

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
November 6, 2018**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

1. A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, November 6, 2018 and called to order by Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton at 7:00 p.m.
2. Additions / Approval of Agenda
 - i. In Camera Report – Cost of Living Adjustment – Councilor T. Boudreau
 - ii. Remembrance Day Acknowledgement – Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall
 - iii. Update on Strait Cape Breton Unima’ki Local Government School for Women - Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “to approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton thanked Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall for his year of service.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the appointment of Councilor M. MacIver as Deputy Mayor”.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

There are no gallery presentations.

5. Acknowledgements

i. Remembrance Day

A moment of silence was observed in honour of our veterans.

ii. Jo-anne Eosainn-MacDonald

On behalf of Council, Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton extended thanks and appreciation to Jo-anne Eosainn MacDonald for her many years of service and dedication as coordinator of the Port Hawkesbury Seasonal Services Project. Ms. Eosainn-MacDonald thanked the Mayor and Council for this recognition and stated it was a privilege and a rewarding experience preparing Christmas boxes over the years. She thanked the many volunteers who will continue their work on this project. A letter of thanks from Mayor and Council was read to Ms. Eosainn-MacDonald and she was presented with a personal gift from Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton.

6. Approval of Council Minutes

Public Meeting – October 2, 2018

Agenda Item 12.1 – Seniors Christmas Dinner

The minutes will be amended as:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the use of the Bear Head Room, sound equipment, kitchen facilities, and staff labour required to facilitate the Seniors Christmas Luncheon, December 9, 2018”.
MOTION CARRIED.

Special Public Meeting October 15, 2018
There were no errors or omissions.

Special Public Meeting October 22, 2018
There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

i. Notice of Motion – Plebiscite – Councilor H. MacDougall

Councilor H. MacDougall stated the Point of Order he raised at the October 22 Special Public Meeting referred to a simple question on calling a meeting of Council that evolved into a debate on a plebiscite. To date he has not received an answer from CAO, T. Doyle, R. Dauphinee, Municipal Affairs, or Town Solicitor, P. Lamey on the process in calling a meeting of Council within a 24 hour timeline. Additionally, he questioned the two sets of minutes he received on the Notice of Motion – Plebiscite and indicated he hoped these minutes would not be approved as presented as both sets of meetings contradict the other.

P. Lamey stated he received the Town Council By-Law from Councilor H. MacDougall at the meeting which was referenced regarding the process in calling a meeting of Council.

The Town Council By-Law states:

1. The Town Council shall meet:

- a. On the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 o'clock in the evening at the Town Hall. In the event of the date of meeting falling on a holiday the meeting shall automatically be held the following Thursday;*
- b. Whenever summoned to attend a special or emergency meeting by the Mayor;*
- c. When a meeting is requested by three members as provided in the Towns Act.*

2. Written notice shall be given a least twenty-four (24) hours before any meeting of the Council (including meetings called by three members of the Council), such notice shall specify the time and place of meeting and shall be signed by the town Clerk or by such three members of the Council and shall be left at the usual place of abode or the usual place of business of each member of the Council, provided that an emergency meeting may be called by the Mayor at shorter notice when necessary, but no business shall be transacted at an emergency meeting other than that indicated in the notice calling the meeting, unless all members of the council are present, and no objections is taken to the discussion or transaction of business other than that stated in that notice.

Councilor H. MacDougall stated he was referring to Section 2– not Section 1 of the By-Law.

A Point of Order was called by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton in which she stated this discussion should be addressed later in Section 9.ii of this agenda.

The following motion was recorded as read by Councilor H. MacDougall:

I MOVE that the Town of Port Hawkesbury hold a plebiscite on February 2, 2019. The question being asked "Do you support reducing Reeves Street from four lanes to three lanes – Yes or No?"

The motion was SECONDED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver.

Council Discussion

Deputy Mayor M. MacIver stated that he has given much thought to the project and believes in giving residents a chance to voice their opinion. Should the project be positive, it will come back with a positive result through a plebiscite which he supports.

Councilor T. Boudreau stated he has also given much thought to the project and the idea of a plebiscite. He referenced the mill closure and a group of community leaders and business owners who met to discuss support of the Reeves Street businesses. Meetings continued to discuss the revitalization of Reeves Street through a façade program that was not supported through the federal government who indicated a more complete street was needed. He stated plebiscites are not binding as evidenced with Sunday shopping and that another Council can make changes. Additionally, he has reservations and is unsure that road dieting will work, but it looks like it will be based upon the NSTIR engineers. He is concerned that there is a lot of misinformation out there on both sides of this issue and that the result of a plebiscite would be based on emotion rather than fact. He added that a plebiscite is premature based on the fact that Council just received a final draft on the project. He is not in support of a plebiscite and is concerned that a new councilor will not be informed on all aspects of this project.

