

2024-12-17 Municipal Council

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Minutes of the regular session of Municipal Council held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Municipal Administration Building, 752 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS.

Roll Call

- District 1 – Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman, present
- District 2 – Jesse Hare, present
- District 3 – Dustin Enslow, Deputy Warden, present
- District 4 – Charles “Chuck” Cranton, present
- District 5 – Lynn Longmire, present
- District 6 – Jon Welch, present
- District 7 – Ted Agombar, present
- District 8 – Nile Harding, present
- District 9 – Gail “Gidget” Oxner, present
- District 10 – Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, present
- District 11 – Diane Le Blanc, Warden, present

Also Present: CAO Chris McNeill; Administrative Clerk – Municipal Clerk Office Kelly Kempton; Director of Finance Angela Anderson; Development Officer Katie August; Director of Planning and Inspection Services Linda Bent; Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Alyssa Blais; Manager of Planning Barbara Boateng; Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO Dawn Campbell; Communications Coordinator Nadine McCormick; Manager of Information and Technology Ben Olsen; Director of Municipal Operations Jim Young and 5 members of the public.

Disclosure of Interest

None

Order of the Day

Approved as circulated

Minutes

Re: 2024-11-19 Regular Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2024-11-19 Public Hearing Minutes

Approved, with corrections of typos on page 30

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Re: SR2024-83 FCM Conference

Motion 241217.01 FCM Conference

To approve the travel and attendance cost of Councillor Longmire, Deputy Warden Enslow, and Councillor Parsons-Saltzman, to attend the 2025 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa;

And that Councillor Agombar and Councillor Oxner be designated as alternates in this order, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor Connell

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-84 Cost of Living Wage Adjustment

Motion 241217.02 Cost of Living Wage Adjustment

To approve an increase to all non-union rates of compensation in the amount of 1.5%, per the Nova Scotia consumer price index (CPI) effective January 1, 2025, in accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Cranton

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-85 Nominating Committee Report

Motion 241217.03 Nominating Committee Report

To appoint Carol Greentree and William Street to the Annapolis County Police Advisory Board effective immediately for a two-year term ending October 31, 2026, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Seconded: Councillor Agombar

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-86 Approve *Bylaw 2 Marketing Levy*

Motion 241217.04 Approve *Bylaw 2 Marketing Levy*

To give first reading to approve *Bylaw 2 Marketing Levy*, in accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Councillor Oxner

Seconded: Councillor Hare

Motion carried (10 in favour; 1 opposed)

Re: SR2024-87 Approve *Policy 105 Low Income Tax Exemption*

Motion 241217.05 Approve *Policy 105 Low Income Tax Exemption*

To approve *Policy 105 Low Income Tax Exemption* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Cranton

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-89 Approve *Policy 130 Occupational Health and Safety*

Motion 241217.06 Approve Policy 130 Occupational Health and Safety

To approve *Policy 130 Occupational Health and Safety* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Councillor Welch

Seconded: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-90 Approve Policy 127 Emergency Management Comfort Centres and Shelters

Motion 241217.07 Approve Policy 127 Emergency Management Comfort Centres and Shelters

To approve *Policy 127 Emergency Management Comfort Centres and Shelters* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor Oxner

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-92 Insurance for Heritage Properties

Motion 241217.08 Insurance for Heritage Properties

To recommend that the Municipality of the County of Annapolis send a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, requesting that they immediately review and implement legislation changes to support the designation and continuation of current heritage properties across the Nova Scotia and protect them from insurance increases directly related only to their heritage designation;

And that the letter be copied to Annapolis' two MLA's and President of NSFM, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Councillor Welch

Seconded: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-93 Approve Policy 131 Hospitality

Motion 241217.09 Approve Policy 131 Hospitality

To approve *Policy 131 Hospitality* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Seconded: Deputy Warden

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-94 Approve Policy 106 Municipal Traffic Authority

Motion 241217.10 Approve Policy 106 Municipal Traffic Authority

To approve *Policy 106 Municipal Traffic Authority* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Councillor Harding

Seconded: Councillor Connell

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-95 Approve Policy 114 Council Remuneration

Motion 241217.11 Approve Policy 114 Council Remuneration

To approve *Policy 114 Council Remuneration* as circulated, seven-day notice given on December 10th.

Moved: Councillor Welch

Seconded: Councillor Hare

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-96 Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program

Motion 241217.12 Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program

To support the submission of an application to the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program for upgrades and climate adaptation work on the Bridgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$1,252,266.29 for 50% of the total project cost.

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Cranton

Motion carried unanimously

New Business

Re: SR2024-98 Approve Bylaw 1 Heritage (Second Reading)

Motion 241217.13 Approve Bylaw 1 Heritage (Second Reading)

To give second reading to approve *Bylaw 1 Heritage* as circulated.

Moved: Councillor Harding

Seconded: Councillor Cranton

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-99 Nominating Committee Report

Motion 241217.14 Nominating Committee Report

To approve appointment of Steve Raftery to Bridgetown Planning Area Advisory Committee and Derik DeWolfe and Wendy Sheridan to East End Planning Advisory Committee effective immediately for a two-year term ending on October 31, 2026.

