

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022, AT 6:30 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, Assistant Clerk Becky Goodwin and Sgt. Paul Gagné.

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATT ESTABROOKS AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MAY 2, 2022, AS CIRCULATED AND MOVE INTO
IN-CAMERA. MOTION CARRIED.

1. RCMP Monthly Report

Sgt. Paul Gagné left the meeting.

Public – 7:00 P.M.

Treasurer Michael Beal, Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller and Superintendent of Public Works Michelle Sherwood joined the meeting.

Also, in attendance were fourteen (14) 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.

2. Presentation – Sackville Farmer's Market

Peter Hess and Kent Coates presented on behalf of the Sackville Farmers Market. They spoke on the effects the pandemic has had on the Market and noted that the need for a more permanent space demonstrated during this time. They spoke on the effects that Municipal Reform will have on collaboration as it shifts to a focus of the entire region and not just within the Town of Sackville and asked that Council and Staff continue to engage with the Sackville Farmer's Market during this time. It was noted that the Sackville Farmer's Market has requested to move back to the Bill Johnstone Memorial Park which is slated to start on May 7, 2022.

3. Presentation – Tantramar Affordable Housing Initiative

Alice Cotton, Reggie Beal and Ashley Legere presented on behalf of the Tantramar Affordable Housing Initiative, which was recently formed by concerned citizens, some who are experiencing real difficulties with their housing, others who want to find solutions for the lack of affordable and good quality housing and have experience with non-profit organizations. They spoke on the increased population within the Town in the last 5-years, but housing availability has not kept pace. Since September, the Sackville Food Bank had added 51 new households, an increase of 50%. Rental rates have spiked, along with costs to purchase homes, while salaries have not kept up. The Tantramar Affordable Housing Initiative has at its disposal a group of dedicated people who have experience in developing community initiatives, who are willing to donate and invest their time to this initiative, while others are willing to donate land for more affordable housing options in the Town. The group is working towards creating a non-profit organization that provides egalitarian housing options, tied to renters' income, not the market and has requested that Council and Staff work with the Tantramar Affordable Housing Initiative to move ideas to exploration, costing and implementation.

4. Policy By-Law

(a) Arts & Culture Policy

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of her report, noting that the Town recognizes the importance of arts and culture in the community and undertakes various programs and initiatives to help ensure their sustainability. A review of the Arts and Culture policy has not taken place since 2008 and Staff have received the policy and are recommending some minor changes. These changes include expanding the definitions section, updating the budget numbers, and utilizing expertise from the Arts Wall Advisory Committee in applying the policy. Staff consulted with members of the Arts Wall Advisory Committee, who agreed that it made sense for the committee to help administer the Arts and Culture policy on certain occasions. This may include reviewing proposals for public art and helping select the location. Because of this, changes are required within the Arts Wall Governance Guidelines of By-Law No. 279 Procedures and Organization of Council. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider approving Policy 2022-06 Arts and Culture Policy and approving the amendments to the Arts Wall Governance Guidelines.

(b) Heritage Grant Policy

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of her report, noting that in October 2020, policy 2014-01 Heritage Conservation Grant Policy was repealed following the repeal of the Heritage By-Law and the Heritage Board being dissolved in 2018. Ms. Miller noted that there is intrinsic value in conserving the Town's built heritage, which is specifically noted in Action 12 of the Town's Strategic Plan. Heritage grants are intended to assist property owners in retaining traditional materials and details of character-defining elements on heritage properties. A new policy, Policy 2022-07 Heritage Conservation Grant policy was drafted to create a process for releasing funds. Eligible properties must be in the former Heritage Conservation Areas and be registered on the Canadian Register of Historic Places or the New Brunswick Register of Historic Places. Work must be completed to the exterior of the property, maintaining all character-defining elements, and matching the original materials and profiles. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider approving Policy 2022-07 Heritage Conservation Grant Policy.

5. Yorkshire Milestone Public Art Piece

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of the report, noting that 2022 marks 250 years since the Yorkshire Settlers first arrived in Sackville. In 2021, the Town released a call for proposals from residents and groups to be included in the grant requests to the provincial and federal governments that would allow us to properly acknowledge the occasion in the summer of 2022. Submissions were received by Live Bait Theatre, the Trueman Family, the Tantram Heritage Trust, and local artist Janet Crawford. To date, staff have successfully raised \$36,750 in grants for celebration events and additionally, \$11,000 in Capital Funding was allocated towards public art in the 2022 Budget. The proposed public art piece, submitted by Janet Crawford, is a sculpture based on the historic design of Yorkshire Milestones – used for centuries to guide travellers from village to village. The piece will incorporate both stone carving and glass mosaics and will be constructed on dense Wallace Quarry sandstone. The sculpture would be in the Retention Pond at the trail intersection from Charles Street to St. James Street and was selected due to the direct Yorkshire connection to the site. The cost of the public art piece, including ground preparation and installation is \$12,950 HST included. Staff are proposing that the public art funds in the capital budget be used and the remaining \$1,950 be covered by grants. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider approving the cost of the art piece.

6. Fall Fair Motions

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of the report, noting that September 21-25, 2022, will finally mark the 20th year of the Sackville Fall Fair. Several motions are required for events running throughout the Fall Fair. A motion will be requested to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign and seal the fireworks supply contract from MAC Fireworks as well as a motion for a temporary street closure for the commercial fireworks display scheduled for September 23, 2022. A motion will be requested to approve two additional street closures including Main Street to Dufferin to Lorne for the Fall Fair Parade and Ford Lane for the tent location. A motion will be requested for the appropriate approval for the Town of Sackville to apply for a liquor license for the music events at the tent and for the Sackville Farmer's Market to apply for a liquor license for the Harvest Supper occurring at the Fall Fair Tent on September 25, 2022. A motion will be requested for a 1:00 a.m. exemption to the Noise By-Law on September 23, 2022, and September 24, 2022, to accommodate the music in the tent. The final motion will be requested for authorize the signing of the agreement with Mount Allison University to use the King Street Parking Lot and Lansdowne Fields for the midway and Saturday scheduled activities. All motions will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider.