Councilor T. Boudreau asked to strike down this motion and make a substitute motion.

A Point of Order was called by Councilor H. MacDougall who inquired if Councilor T. Boudreau was making an amendment to his motion.

Councilor T. Boudreau stated that in Roberts Rules of Order a motion can be struck down, a substitution can be called, and debate can take place on both motions. The substitution can then be voted on. If the substitution is voted down, you can return to the original motion.

Councilor Boudreau's substitution was:

I MOVE to direct staff to prepare a report with the risks and benefits of removing the road diet portion (reduction of four lanes to three lanes) of the Reeves Street project and its financial impact to the Town. It was SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall to bring it forward for discussion.

Councilor H. MacDougall stated he also has given much thought to this project and that the Sunday shopping was not a plebiscite but a referendum. He added many people have concerns about the road dieting, and that he has a deep connection with Reeves Street. He supports the façade program and the AT lane and doesn't believe this project is an *all or nothing project*. He referenced the changes during the stages of construction of the PHCC and suggested sending questionnaires to residents to receive their feedback.

Councilor T. Boudreau stated there were concerns with the PHCC but it went through. He added that NSTIR stated they would change back this one part to its origin should it not succeed.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton asked E. MacEachen to comment on the structure of the project. Councilor T. Boudreau asked that this be deferred for discussion when the new Councilor is in place. E. MacEachen stated the cost of a plebiscite is similar to an election – with adjustments; approximately \$17,000.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated she has always accepted feedback from the residents and is very accessible by all mediums. She noted there is confusion about this project but has provided information to anyone who requested it. The basis of Councilor H. MacDougall's motion is with respect to one kilometer of street and it is a pilot project. The province is allowing the Town to benefit from this pilot project. She feels that people must drive on this road design to learn and that we have a dedicated emergency response committee who will work with the Province and the Town to ensure it is safe. The Province is still fine tuning the design. The Mayor finds Councilor MacDougall's motion premature and will not support it.

Councilor MacDougall stated safety is most important and questioned if it is a pilot project that can be changed back then funding should not impact the other components of the project.

CAO, T. Doyle stated the portion of funding from the Province is for the implementation of traffic safety improvements and that line painting is a small portion of the overall costs. The other costs of the safety improvements include access management and sidewalk issues, lining up left hand turns, lining up accesses into businesses, the realignment of old Sydney Road, changes to intersections and lights. If the Province changes back the lane reconfiguration, it still has invested in the above mentioned areas. The cost would be incurred by the Province if it is changed back to four lanes.

Councilor M. MacIver inquired who was driving the project – the Town or the Province. He stated many questions are not answered and at the last meeting, the engineers could not answer some questions and were unsure of their last drawings. He added this type of project has not been done on a provincial highway and that Reeves Street has a lot of commercial traffic that won't mix well with bike lanes. He would like to have the bike lane removed and asked who will take the responsibility should an accident occur between a pulp truck and a bicycle. He reiterated that if the project is positive, it will come back with a positive result through a plebiscite.

Councilor T. Boudreau called the question for the motion of the substitution on the floor. Two nays were recorded from Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and Councilor H. MacDougall. The motion for the substitution was unsuccessful.

On the return to the main motion the question was called. Two nays were recorded from Councilor T. Boudreau and Mayor B. Chisholm Beaton. The motion to hold a plebiscite on February 2, 2019 was unsuccessful.

8. Council Committee Reports

8.1 Report of Committee of the Whole – October 22, 2018

a) Request for Motions Approving the Destination Reeves Street Project

Staff researched and provided motions from April 20, 2015 and June 6, 2016. Deputy Mayor M. MacIver thanked CAO T. Doyle for confirming that it was the previous Council and not he who passed the original motion(s) approving the Destination Reeves Street project which relieves pressure on the Deputy Mayor. The Mayor stated that Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and Councilor H. MacDougall were involved in some motions for the DRS project. Councilor MacDougall stated that in 2017 he voted against the capital operating budget as

much money was earmarked for the DRS Project and nothing was being done on other streets and with many other issues in the Town.

A Point of Order was called by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton who stated that work on Pitt Street and Napean Street were also part of this capital budget. Councilor MacDougall stated he and Deputy Mayor M. MacIver supported the 2018 capital operating budget and questioned why this was part of these motions. CAO, T. Doyle stated the request was for the provided motions for Council and that he will review any motion(s) should Council request them.