Moved: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Seconded: Councillor Agombar

Motion carried unanimously

Re: SR2024-100 Site Plan Approval Appeal

Motion 241217.15 Site Plan Approval Appeal

To schedule an appeal hearing on January 21, 2025, to consider Sylvie & Lance Aikman Green and Bonnie & Randy Shea's appeal of a decision of the Municipal Development Officer to grant Site Plan approval to enable the development of 11 quadplexes, totaling 44 dwelling units located at PIDS 05311493 & 05298070.

Moved: Councillor Agombar

Seconded: Deputy Warden Enslow

Motion defeated (3 in favour; 8 opposed)

Re: SR2024-100 Site Plan Approval Appeal

Motion 241217.16 Site Plan Approval Appeal

To moved that Municipal Council dismiss the appeal of Sylvie & Lance Aikman Green and Bonnie & Randy Shea for the site plan approval of the development of PIDS 05311493 & 05298070.

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Agombar

Motion carried (9 in favour; 2 opposed)

Council Motion Tracking List (September, October, November)

Reviewed for information

Councillor Comments

District 1 – Councillor Parsons-Saltzman mentioned that she was invited to participate with the NSCC on November 22 on the initiative challenge that they do. This year the challenge was based on how to attract and retain skilled professionals to the area. She commented that there were 87 teams across the 47 schools and team number 11 placed second place. Councillor Parsons-Saltzman attended the Wilmot Neighbourhood Watch meeting where Sharon Elliott was the guest speaker.

Councillor Parsons-Saltzman expressed her gratitude to the Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms group who do a tremendous amount of volunteering in our communities. If anyone is struggling this group has the resources to help them. She also wanted to give a shout out to 12 Baskets Foodbank in Nictaux which is struggling right now. She encouraged anyone who could help in any way to reach out. Councillor Parsons-Saltzman expressed her thanks to all volunteers in the county. She wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

District 2 – Councillor Hare said that it is the time of year when we start to see things slow down for the holidays. He mentioned that he must be mindful of the different holiday hours around the county. Councillor Hare reminded everyone that it is a good time of year to take advantage of what our county has to offer, whether that is a fresh cut of meat from a local farmer, a handmade gift from an artisan in your community, or a skate with friends and family. He expressed how much he enjoyed breakfast at his local hall this month; and is saddened that the next one will not happen again until April. However, he was even sadder that deer season is over for another season. He expressed that he hoped others had had more success than he did. Councillor Hare encouraged everyone to use the amenities available in our rural community that are not possible in the city. He hoped to get out on the trails over the holiday season and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

District 3 – Deputy Warden Enslow wished everyone Happy Holidays. He has attended various meetings and events this month. The highlight for Deputy Warden Enslow was light up the town in Bridgetown which he attended along with the Warden. Deputy Warden Enslow along with Councillor Agombar got to escort Santa in the parade. However, the fireworks were cancelled due to the weather. He stated that on

Friday, December 20 the Legion / Lions club would be hosting a Pub night. This event happens most Friday evenings. He mentioned that on December 25th a free Christmas dinner would be provided to about 120 people at the Bridgetown Fire Hall. He will be volunteering along with his family to help peel vegetables on December 24 for this event. Anyone interested in helping were encouraged to reach out to Maureen Publow. Deputy Warden Enslow mentioned how the *Bridgetown Reader* is a wonderful resource to find out the happening of the community and it is free to everyone. He wished everyone a safe holiday season.

District 4 – Councillor Cranton wished everyone happy holidays. He stated that this is his favourite time of the year. Councillor Cranton recently attended the AGM of the Annapolis Valley Exhibition. He mentioned that they may have struggled a few years ago but seem to be rebounding. He stated that he had also attended many community events, such as craft fairs, breakfasts, and potlucks. He mentioned that while some community halls will close for the winter, some would remain open and encouraged everyone to support those who do. He thanked Councillor Welch for the updates regarding the detour located near Frank and Dora's.

Councillor Cranton expressed some concerns about the voter turnout for the last municipal election. He hoped Council will look at ways to increase this in the next few years. He took a minute to recognize the effects of the Canada Post strike on small businesses in the local area. He thanked community groups such as the Annapolis Royal Fire Department and Lions Club for stepping up with letters to Santa. He also mentioned various community groups such as the Salvation Army with their Angel Tree program, the Fire Department with their toy drive, Cram the Cruiser, Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms, the Lions Club and other churches and halls for their dedication. He wished everyone a happy holiday and expressed his hope that they all take a minute to relax, whether that be taking in a movie or show, which he recently did at the local King's Theatre.

District 5 – Councillor Longmire wished everyone a good morning. She stated that it is an exciting time for sure. She mentioned that schools would soon be adjourned for the holidays. Councillor Longmire reminded all to be watchful of children and seniors coming and going. She also encouraged everyone to get out and be active, whether on the trails or the local rinks.