7. Sappyfest

Senior Manager of Corporate Projects Kieran Miller provided an overview of the report, noting that organizers of Sappyfest are planning to bring the festival back to its in-person format August 5-8, 2022. The Town of Sackville has been a long-time supporter of the music festival and has provided a variety of in-kind services for the festival, such as closing the public street, increased policing, delivery and pick-up of town-owned items and garbage disposal, which will all require motions at the next Regular Council Meeting. It should be noted that the organizers do have a contingency plan in place should COVID-19 make it difficult to offer the festival in its traditional format and as a result, further motions are possible in the coming months as the pandemic progresses. Staff recognize that this event is significant for Sackville, in terms of marketing/exposure, economic development and fostering our community identity that is rich in arts and culture. It also brings a significant number of young people to our town, a time when

many towns are struggling to attract them. Motions will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider approving the above-mentioned in-kind services.

8. Reschedule June, July and August Special and Regular Council Meetings

CAO Jamie Burke provided an overview of his report noting that to align with the compressed workweek pilot program being initiated from May 30th – September 2nd, Staff are suggesting that Council consider adjusting the dates of the June and July Special Meetings of Council and the June, July, and August Regular Council Meetings. Moving the dates to the first and second Tuesday of each month would allow most management staff to be present during these meetings without conflicting with their scheduled time out of the office. A motion will be brought forward at the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2022, for Council to consider amending the dates these meetings.

9. Municipal Reform

CAO Jamie Burke provided an administrative update on Municipal Reform noting that the webpage is updated frequently, however updates have slowed down recently. Several Town and Village Staff, along with the Facilitators have viewed all facilities, equipment and fleet within the Town and Village and the two Chief Administrative Officers continue to meet weekly with the facilitator, most recently to discuss what an overall organizational structure for the new Entity could look like.

Mayor Shawn Mesheau provided an update on the Elected Officials Advisory Committee noting that their next meeting will be held on May 11, 2022, to choose the name of the new Entity. Following a naming workshop and historical research, the Elected Officials Advisory Committee has come up with two proposed names for Entity 40 for feedback from the Public - Tantramar Township and Beauséjour Township. Residents can provide feedback on the proposed names via entity40@gmail.com. Mayor Mesheau noted that following the naming decision, next steps would include the budget and that each community will need to set their priorities for 2023 as part of the budgetary process.

Question Period

Bruce Wark asked what the Southeast Affordable Housing working group has been working on regarding the housing crisis. Mayor Shawn Mesheau clarified that the working group has just been formed, along with several other working groups and have not met yet. He expects the group will begin participating in discussing within the next few weeks.

Bruce Wark asked what the current available budget is for the Heritage Grants and would money from previous years be carried over. Treasurer Michael Beal responded that the 2022 budget allocated \$15,000 towards heritage grants and would require a motion of Council to be allocated. He noted that funds are not carried over as accounts get closed off at the end of the year and reserve fund transfers are required.

Bruce Wark asked how an upcoming meeting with Minister Daniel Allain can be justified not being opened to the Public. Mayor Shawn Mesheau responded that this was a meeting called by the Ministers Office and does not fall under the requirements of the Local Governance Act. The meeting was not called by the Mayor or the Clerk, it was requested by the Ministers Office.

Erica Butler asked what the 20th anniversary of Fall Fair budget is in comparison to previous years budget. Treasurer Michael Beal responded that the budget for the 20th anniversary is \$75,000 and that he will get back to Ms. Butler on the previous year's budgets.

Erica Butler asked why there is a set area within the Heritage Grant Policy if there is a requirement for properties to be registered on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Senior Manager of Corporate Projects responded that the former conservation area was left as those properties have already been reviewed and identified to have heritage value, and that the registry is an added requirement to ensure we are capturing the properties. CAO Jamie Burke also responded that Staff would cross reference the identified properties with the Canadian Register and remove the schedule if they are all listed.

Erica Butler asked how the budget process for Entity 40 will work and will there be engagement or consultation with the Public. CAO Jamie Burke responded that at this time, there has been no process given and he is unaware of what role the Facilitator or Province will play in the budget process.

Erica Butler asked if there is room in the Municipal Plan Review to add the possibility of reviewing affordable housing. CAO Jamie Burke responded that yes, as Council will determine what an amendment will look like when it comes to the Municipal Plan Review. The CAO also indicated that inclusionary zoning is noted in the Provincial White Paper on local government reform and in the future, legislation will be introduced to allow municipalities will have the option to implement a by-law to require affordable housing units in some new developments.

Erica Butler asked if there is a possibility of the temporary use of land and does the Town have land that it would consider allowing to be used. CAO Jamie Burke responded that the Town does not have a lot of large vacant property to offer. However, it doesn't mean a private landowner couldn't offer the land use and the Town could help facilitate obtaining property, which would be a decision of Council.

Erica Butler asked a follow up question, asking who quickly allowing the private land ownership for affordable housing could happen. CAO Jamie Burke responded that it would be based on where the land is and how it is currently zoned and what the land would be specifically used for.

Motion

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL TOWER THAT COUNCIL ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MAY 2, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk

Assistant Clerk