

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL**

In attendance were Mayor Shawn Mesheau, Deputy Mayor Andrew Black and Councillors Allison Butcher, Sabine Dietz, Matt Estabrooks, Bill Evans, Kenneth Hicks, Bruce Phinney and Michael Tower. Also, in attendance were CAO Jamie Burke, Clerk Donna Beal, Treasurer Michael Beal, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller, and Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Shawn Mesheau called the meeting to order.

Mayor Shawn Mesheau acknowledged that we are located within the territory of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

A moment of silence was held in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and in remembrance of the 104th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATT ESTABROOKS AND SECONDED BY DEPUTY
MAYOR ANDREW BLACK THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF DECEMBER 6, 2021, AS AMENDED AND MOVE
INTO IN-CAMERA. MOTION CARRIED.

1. L-2021-03

Treasurer Michael Beal and Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller left the meeting. Fire Chief Craig Bowser joined the meeting.

2. HR-2021-03

Fire Chief Craig Bowser left the meeting. Sgt. Paul Gagné joined the meeting.

3. RCMP Monthly Report

Sgt. Paul Gagné left the meeting.

Public – 7:00 P.M.

Treasurer Michael Beal, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller, Manager of Recreation Program and Events Matt Pryde, Manager of Tourism and Business Development Ron Kelly Spurles, Fire Chief Craig Bowser and Planner Lori Bickford joined the meeting.

Also in attendance were twenty-three (23) members of the public.

Mayor Shawn Mesheau acknowledged that we are located within the territory of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

A moment of silence was held in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and in remembrance of the 104th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

1. Mount Allison Update

Mount Allison's Vice-President of Finance and Administration Robert Inglis provided a brief update on the current environment at Mount Allison University that includes 225 in-person and 94 online classes, campus facilities open to the community and public, athletic teams being active and public events, concerts and guest speakers are on-going. Current enrollment with Mount Allison University includes 682 new students and 1593 returning students, with 43% of those students being from New Brunswick. Mr. Inglis reviewed Mount Allison's Extraordinary Student Experience which includes 21st century learning environment, community-minded university, strengthening academic opportunities and student life, support & wellness. He discussed plans going forward including the University's Strategic Plan, Academic Plan and Facility Upgrade Plan. He highlighted shared interests between the Town and the University, including community, health care and shared services.

2. Orientation – Southeast Regional Services

Plan 360 Planner Lori Bickford provided a brief orientation on what and who make up Plan360, a division of Southeast Regional Services Commission. Ms. Bickford reviewed the local mandate of Plan360 that includes delivering planning and building inspection services for all their partners.

3. Sackville Footbridge Working Group Presentation

Residents Dr. Ross Thomas and Jeff MacKinnon presented to Council requesting Council to revisit building a pedway across the Trans-Canada Highway along the rail trail corridor. A donation of One Million dollars has been received towards the construction of the pedway. Dr. Thomas highlighted the need of the construction linking the already well-developed trails. In order to enter into discussions with the Provincial Government, the group requires support and approval of Council. The group is seeking town support on a shared-cost feasibility study. Mr. Jeff MacKinnon reviewed the previous history of the planning around a feasibility study for the pedway project. Mr. MacKinnon requested Council's consideration to either update the previous work done by NBDTI or re-start the process with a new approval and new plan to get the go ahead from NBDTI to have this project become a reality, which would require Town Staff involvement. The CAO indicated that, given the multi-jurisdictional issues involved, as a first step, staff would look to arrange a meeting with DTI and other stakeholders to see if they are open to the project progressing. Council will be provided with an update after such a meeting.

4. Animal Control By-Law Presentation

Resident Susan Gourley presented to Council on recommended change to the Animal Control By-Law as it relates to felines. Ms. Gourley is requested that Council consider adding cats to the registration process within the By-Law and that every owner of a cat must affix to the cat's collar the registration tag. She is requesting that the By-Law also states that it is the Owner's responsibility to not allow their cat to cause damage to property or run at large. Ms. Gourley has provided staff with a webpage that includes all her research notes related to the topic.

5. Sackville – A visual Snapshot Presentation

Resident Indu Varma presented to Council on a permanent art installation of a visual representation of the history of Sackville using ceramic tiles. Mrs. Varma has received a Canada Council for the Arts grant of \$16,630. She reviewed the design concept of the project and how it incorporates the rich history within Sackville. Mrs. Varma is looking for Council to support the project by providing suitable wall space, preferably at Town Hall and to cover the cost of the permanent art installation. The art piece would be scheduled to be installed by December 2022. The CAO indicated that staff would be looking for a motion of Council to endorse the proposal and formally accept the idea as has been done with past projects.

