



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
February 27, 2024**

- 1. IN ATTENDANCE:** Warden Linda Gregory, Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillor Angela Thurber, Councillor David Tudor, and Councillor George Manzer.

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Sunderland, Chief Administrative Officer, Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services, Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services, and Taylor Robinson, Executive Assistant who took the minutes of the meeting.

ALSO PRESENT: Ian Tenhaaf from the AIM Network (virtual), and Rickey Stewart & Rick Allwright from the Wharf Rat Rally Motorcycle Association to provide presentations to Council. There was also Chris Millier, Municipal Planner, as well as seven members of the public in attendance.

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Warden Gregory called the February 27, 2024 Council meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:00pm.

PAUSE TO SEEK GUIDANCE: Warden Gregory welcomed everyone and asked to pause to seek guidance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

- Addition under 3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS - By-Law & Policy Recommendations 3) Solid Waste By-Law #2018-01
- Addition under 4. BUSINESS ITEMS 4.6 Marketing & Promotions Levy Advisory Committee Member

MOTION #C2024-02-27-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for February 27, 2024 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Delegations/Presentations

- a) AIM Asset Management

MOTION #C2024-02-27-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that Ian Tenhaaf from the AIM Asset Management Team to come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Ian Tenhaaf from AIM Network introduced himself and provided a presentation regarding the Municipal Asset Management Program. Mr. Tenhaaf went over the Municipality of Digby's short- and long-term asset management totaling \$92.9 Million worth of infrastructure. It was noted to review the reserves that are going towards the wastewater infrastructure as the conditions will decline as was shown in the 50-Year projection. The report will be sent to staff and Council in the coming weeks. Council thanked Mr. Tenhaaf for his work and presentation.

b) Wharf Rat Rally

MOTION #C2024-02-27-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that Rickey Stewart & Rick Allwright from the Wharf Rat Rally Motorcycle Association to come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Rickey Stewart & Rick Allwright introduced themselves and provided an update for both the 2023 and 2024 rally. Mr. Allwright communicated that there were 7,500 people and 2,700 motorcycles that were registered in the 2023 Wharf Rat Rally Festival. They thanked all their sponsors and volunteers as it was also noted that there were 110 volunteers who donated 1,750 hours of their time to make the event possible. Mr. Allwright continued to inform Council of the exciting plans for the 2024 event as it is the 20th Anniversary. Council asked questions and thanked Mr. Stewart and Mr. Allwright for the presentation.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2024

- Remove Councillor Tudor's name under 1. IN ATTENDANCE

MOTION #C2024-02-27-04

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from January 23, 2024 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 CAO Report

a) Meeting Reminders

Warden Gregory went over the meeting dates/reminders.

b) Action Items from Previous Meetings

All action items have been addressed to date.

c) Update on Capital Projects 2023-2024

CAO Sunderland provided a brief update on each capital project.

d) Financial Report

i) Income & Expense Reports

The January Income & Expense report was circulated.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

1) Admiral Digby Museum Funding Request

MOTION #C2024-02-27-05

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council request that the Admiral Digby Museum apply for funding in the next fiscal year cycle due to lack of funding in the 2023-24 community grants.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Election Items

MOTION #C2024-02-27-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council have one polling station in each district (with the exception of District #4) to be held at Fire Departments with a hardwired internet, which eliminates the need for Satellite or Mobile Internet connections.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2024-02-27-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council enter into an information Sharing agreement with the province and acquire the provincial voters list for the 2024 election as they have in the past three elections.

MOTION CARRIED

3) Solid Waste By-Law #2018-01

MOTION #C2024-02-27-08

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the first reading of the Solid Waste By-Law #2018-01 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Recommendations

4) Election Ballot Decision

MOTION #C2024-02-27-09

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree that the Municipality of Digby switch to 100% Electronic voting (internet & phone) for the 2024 Municipal elections.

(2 NAYS – WARDEN GREGORY & COUNCILLOR MANZER)

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Conway LUB Amendment Request – Second Reading

MOTION #C2024-02-27-10

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to change the minimum lot frontage from 60.9 metres (200 feet) to 38.1 metres (125 feet) in the Residential Rural Zone in Section 8.3 of the Conway Area Land Use By-Law.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Transfer Station Fees

Tyler Pulley, Manager of Municipal Services, went over the details of the proposed increase of the fees. Council agreed to the changes.

MOTION #C2024-02-27-11

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council to make the fees for residential waste at the transfer station free up to 200kg and \$125/ton for any amounts over 200kg effective April 1, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2024-02-27-12

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council make the fee for any commercial waste at the transfer station \$145/ton effective April 1, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Appoint Returning Officer

MOTION #C2024-02-27-13

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to appoint Nicole Robbins as the Returning Officer for the 2024 Municipal Election.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Brier Island Land

Council reviewed the proposal to designate Municipal land on Brier Island as a provincial Wilderness Area from Trail Coordinator, Jonathan Riley. Council discussed and agreed that it was a great initiative.

MOTION #C2024-02-27-14

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council to formally ask the Province of Nova Scotia designate the Municipality's land at Big Meadow Bog on Brier Island (PID 30254619) as a provincially protected Wilderness Area.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Request to Council - Reduce Taxes

Council reviewed and discussed the request for a property tax reduction due to fire damage on property AAN #04586174.

MOTION #C2024-02-27-15

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to reduce the property taxes to property AAN #04586174 due to fire damage.

MOTION CARRIED

4.6 Marketing & Promotions Levy Advisory Committee Member

MOTION #C2024-02-27-16

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council appoint Councillor Thurber as the representative for the Marketing & Promotions Levy Advisory Committee, with Warden Gregory acting as the alternative when needed.

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Advisory Committees Minutes/Reports: None

5.3 Other Council Committees: None

5.4 Joint Intermunicipal Committees Minutes/Reports

- a) DARC AGM Package – January 17, 2024
- b) DARC Meeting Package - January 17, 2024
- c) Industrial Commission (DDA) Meeting Package December 6 2023
- d) Waste Check Authority Meeting Notes February 13-2024

The joint intermunicipal committee minutes and reports were reviewed.

5.5 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports: None

5.6 Councillor District Activity Report

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as receiving many phone calls regarding internet and property assessments.

Councillor Thurber gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the Digby Education Committee's Gala and Dinner, the WREN's Audit Committee meeting, the Art Bank meetings, and receiving phone calls and emails regarding property assessments, roads, the Land-Use By-Law, and an inquiry about tourism.

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district activities such as working with Senior Safety Coordinator regarding aggressive sales people, helping residents with moving, housing and mobility issues, coordinating with the Community Gardens by offering the harvests to families in need, received a \$2,000 grant for the foodbank, spoke to CBC regarding the ambulance services on the Islands, and has been dealing with coastguard and drug problems.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the two public meetings regarding Gates Lane Bridge, the Digby Education Committee's Gala and Dinner, and has been helping residents secure heating rebate grants.

Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on various district activities such as the two public meetings regarding Gates Lane Bridge, the Digby Education Committee's Gala and Dinner, a newcomer get-together at NSCC, a virtual meeting with David Benoit regarding cell services, the fundraiser for the United Baptist Church & Bear River Health Clinic, a climate change meeting, a benefit to fundraise for a local small child's cancer surgery, and has been receiving regarding property assessments, and food concerns.

6. **IN CAMERA ITEMS:** None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #C2024-02-27-17

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Gregory

Jeff Sunderland, CAO