

1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE**1.1 Roll Call/Regrets**

Warden Jimmy MacAlpine called the May 25, 2020 Council session of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:01 pm. The meeting was held via zoom.

The following Councillors were present: Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden Linda Gregory, Councillor Matthew Ross, Councillor George Manzer and Councillor David Tudor

Staff present: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services, Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services and Pat Stevens, Executive Assistant, who took the minutes of the meeting.

1.2 Pause to Seek Guidance

Warden MacAlpine welcomed everyone and asked that they pause to seek guidance for the meeting.

1.3 Reading of Mission Statement

Warden MacAlpine read the Municipality's mission statement.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES**2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions**

MOVED and seconded that the agenda for May 25, 2020 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Delegations/Presentations

None

2.3 Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2020

MOVED and seconded that the minutes from Council of April 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 Unfinished Business from Minutes of April 27, 2020

None

2.5 CAO Report**a) Meeting Reminders**

Warden MacAlpine went over the meeting dates/reminders.

b) Action Items from Previous Meetings

The CAO has to gather further information for further discussion on RCMP.

c) Update on Capital Projects 2019-2020 Final**d) Financial Report****i) Payables**

MOVED and seconded that the list of payables for April 2020 in the amount of \$606,119.85 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Income and Expense Report

None available

3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS**3.1 By-Law & Policy****1) Interest rate on overdue taxes**

MOVED and seconded to approve the recommendation to set the interest rate on overdue taxes to 0% as of March 31, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

2) To drop interest rate in 2021

MOVED and seconded to approve the recommendation to drop the interest rate on overdue tax bills, effective January 1, 2021 to 10% from 15%, annually.

MOTION CARRIED

This will be revisited in March 2021 to possibly revert back to 15%.

3) Changes to Tax Collection Policy

MOVED and seconded to approve the recommendation of the changes to the Municipality Tax Collection Policy FIN-2500-01 thus allowing tax bills to be sent in September 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

DEPUTY WARDEN GREGORY OPPOSED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Office Closure

MOVED and seconded to keep the office closed to the public until June 5th to be reassessed at the June 1st By-Law & Policy meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Fog Horns

Council discussed the letter from the Village of Westport Clerk regarding fogs horns on the Islands.

MOVED and seconded to write a letter to the Superintendent, Aids to Navigation Canadian Coast Guard, objecting to the discontinuation of the four fog horns at Boars Head, Grand Passage, Brier Island and Peters Island.

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Mary Robinson - Bagpiper

MOVED and seconded the approval of a \$1,000 honorarium to Mary Robinson to aid in costs incurred for travelling throughout the Municipality playing bagpipe music.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Municipal Elections – voters list

NSFM has advised that there will still be an election held this fall. If another wave of Covid-19 hits in the fall they may postpone the election to Spring 2021.

MOVED and seconded for staff to acquire the Provincial Voters list from the Province for the upcoming Municipal Elections.

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence

There was discussion on the correspondence received this month.

5.2 General Information Items

There was no general information received this month.

5.3 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports

1) Heritage Advisory Committee

MOVED and seconded to allow the current asphalt roof shingles be replaced with wood shingles or architectural asphalt shingles or steel roofing material at the Danny and Linda Haight property at 1841 Ridge Road.

MOTION CARRIED

5.4 Other Council Committees

5.5 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

1) DARC

An update was circulated.

2) Waste Check

Waste Check letters to and from MLA Wilson and an updated covid-19 fact sheet were circulated.

3) Western Counties Regional Library

Quarterly minutes from December 2019 were circulated.

5.6 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports

5.7 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as helping with food bank and internet concerns.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as a Weymouth Waterfront Development meeting, other meetings are scheduled for next week and people asking about taxes.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district functions he attended such as internet issues, there were no road issues, tax calls have slowed down, DARC and Water Source meetings are to start up again.

Deputy Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on the various district functions she attended such as Fire Association meeting, the fire departments are concerned about the cancellation of usual summer fundraising and she has been noticing that people are not social distancing as much.

Warden MacAlpine gave an update to Council on the various district functions he attended such as the adopt a book program is not doing well, Diane Axent has done up 22 Ukrainian eggs and sent them with brochures that had information from the Town and Municipality of Digby and Digby Board of Trade to be distributed to the families of the shooting victims, a WREN L&O meeting last week and is to have a meeting this week regarding doctor recruitment.

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS

MOVED and seconded to go In Camera for a Personnel Issue at 5:47 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Council discussed all of the In-Camera items.

Council resumed the regular meeting at 5:50 PM.

6.1 Personnel Issue

MOVED and seconded that Andrena Teed be appointed, for a two-year term, on the Western Regional Housing Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 5:51 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden MacAlpine

Jeff Sunderland, CAO