

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014
LIVERPOOL FIRE HALL AUDITORIUM
9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair
Councillor Darlene Norman
Councillor Bruce Inglis
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Jack Fancy
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance
Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

REGRETS: Councillor Peter Waterman

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the Agenda be approved with the following additions.

- 11.2 Report on Outstanding Taxes
- 11.3 Report on Tax Sales

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATION(S):

3.1 RCMP Monthly Report

Corporal Doug Brannan was welcomed the meeting where he formally introduced himself to Council noting that he has been in the community since February, following a year of service in Afghanistan.

Corporal Brannan reviewed the RCMP Report for the month of June 2014, noting that calls for service were about the same as last month.

Cpl. Brannan briefly reviewed investigations of interest and gave an overview of personnel at the detachment.

Cpl. Doug Brannan answered questions and responded to concerns from Councillors and left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:

Leon Robertson
45 College Street
Liverpool

Mr. Robertson advised that he reviewed the financial statements which were included with the Council agenda and noted that things appear to be on track.

Mr. Robertson noted that it is nice to see the value of building permits being issued up from last month, and stated that it shows that there is building activity in the area.

Mr. Robertson commented on the amount of calls for dangerous and unsightly premises noted on the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's Report for the month of June and suggested that the numbers are high compared to past months.

Kathleen Rafuse, CAO, advised that the reporting structure has changed from the past and noted that all calls are being documented on the report now, but not all of these calls will appear before Council as most of the issues are solved before they have to proceed with an order.

David Dagley
9 Meadow Pond Lane
Liverpool

Mr. Dagley provided an update to Council on the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve indicating that the biosphere is comprised of the 5 counties of Queens, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne and is the second largest in Canada. He explained that work will resume in the fall on the smart phone app that is being developed by Applied Geomatics Research Group. Mr. Dagley thanked Council for the financial contribution and he also thanked Councillor Norman for her work as a Board member. Mr. Dagley distributed information cards that provide information on the biosphere reserve and noted that there were 5000 produced that will be distributed throughout the province.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Regular Council Minutes – July 8, 2014

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on July 8, 2014, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:

There were no dangerous or unsightly premises issues discussed at this meeting.

Mayor Clarke noted that work is being completed on the property in Caledonia.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

8.1 Economic Development Monthly Report

Jill Cruikshank, Director of Economic Development, reviewed the Economic Development report which was included with the Council agenda package.

Some topics discussed were:

- Internet for Rural Queens – The Committee has made contact with a small internet provider in the Annapolis Valley area who are currently providing internet service to some areas of Digby and Annapolis Counties. It is important to find a reliable internet service provider for the North Queens area as current service is disrupting business.

- Farmers' Markets – The successful Farmers' Market in Privateer Park on Saturday mornings is having a positive effect on other businesses in the downtown area. There are Farmers' Markets operating on Saturday mornings in Caledonia and Port Medway as well.
- Experiential Vignettes - Progress is being made with the shooting of the video footage.
- Route 8 Adventure Destination – Workshop took place and an expression of interest is going out to the 'Management Without Borders' group at Dalhousie University for a project associated with the Route 8 destination work.
- Lighthouse Brochure - The content review has been completed and change requests sent to the design agency. New design proofs are expected back soon. Once changes have been made it will be printed.
- Visitor Services – There was a 28% increase in visitors at the VIC and 73% increase at Fort Point during Privateer Days and there has been many visitors using the Nova Star Ferry. This appears to be supported by the fact that there has been an increase in the total number of visitors from the United States this month.

Councillor Fiske asked about which internet providers have been contacted to look in to the poor service in North Queens and asked about the why some current providers are not able to provide service to the area.

Jill Cruikshank advised that this is just being explored at this point in time and suggested that the company in the Annapolis Valley may use a different technology to provide a more reliable service.

Mayor Clarke noted that there are people on the committee looking in to the issue who know all about how the technology behind the internet and noted that it is important for businesses in North Queens to have reliable internet service.

Councillor MacLeod asked if accommodation providers in the area have been approached to see how business has been for them so far this season. Jill Cruikshank advised that she will check in with them and provide Council with their information.

Councillor Fralic asked why there has been a delay with the production of the Lighthouse Brochures. Jill Cruikshank explained that it has taken a lot of time to proof the changes and correspond with the printer to make sure that everything is correct. She added that she will notify Council when they are completed.

Councillor Fiske noted that he was at the Ferry Terminal in Digby and informed that he did not see any brochures promoting the Region of Queens. Jill advised that the Explore Queens guides were given out to have at every entry point into the province, but added that she will look into the matter.

