition that was recently submitted to Council but hoped that this process was not stalled by a minority of residents who were opposed. She also said that she is hopeful that the process will move forward.

A representative from the Senior Games Group said that she is strongly in favour of the park and hoped that the project is not stalled for long.

Kim Burrell said that this has been very disheartening for the children. She said that there will always be someone who says no. She

questioned the letter recently received from the property owner near the soccer field; it was her understanding that the tenants of that property were in favour of that location. Mayor Kinsella said that the letter states that some of the residents did not approve.

Johnathan Longmire offered his comments as one of the original children who started the skatepark process. He said that planning and discussions began when he was in grade 9, he is now in grade 11 and it appears that there will be no park until after he has moved on. He said that he is glad the the younger children may have a park to go to but he is disappointed that the process is taking so long. He also said that if there is no park for skateboarding they still have places like the Royal Bank steps and the Farmer's Market.

Councillor Hudson said that a park would bring children as well as parents into Town. He said that he believes that the soccer field site is the perfect location and perhaps it could be moved slightly to satisfy nearby property owners. He also said that the location near the French Basin Trail seems appropriate.

Councillor Shaffner said that he does not think that a petition of 103 names is a minority in a Town of only 450 residents. He said that he agreed with the decision to move the location from 752 St. George Street but continues to be confused as to why the second highest ranking site is not being considered. Councillor Roberts said that site was ruled out because of objection from a nearby business owner. The business owner had previously indicated that the skatepark would have a negative impact on her business if it was located nearby.

Deputy Mayor DeWolfe agreed that this is a very frustrating process. She said that she considered the 752 St. George Street location to be ideal but it was obvious that neighbours did not agree. She asked if the soccer area could be reconfigured. Mr. Potter said that the school board has a policy which would not allow a skatepark to be constructed on its property but that is being reviewed. The "time out" in the process will allow time for all options to be thoroughly considered. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said she agreed with comments that the park needs to be located within Town. It was noted that some residents of Upper St. George Street are not sending the same message.

Mayor Kinsella said that he has received several e-mails on the issue and recently received one from Andrew Sabeau, a resident of Granville Ferry. Mr. Sabeau has graciously offered a piece of property for the skatepark in Granville Ferry. Mayor Kinsella reiterated his comments about the park being located within Town. He said he wants the invigorated community that was here several years ago and he will find a way to build a skatepark in Annapolis Royal. A meeting will be held with AABBBBA to find a suitable solution and he commented that any decision would probably not please everyone. He commented that opposition has been received in the past over the French Basin Trail, Historic Gardens and the pool project. He said that he is willing to do whatever he can to solve the problems and Council has indicated the same. Mayor Kinsella thanked all who came out to voice their opinion.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

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Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Borrowing Resolution	<p>CAO Boyer has provided a list of completed projects that can be borrowed against. This list will be an appendix to the resolution. The temporary borrowing resolution requests borrowing allocated to the water capital in the amount of \$200,000.00 and allocated to the General Capital in the amount of \$300, 000.00.</p> <p>Councillor Hudson questioned the amount that was spent on the basement renovations. It was explained that only one tender was received for the project which included existing walls being reinforced, a complete overhaul of the electrical panel and new washroom facilities.</p> <p>Councilor Shaffner expressed concerns over spending and borrowing. He said that he is afraid that the Town is digging a hole that may be difficult to get out of. It was agreed that all upcoming projects are necessary. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that the Town had a balanced budget until \$225,000.00 was contributed to the pool project.</p> <p>The pool project was discussed and it was noted that approximately \$66,000.00 in pool related expenses has been paid by the Town so far.</p> <p>CAO Boyer said that the Director of Finance has been doing a great job of keeping up with current expenses but there is not enough money to operate effectively until the end of the year.</p> <p>Mayor Kinsella commented that no one is happy about borrowing, but it is for necessary projects.</p> <p><i>Motion # 4</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Roberts to accept and approve the temporary borrowing resolution, as presented. Motion Carried.</i></p>		

NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Family of National Historic Sites	Mayor Kinsella may be attending the annual meeting on February 15, 2008. An invitation has also been extended to Ryan Scranton of the O'Dell House Museum.		
{b} Annapolis Royal Community Fund	<p>CAO Boyer said that there have been discussions regarding the establishment of a Community Fund. She said that the Town would need to contribute \$25,000.00 as the initial investment to get the fund started. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe asked about other partners in the project and CAO Boyer explained that there are several options but none have actually come forward yet. She listed CARP, the Wharf Society and Historic Gardens as possible funding partners. Councillor Roberts said that King's Theatre seems like a logical partner and he would mention it at the next meeting of the King's Theatre Board. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that she is in favour of the fund but sees no benefit in the Town setting it up on its own. CAO Boyer said that one possible benefit would be having a mechanism for on line contributions.</p> <p>CAO Boyer will prepare a file for King's Theatre to review and this item will be brought forward at the next meeting of Council.</p>		
{c} The Annapolis Royal Point-In-Time Map	Council and spouses are invited to a ceremony for the official presentation of the Annapolis Royal Points-In-Time Map on February 18, 2008 at 11:30 am.		
{d} Perimeter Trail	<p>CAO Boyer has requested approval to move forward on the project with a tender. This project was described as a contractual obligation through the purchase and sale agreement with Donnie Brown for the land behind the Fire Hall.</p> <p><i>Motion #5</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Hudson to proceed with the Perimeter Trail project with a tender.</i> <i>Motion Carried.</i></p>		