8.ii Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole – October 22, 2018

MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “to approve the October 22, 2018 minutes of the Committee of the Whole”.

9. Correspondence

9.i. Funding/In Kind Requests

a) SAERC Operation Share and Care

MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “to approve a donation of \$100 for SAERC Operation Share and Care”. MOTION CARRIED.

b) Forget Me Not Animal Rescue Society

MOVED by Councilor T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver “to approve the request for use of the Bear Head Room for the November 30, 2018 Dinner and Dance fund raiser”. MOTION CARRIED.

9.ii. Island Community Justice Society

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “to approve the request by Island Community Justice Society to raise their banner for Restorative Justice Week from November 19 to 26, 2018”. MOTION CARRIED.

A recess was called by Mayor B. Chisholm Beaton at 8:10 p.m. The Public Meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

10. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions.

11. Other Business

i. Granville St Traffic Study

Concerns have been raised regarding speeding and near misses around the bus stop on Granville Street. Deputy Mayor M. MacIver stated this has been a concern for some time of previous Councils and to conduct a traffic study to slow traffic down. The option of implementing stop signs at intersections was discussed. CAO T. Doyle noted a number of safety issues to be addressed: the intersection at Granville St. and old Sydney Rd. and sightlines coming out of Pitt St. With Council approval, staff would like to conduct some public consultations and to engage a traffic safety engineer to complete a study with recommendations to improve traffic safety, intersections, crosswalks and stop signs. Councilor T. Boudreau noted prudence regarding the budget. Staff will request a quote for this work and hold a public consultation to determine safety concerns to bring forward to a traffic safety engineer.

ii. North Granville Street Barrier – Citizens Concerns

The Mayor received feedback from residents about the unsightly appearance, safety concerns, and potential impact to snow removal of the barrier that was placed at North Granville Street green space (former waste water treatment plant site). Boulders were placed at its entrance last summer to deter camping, the culmination of vehicles, and littering. The Mayor asked Council to provide suggestions for a more aesthetically pleasing option to minimize access and prevent these issues from reoccurring. Discussion included the need for a barrier, liability issues, rezoning, beautification, signage, a return to the original space, extending the parking area to access green space, and how to best address unwanted camping and littering.

Deputy Mayor M. MacIver appreciates the concerns of the residents. He suggested not making any changes but to have a meeting and invite the public to share their vision of this space. He did not see the benefit of moving the barrier at this stage but suggested extending it to accommodate parking and to move the boulders behind the power poles to allow for more parking. He also noted budget considerations. The Mayor suggested inviting the Waterfront Advisory Committee to this meeting. Town Solicitor P. Lamey will research liability issues in not having a barrier at this space.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “to lengthen the accessible parking area at the North Granville Street green space”. MOTION CARRIED.

iii. Expense Report – October 2018

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the October Expense Report for the Mayor, Council and CAO. The total expenses for the month of October were \$1,464.33. Expense reports are posted on the Town website.

12. Approved Additions

i. In Camera Report – Cost of Living Adjustment

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver “to approve a partial cost of living adjustment to non-union staff as presented in camera”. MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Update on Strait Cape Breton Unima’ki Local Government School for Women

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated that in March 2017, she was invited to sit on panel for a campaign school for women held in Halifax. A group of women thought it was worthwhile to have a school on a smaller scale to cover eastern Nova Scotia. Planning will get underway to host a campaign school for women in the fall of 2019 which will include all levels of government.

13. Future Meetings

The future meetings of Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- Committee of the Whole Tuesday, November 20, 2018
- Public Meeting Tuesday, December 4, 2018
- Committee of the Whole Tuesday, December 18, 2018

14. Public Question Period

Gary MacNeil

Mr. MacNeil inquired about 20 feet of his property that is on a Town Street. CAO, T. Doyle sated this will be reviewed as part of the discussion on the Granville Street Traffic Study.

Andre Bissonette

Mr. Bissonette asked Council to give consideration to increased traffic on Granville Street when the Reeves Street project is completed.

15. Adjournment

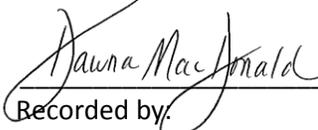
MOVED by Deputy Mayor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns the November 6, 2018 Public Meeting at 8:50 p.m.”. MOTION CARRIED.

December 5, 2018

Date



Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald

and;



Erin MacEachen