6. Sackville Memorial Hospital Service Changes

Dr. Dornan, Interim President and CEO; Eileen MacGibbon, Vice President Clinical Services; Janet Hogan, Corporate Director of Communications and Community Relations and Christa Wheeler-Thorn, Administrative Director of Horizon Health Network presented to Council on the current concerns surrounding the Sackville Memorial Hospital. Dr. Dornan addressed the concerns expressed in a well written letter received by the Rural Health Action Group, who had significant worries about Horizon's perception of the Sackville Memorial Hospital. Dr. Dornan acknowledged that as a health care corporation, Horizon Health Network is nothing but supportive of the Sackville Memorial Hospital and will provide a written commitment on providing 24-7 services in Sackville. It was explained to Council that due to staff resignations; it became apparent to Horizon Health that they could no longer provide safe care of acute care patients at the Sackville Memorial Hospital, which resulted in the decision made on Friday, December 3, 2021 to temporarily close all of its short-term beds at the hospital. Dr. Dornan reviewed the initiatives that are on-going with Horizon Health that include the addition of another vehicle from Ambulance New Brunswick, working with Emergency Departments across the Province on alternate funding plans, and work on making the Sackville Memorial Hospital a more attractive place to work including better training opportunities.

#21-183 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR SABINE DIETZ SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER THAT THE TOWN OF SACKVILLE MAKE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, AND SEND A LETTER TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND HORIZON HEALTH, IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE LETTER SENT TODAY BY THE HEALTH ACTION GROUP, WHILE CONTINUING THE RECRUITMENT MARKETING PLAN ALREADY IN PLACE WITH THE RURAL HEALTH ACTION GROUP. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Local Government Reform

CAO Jamie Burke spoke on the Local Governance Reform White Paper released on November 18, 2021. Mr. Burke noted that the Town formally responded to the Provinces Engagement Process outlining suggestions and the position of the Town. Since the release of the White Paper, Staff have been working diligently to understand the impacts of the changes suggested in the White Paper. As a municipality, there are several concerns and challenges within the Local Governance Reform process.

#21-184 MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR ANDREW BLACK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE LETTER TO BE SUBMITTED TO HONORABLE MINISTER DANIEL ALLAIN REGARDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM WHITE PAPER. AYE VOTES RECORDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR ANDREW BLACK AND COUNCILLORS ALLISON BUTCHER, SABINE DIETZ, BILL EVANS, KENNETH HICKS, BRUCE PHINNEY AND

MICHAEL TOWER. NAY VOTE RECORDED BY COUNCILLOR MATT ESTABROOKS. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Shawn Mesheau provided each Councillor the opportunity to provide statements relating to the Local Government Reform White Paper.

#21-185 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR SABINE DIETZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY THAT WHEREAS THE PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM PLACES THE TOWN OF SACKVILLE IN UNEXPECTED, UNPRECEDENTED AND TIME-SENSITIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEREAS THE PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM HAS AND WILL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN OF SACKVILLE.

WHEREAS THE PROPOSED CHANGES REQUIRE US TO INVESTIGATE THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL, CONTRACTUAL, HR AND ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE FORCED AMALGAMATION SPECIFIED IN THE WHITE PAPER AND REPORT BACK, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, TO COUNCIL.

THAT COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY FORM A LOCAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE REFORM COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND THAT THIS COMMITTEE MEETS AT LEAST WEEKLY. MOTION CARRIED.

Following the motion, the CAO indicated that such a committee would have an impact on staff resources and existing priorities which would have to be evaluated further.

8. Climate Change Advisory Committee Recommendations

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of her report, noting that at the October 12, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Committee, with a purpose to embed climate change review and action within Council and Staff decision making. This will also embed the climate change mandate within the corporate structure and will allow Staff to work with a smaller group of individuals. The Mayor's Roundtable on Climate Change may continue to exist, and the advisory committee may consult with them on different topics, however moving forward Staff will work directly with the advisory committee. Potential member qualifications were based on the following criteria: an understanding of the climate change challenge; enough time to contribute effectively to the work need; and, other experience and skills, such as an understanding of municipal government processes; organizational, writing or planning experience; connections within the community; and good team players and communicators. The following individuals have been recommended as members of the Advisory Committee, with staggered terms: Doug Bliss, Corinne Cash, Adam Cheeseman, Barb Clayton, Kate Desrochers, Samara Eaton, Richard Elliot, Eric Tusz-King, Amanda Marlin and Tracey Wade. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 for Council to consider appointing the above noted members for various terms to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

