



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
March 26, 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: Lois Oliver, Shirley Langpohl, & Klaus Langpohl to provide a presentation to Council and 31+ members of the public were also in attendance.

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Warden Gregory called the March 26, 2024 Council meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:02pm.

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

MOTION #C2024-03-26-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for March 26, 2024 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Delegations/Presentations

- a) Lois Oliver, Shirley Langpohl, & Klaus Langpohl - Land Use By-Law

MOTION #C2024-03-26-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that Lois Oliver, Shirley Langpohl, & Klaus Langpohl to come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Oliver began the presentation by introducing herself and thanking everyone for being there. Ms. Oliver continued to share her apprehensions regarding section 2.8 of the Land Use By-Law and provided a proposed amendment. It was requested that the Municipality of Digby consider the revision.

Ms. Langpohl presented her concerns regarding section 5.34 of the Land Use By-Law and requested the Municipality of Digby entirely remove the section. There was also an invitation to develop a taskforce to work with the community on future changes to policies and by-laws. Council thanked both presenters for their presentations and sharing their concerns.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2024

MOTION #C2024-03-26-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from February 27, 2024 be approved as presented.

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 February Income & Expense report was circulated.

Council took a recess at 5:30pm.

Council returned to regular session at 5:40pm.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

1) Low Income Tax Exemption Amount and Income Levels

MOTION #C2024-03-26-04

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council increase the 2024-25 Low Income Tax Exemption "income level" amount by \$1000.00 per category.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2024-03-26-05

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council increase the 2024-25 Low Income Tax Exemption "tax exemption" amount by \$50 per category.

MOTION CARRIED

2) IT Contract

MOTION #C2024-03-26-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the IT Services Agreement with NCR Networks Incorporated as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3) Library Requests

MOTION #C2024-03-26-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the Western Counties Regional Library Board's request of an additional 5% in municipal assistance equaling an increase of \$2,900 to their 2024-25 budget.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2024-03-26-08

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to collaborate with other municipal units to open dialogue with the province to work on the existing formula used to fund libraries.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4) DARC Budget
MOTION #C2024-03-26-09
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council and the Digby Area Recreation Commission Board accept the 2024-25 DARC Budget as presented.
MOTION CARRIED
- 5) Kings Transit – Budget
MOTION #C2024-03-26-10
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council accept the 2024-25 Kings Transit Budget as presented.
MOTION CARRIED
- 6) Kings Transit – Airport Fuel Site
MOTION #C2024-03-26-11
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council allow Kings Transit to perform the capital upgrades needed to become a Fuel Site as long as its within their capital budget funds.
MOTION CARRIED
- 7) Fire Dept Awards
MOTION #C2024-03-26-12
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree that each Councillor will make an effort to coordinate a presentation to hand out the fire service awards to each recipient in their district.
MOTION CARRIED
- 8) Request for Motion for Highway 101
MOTION #C2024-03-26-13
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council support the completion of Highway 101 between Marshalltown and Weymouth.
MOTION CARRIED
- 9) Staff Wages
MOTION #C2024-03-26-14
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council accept the staff wages for 2024-25 as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

Heritage Advisory Committee

- 10) **MOTION #C2024-03-26-15**
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree that St. Matthews Anglican Church in Weymouth Falls be registered as a Municipal Heritage Property.
MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 4.1 Solid Waste By-Law – Second Reading
MOTION #C2024-03-26-16
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council the Solid Waste By-Law #2018-01 as amended.
MOTION CARRIED
- 4.2 Digby Municipal Fire Services Letter
Council decided to refer the correspondence to the budget process.
MOTION #C2024-03-26-17
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council refer the Digby Municipal Fire Services Letter dated March 14, 2024 to April's By-Law & Policy meeting for the budget process.
MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Tidal Climate Action - Letter of Support

Councillor Tudor quickly went into detail regarding the Sustainable Ocean Applied Research Ltd. and the great work they are doing. Council agreed to write a letter of support for the organization.

MOTION #C2024-03-26-18

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council will write a letter of support on behalf of the Sustainable Ocean Applied Research Ltd.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Surplus Transfer

Council reviewed the report from Cora Lee Ross, Manager of Corporate Services, and agreed to approve the surplus transfers.

MOTION #C2024-03-26-19

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve a transfer of \$200,000 to the operating reserve for the upcoming RCMP deficit payment.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2024-03-26-20

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve a transfer of \$15,000 to the operating reserve for the upcoming Haines Lake waterfront project.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 West Nova Chamber of Commerce Request

Council reviewed the request to that the Municipality of Digby write to MLA Jill Balsler and request that she present the 203 original signatures petition for the unfinished portion of Highway 101 in Digby County in the House of Assembly.

MOTION #C2024-03-26-21

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council accept the 203 original signature petition from the West Nova Chamber of Commerce and will write a letter to MLA Jill Balsler to request that she present the petition in the House of Assembly.

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) Tideview Board Minutes March 6 2024

The joint intermunicipal committee minutes were reviewed.

5.5 Outside Boards/Committees Minutes/Reports: None

5.6 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Thurber gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the Art Auction at Tideview, the Bear River Health Clinic Open House, met the new Vice-Chair of the Bear River Board of Trade and have started a collaborative working relationship, and has had many calls from residents regarding roads and tourism.

Councillor Thurber also noted that it would be helpful if the province provided additional safety procedures on the unfinished portion of Highway 101 such as speed

limit signage and more policing. It was agreed that there will be an article in the next Coastline regarding precautions driving on that stretch of highway.

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the Bear River Health Clinic Open House, assisting residents with road, internet, and senior scam issues, and helping residents fill out rebate forms.

Councillor Tudor gave an update to Council on various district activities such as helping various residents with debt problems, funeral expenses, animal/fencing issues, accessing accessibility equipment, and getting income taxes filed. It was noted that the food bank hasn't been as busy, and he thanked Vanessa Nickerson, Janine Court, Kailyn Brow, Danielle Chitty (who are employed with Department of Community Services & Department of Housing) and Red Cross for all their work and assistance over the past month.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending a Digby Cancer Help Fund Association meeting, regular committee meetings, and helping constituents with tax forms and grant applications.

Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the Art Auction at Tideview, the International Women's Day event at NSCC, a zoom meeting with various African Nova Scotian women on International Women's Day, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Digby Legion, Senior Day at the Curling Club, the curling bonspiel hosted by DRHS, a Ladies Auxiliary breakfast, the Digby Fire Department Awards Dinner, and has been receiving calls from residents regarding roads and food shortages.

6. **IN CAMERA ITEMS:** None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #C2024-03-26-22

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:10pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Gregory

Jeff Sunderland, CAO