Mayor Clarke suggested that contact should be made throughout the season, with other visitor information centers to see if our numbers are similar and analyze the results.

Councillor Fralic suggested that staff at the Visitor Information Centers should have a Facebook page to promote the area and expand on local events.

8.2 SMART Christmas Tree Research

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves funding of \$500.00 to the SMART Christmas Tree Research Co-operative to assist the research project to develop SMART Christmas Trees to benefit the Atlantic Canadian Christmas Tree industry and, in particular, producers in Queens County.

MOTION CARRIED with 6 for and 1 against.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting from the Corporate Services Department; however, Councillor Norman asked about the Summery Offense Tickets Policy that was changed a couple of years ago wondering why it has not been approved.

Kathleen Rafuse advised that it has been with the Department of Justice since that time. They have been reviewing the schedule of fines and have had some issues with some of the language in the document. She added that solicitors from both sides have been working on the matters and a lot of progress has been made over the past month. Our Municipal Advisor and Department of Justice are aware that this timeline has not been effective for the issuance of fines.

10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no matters to be discussed from the Engineering and Works Department.

11.0 FINANCE:

11.1 Financial Statement for the 1st Quarter ending June 30th, 2014

Mayor Clarke noted that Financial Statement for the 1st Quarter ending June 30th, 2014, that were circulated, will be discussed at the August 12, 2014, Council meeting.

11.2 Report on Outstanding Taxes

Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance, noted that prior year's arrears are down slightly from the March 31 balance of just under \$1.6 million to \$1.45 million. Now that the 2014 due date has passed, current year's outstanding balances have been added to the arrears, bringing the amount up to \$3.3 / \$3.4 million. Monthly payment arrangements amount to about \$60,000 and staff will continue to work with property owners that have outstanding balances.

11.3 Report on Tax Sales

Jennifer Keating-Hubley noted that the property in South West Port Mouton auctioned at tax sale on July 16th sold for slightly higher than the balance outstanding. The other advertised property on Sunset Road, Port Mouton had to be removed from the sale but will be included in the next tax sale, a date has yet to be determined.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting from the Recreation and Community Facilities Department; however, Councillor Fancy provided updates to Council. He noted that the Privateer 5 Mile Road Race was a success this year with about 170 participants. He advised that Sara Mitton won a silver medal in womens' shot put at the Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships in Quebec. Councillor Fancy also passed along that there were local medal winners who competed at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in British Columbia.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation and Community Facilities, noted that the Summerville Beach Bash was a successful event. He wanted to add how great it was working with HGS who co-sponsored the event.

Councillor MacLeod suggested that perhaps a fitness package could be developed incorporating Queens Place programs and the pools during the summer months. Norm Amirault noted that he will discuss the idea with Steve Burns.

A discussion was held on the pools in the Region regarding training of staff, signage, and usage. Norm Amirault indicated that he will look at incorporating training in sessions 3 & 4 at Milton and Caledonia sites.

13.0 PLANNING:

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting from the Planning Department.

14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

14.1 Queens Place Emera Centre Monthly Report

Steve Burns, General Manager, briefly reviewed the regular monthly report that was included in the Council agenda package and spoke on the following topics:

- Youth Evening and Canada Day events were both very successful.
- Fitness Centre:
 - Product Sales up from same time as last year.
 - Preparing August survey for classes and Fitness Centre
 - 16 class types from beginner to advanced, 25 class slots, now including Saturday.
 - New Instructor – Luis Moncayo
 - June workshops were well attended and pleased with class sizes for the summer.
- Steering Committee met on June 26, 2014

15.0 REPORTS:

The following reports were included in the agenda package for information purposes:

- 15.1 Bylaw Enforcement Officer's Report
- 15.2 Building Inspector's Report

A discussion was held regarding the process leading up to the issuance of SOT's for dog complaints.

16.0 OTHER:

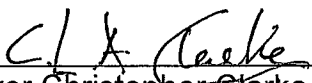
There were no other items to be discussed at this meeting.

17.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS:

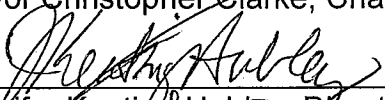
There were no In-Camera items to be discussed at this meeting.

18.0 ADJOURNMENT:

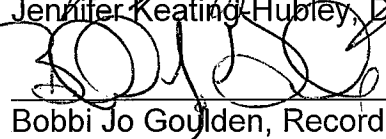
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10.11 a.m.



Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair



Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance



Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

Date approved: August 12, 2014