{e} Request from Hillsdale House	<p>Paul Stackhouse of the Hillsdale House has requested an exemption from the Noise Bylaw for two events that are planned at the property on July 5 and August 9, 2008. Mr. Stackhouse has indicated that both events will be ending at midnight. The Hillsdale House Inn has an in-house policy to inform its neighbours.</p> <p><i>Motion #6</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Sherman Hudson to approve the request from the Hillsdale House for exemptions to the Noise Bylaw for two events in 2008. Motion Carried.</i></p>		
{f} Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)	A copy of the request will be forwarded to CARP and to the Fire Chief for review and advice.		

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Recommendations from Committee of the Whole	<p>In light of the discussion held earlier in the meeting the following motion was made in regard to the skatepark:</p> <p><i>Motion #7</i> <i>It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Hudson to table all motions regarding the skatepark until further consultation with AABBA and a decision on the</i></p>		

	<p><i>need for a survey. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>A nay vote was recorded from Councillor Shaffner. He said that this motion provided too much opportunity to push something through without the community being consulted.</p> <p><i>8. It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, approval and acceptance of the Auxiliary Police Officer Bylaw. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><i>9. It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Roberts, approval and acceptance of the Capital Budget Policy. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><i>10. It was moved by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, seconded by Councillor Hudson, approval of the appointment of Hank Sawchuck as Alternate Development Officer for the Town of Annapolis Royal. Motion carried.</i></p> <p><i>11. It was moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe, approval of the request from the Annapolis District Board of Trade in the amount of \$7,000.00 for VIC operations for 2008-2009.</i></p>		
{b} Board of Police Commissioners	Deputy Mayor Dewolfe said that the regular monthly Board meeting was held last week. Sergeant Miller is, once again, off on extended sick leave as a result of the accident in June, 2007. Deputy Mayor Dewolfe and Mayor Kinsella plan to visit Sergeant Miller over the next few days.	Deputy Mayor DeWolfe	
{c} Mayor's Report	Mayor Kinsella said that the Mayors and Wardens have agreed on a new meeting schedule. The group will meet every other month with Digby representatives present only in April and November.	Mayor John Kinsella	
{d} King's Theatre	Councillor Roberts said that the Theatre is currently drafting a list of items that are in need of repair. He said that a request will come to the Town to	Councillor Phil Roberts	
{e} REMO	Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that she attended the meeting last week and everything seems to be in place in the event of an emergency. The Administrative Assistant for the Town is now trained under Basic Emergency Management.	Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe	

{f} Hanse Society	Councillor Boulding was not in attendance; no report was provided.	Councillor Ron Boulding	
{g} Historic Gardens	Councillor Shaffner said that he attended the last meeting and the following things were discussed: the successful New Year's Eve Gala, the upcoming auction and pay increases for the staff. He also said that the	Councillor Doug Shaffner	
{h} FAPS	Councillor Roberts said that there was no new information to discuss.	Councillor Phil Roberts	

CORRESPONDENCE

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
{a} Department of Environment and Labour - Response from Minister Mark Parent.	For information only.		
{b} Wharf Society	CAO Boyer read the note that was received from Greg Kerr. The note addressed the upcoming fund raising project and asked if a contribution amount had been determined from the Town. CAO Boyer explained that the fund raising program had the potential to raise \$200,000.00. CAO Boyer recommended that Council wait to see if the necessary funds can be privately raised.		

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councillor Roberts had questions about the new Clear Bag Program which will take effect on April 1, 2008. All the issues have not been clarified yet. The program is being launched with the Valley Waste Program and all issues will be addressed before the launch date. Councillor Roberts also had questions about what items could be added to the compost. He said that paper towel and napkins should be compostable but the Superintendent of Public Works has indicated that they are not. CAO Boyer said that the Town uses open air composting and some things that may otherwise be compostable are not through the Town's processes. She will discuss all of these points with the Superintendent of Public Works.

Councillor Roberts also mentioned an area of the French Basin Trail that appears to be submerged and frozen. He said that the area is almost impassable. He suggested that drainage pipes and fill be used to solve the problem.

Councillor Shaffner asked about drawings that were produced by the Engineer for the sidewalk at 6 Drury Lane. CAO Boyer said that the drawings had to be completed as part of the bigger project. The project specific to 6 Drury Lane was cost shared with the property owner with an expense of \$1,700.00 to the Town.

NEXT MEETING February 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Roberts to adjourn the meeting.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Reviewed by Mayor John Kinsella		
Changes made by Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by Mayor or CAO		
Forwarded to the Website		