9. Policy/By-Law

(a) Street Traffic By-Law

Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin provided an overview of her report, noting that Staff have reviewed the Street Traffic By-Law and have pointed out some changes that are required under Section 7 and 8, as well as Schedule I – No Parking Zone. Under Section 7 – Speed, the additional school zone now located on Dufferin Street has been added. Following recommendations from Plan360, along with discussions with the Town Engineer, Section 8 – Parking, has been amended to add the wording “*on or within 6.1 meters in any direction from any intersection*” to the list of where no person shall stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle. This will impact one parking spot, located at the corner of Ford Lane and York Street, which would need to be removed for the safety of pedestrians and motorists. Schedule “I” – No Parking Zone, Staff are recommending three changes including the addition of no parking on the north side of Dufferin Street for additional safety of students who walk to and from school, the addition of no parking on either side of Pringle Street and a small housekeeping change on St. James. It would be Staff’s recommendation to forward By-Law No. 262C, A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 262, A By-Law to Regulate Street Traffic for first reading at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021, and forward Schedule “I” of the Street Traffic for one reading at the January 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

(b) By-Law No. 283, A By-Law to Regulate the Use of Public Parks Within the Town of Sackville.

Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin provided an overview of her report noting that as part of the continued review of the Town’s By-Laws and Policies, the By-Law to Regulate the Use of Public Parks Within the Town of Sackville was flagged as requiring a few minor changes. Staff have added the definition of Chief Administrative Officer and Department Head to the By-Law and have added the Lorne Street Retention Pond and Morice Drive to Schedule “A” – Active and Undeveloped Parks. Following several occurrences of vandalism and mischief within our Parks, it was determined that the current by-law does not allow our Enforcement Officer to issue a fine if a trespassing notice was not followed. Section 7 of the By-Law has been updated that it will now be an offence to enter or remain within a park if you have been served with a Notice from the Town of Sackville that you are not permitted to enter or remain within the parks. A motion will be coming forward at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 for Council to consider giving first reading to By-Law No. 283, A By-Law to Regulate the Use of Public Parks Within the Town of Sackville.

10. Bunker Gear

Fire Chief Craig Bowser provided an overview of his report, noting that firefighting bunker gear and boots have a life expectancy of ten (10) years. As part of the budgeting process for 2022, funds were budgeted to purchase five (5) sets of Star-field Lion bunker gear and HAIX firefighting boots. This will ensure the fire departments inventory of firefighting bunker gear and boots remain current and the safety of the professional volunteer firefighters is maintained. Chief Bowser noted that currently, there is only one (1) supplier in Atlantic Canada for the firefighting gear. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 for Council to consider purchasing five sets of Star-field Lion bunker gear and five sets of HAIX firefighting boots from Safety Source Fire Inc in the amount of \$21,045.00 HST Included.

11. Kayak Purchases

Manager of Recreation Programs and Events Matt Pryde provided an overview of his report, noting that in June 2021, the Town of Sackville was named New Brunswick's most active community through ParticipACTION's Community Better Challenge. This resulted in a \$15,000 prize that the Town is required to use to promote physical activity in the community. Staff surveyed residents, and the overwhelming first choice was to provide a kayak rental service at Silver Lake. Staff are currently exploring several models on how to best provide this service, with the first step being the purchase of the kayaks. An RFQ was circulated to local suppliers for pricing that would include one canoe, six 12' kayaks, three rigid paddleboards and a variety of accessory equipment, including paddles, personal floatation devices and bailers. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 for Council to consider the purchase of the required kayak rental equipment from Outdoors NB in the amount of \$12,603.26 plus HST.

12. Renaissance

Manager of Tourism and Business Development Ron Kelly Spurles provided an overview of his report, noting that Renaissance Sackville is recommending a grant of \$800.00 to the group, Partnerships for Community Engagement for their incorporation. The group consists of a small number of community members, who have undertaken a variety of community-engagement projects in the past two years. The group would like to incorporate as a non-profit to be able to leverage funding possibilities for things such as youth engagement and civic projects. They are proposing a non-profit Board under the name Partnerships for Community Engagement with all the Board members being Sackville residents. Past projects of the group include Environmental Education and Sustainable Communities Partnership, Greening of the Sackville Town Hall roof and Project Engage – a community engaged learning meets Marshview's deep learning project. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 for Council to consider the transfer of funds from the Town's 2021 operating budget to Renaissance Sackville to fund Partnerships for Community Engagement incorporation fees.

Question Period

Mayor Shawn Mesheau asked if there were any questions from the Public. There were none.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER THAT COUNCIL ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF COUNCIL OF DECEMBER 6, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk

Assistant Clerk