Councillor Longmire attended the unveiling of the monument at Fort Anne despite challenging weather. This was a highlight for her this month. The parade in Bridgetown was outstanding and Santa and his Reindeer were amazing. She wanted to give a shout out to all the volunteers. Councillor Longmire mentioned that foodbanks and local pantries are all in need. She urged everyone to do what they could for those in need. She mentioned a local fundraiser currently taking place for the Lower Granville Hall. They are selling tickets for pies. There are only 15 left. She expressed the importance of supporting these fundraisers. Councillor Longmire wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Presentation

Re: Annapolis Valley Regional Library

CEO Julia Merritt presented a brief overview of library services in the Valley, library board structure and funding.

Councillor Comments continued

District 6 – Councillor Welch said that he has been busy this past month. There have been a few issues in his district and in Bear River, where he is still the president of the water society under it transitions over to the County. He mentioned the big issue in his district is the detour due to the covert installation near Frank and Dora's. He stated that he has spoken with Tony Harvey at the Department of Transportation regarding a review of the detour to see if it could be changed due to the fact the deadline to finish with project has been extended until mid-February. Councillor Welch mentioned that there have been several accidents.

Councillor Welch attended a couple of breakfasts in Bear River and Cornwallis Park. He stated that he met some excellent people at both locations. He attended a Sparkle Dance performance at King's Theatre as his daughter is involved in the dance program. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

District 7 – Councillor Agombar extended greetings on behalf of District 7 for a happy and safe holiday season. He expressed how it is a busy time of year with lots of community events and good cheer everywhere. Councillor Agombar attended the annual light up the town event in Bridgetown on December 6th. This event featured a grand parade with lots of floats which was officiated by Santa and Mrs. Clause. High winds cancelled the fireworks but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the large crowds in attendance. Councillor Agombar attended the tree lighting countdown and carol sing, along with Warden LeBlanc and Councillor Enslow. He wished to thank the West Dalhousie Community Hall Committee for staffing the Smores booth. He also gave a big shout out to the Bridgetown and Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing this awesome event.

Councillor Agombar mentioned the craft show that was held on December 14 at the Bridgetown Regional Community School. This event was completely organized by the O2 class, and it was a very successful event. He stated that on December 25 at 1:00 p.m. the annual "free Christmas dinner" would be held at the Bridgetown Fire Hall. This event is once again organized by Maureen and Gerry Publow and their generous volunteers. He also wished to thank Janice Lawrence and the Bridgetown Community Fund for the donation to the Centrelea Community Hall Warming Center Fund.

District 8 – Councillor Harding wished a Happy Holiday to everyone. He mentioned that he attended the monthly breakfast at the Bear River Fire Department on December 7, 2024. While there, he viewed their newly acquired rescue boat. He expressed the belief that the new rescue boat will greatly increase the search and rescue capabilities of the department. Councillor Harding offered his thanks to all the community halls within District 8 for contributing to the festive opportunities, along with everything else that they do. He stated that he was thankful to be able to sit down and talk with the Bear River Board of Trade and has gained great insight into all the positive things they are working on. Councillor Harding wished to remind everyone that school will be out for Christmas break at the end of the week. He encouraged all to drive safely during this busy season and keep a watch out for the children.

District 9 – Councillor Oxner extended Holiday greetings to Council, residents and county staff. She hoped that as we move into the final shopping days the residents will support local businesses. Councillor Oxner expressed how fortunate the new councillors have been to receive some valuable training sessions. She mentioned the following sessions specifically, Emergency Management Training for Elected Officials, Education Session with Kings Transit and Valley Waste, Education Session with NS Public Works and Climate Action Training. Councillor Oxner wished to acknowledge some activities from District 9; on December 14 there was the opening of the Accessibility Extension of the Nictaux Park and Playground. She felt this project was an example of the successful collaboration between the community and municipal government. She expressed her congratulations to all on the wonderful addition for the families in Nictaux. On December 16 there was a Christmas Carols sing-along in the Parks held at Nictaux Falls.

District 10 – Councillor Connell expressed Christmas wishes from District 10. He mentioned that he delivers the *Bridgetown Reader* to the store in Springfield each week. This helps to let the citizens of the County know of events happening within the area. Councillor Connell stated that he has had a busy month. He attended breakfast with Santa at the local school with his grandson. He also attended the breakfast and craft sale held at the Inglisville Hall despite the snowy weather. The Christmas concert at the school was well attended with the kids having fun and performing well. Councillor Connell was impressed by the opening of phase 2 of the playground in Nictaux. He felt it showed that community groups have taken an interest in their communities. He encouraged everyone to be kind and have a Merry Christmas.

District 11 – Warden LeBlanc stated that it's that time of year when there are many events in our county. She mentioned that the Three Rivers Community Centre's breakfast with Santa was a great event with many children having a great time. Warden LeBlanc attended the Unveiling of the Monument in Annapolis and had the opportunity to go to the tree lighting in Bridgetown on a cold windy evening. She enjoyed meeting and chatting with the citizens while enjoying the Parade of Lights.

Warden LeBlanc wished the citizens of Annapolis County, staff and colleagues a safe, healthy and happy holiday season filled with fun and laughter. "Joyeuses fêtes et bonne et heureuse année!"

Adjournment

The Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Warden

Recording Secretary, Administrative Clerk
Municipal Clerk Office