

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Regular Council meeting convened 6:30 pm in Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Nadine LeBlanc; Councillors Eric Daley and Malcolm Houser

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Councillor Dan Currie

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM LeBlanc

RTC-04-15-19-2265

SECONDED: M Houser

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Ryan recognized the fire that was actively being fought. He noted the efforts of the Pictou Fire Department and neighbouring fire departments through mutual aid. He acknowledged the loss to our business community and is hopeful the business can re-open.

a. Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2019

A proclamation was previously signed by the Mayors/Warden to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

b. Provincial Volunteer Week – April 7-13, 2019

A proclamation was signed by the Mayors/Warden to recognize April 7-13 as Provincial Volunteer Week. A local reception was held last week recognizing Betty Richards as Pictou's Volunteer of the Year. Sharon and John Stewart were also awarded the Norm Babinec Award.

c. Go Clean Get Green Week – April 22-27, 2019

Mayor Ryan proclaimed April 22-27 as Go Clean Get Green Week in Pictou. The local litter cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 9-11 am, with headquarter locations being Market Square and Broidy Park.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Pictou Heritage Properties – St Clair Prest

St. Clair Prest made a presentation to Council. He is asking for the reactivation of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Consensus among Council was to reactivate the Committee. St. Clair Prest agreed to serve as a contact to begin this process.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Council – March 18, 2019

MOVED: E Daley

RTC-04-15-19-2266

SECONDED: DM LeBlanc

MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of March 18, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Committee of Council – April 1, 2019

MOVED: M Houser

RTC-04-15-19-2267

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: That the Committee of Council minutes of April 1, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Recreation and Parks – April 4, 2019

MOVED: E Daley

RTC-04-15-19-2268

SECONDED: DM LeBlanc

MOTION: That the Recreation and Parks minutes of April 4, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. 2019-20 Town Operating Budget

Several changes were made to the draft budget, based on Council's input from the April Committee of Council meeting.

Key Points and Considerations:

- No tax increases proposed
- Overall assessments are up 1.8%, mainly due to increase in commercial base
- Status quo Grants-in-Lieu for Bell, NSPI, HST Offset and Water Utility
- Provincial Equalization Grant held at 2018-19 amounts
- Full complement of seven Full-Time RCMP Equivalent
- Some accounting changes, previously discussed during the Capital Budget, show reductions to operating funds offset by an equal adjustment to capital
- Contribution to Housing Authority, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, CHAD and deCoste held constant at 2018-19 levels

- Added contributions to Visitor Information Centre and Regional Enterprise Network (\$3,500 and \$19,900, respectively)
- Fire Reserve contribution was increased to \$15,000 to bring year-end 2019-20 Fire Equipment reserve to \$53,000
- Increase in Hydrant Rental cost, per approved Water Utility Rates
- Lower Federal and Provincial Payment in Lieu of Taxes due to reduced assessment on properties
- Slight reduction in sales of services
- HST Offset is variable and unpredictable
- Residential and Commercial appeals could all be successful and reduce revenues from taxation

Questions/Comments:

- Question on Eastlink Tower Rental
- Question on CHAD contribution levels – CAO Troke will get further information and provide at an upcoming meeting
- Comment: Thank you to Town Accountant Smith for providing comparisons on property taxation in other Pictou County towns

MOVED: DM LeBlanc
SECONDED: M Houser

RTC-04-15-19-2269

MOTION: That the final draft Town operating budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 with expenditures totaling \$5,946,769 (\$4,843,331, plus \$610,159 in financing and transfers and \$493,279 in education) be approved with tax rates being set at \$1.64/100 of residential and resource assessments, \$4.34/100 of Commercial Assessments; and \$0.32/100 of Commercial Assessments contained within the Business Improvement District of the Town; and, that the Town Treasurer be authorized to release sewer capital charges at a flat rate of \$109.67 and sewer operating charges at a rate of \$181.45 based on the methodology described by by-law; and, that the rate of \$156.36 be charged per dwelling unit for Curbside Collection; and 12.6 cents per \$100 of assessment for Fire Protection (Hydrant Rental) and that tax bills be due and payable 60 days from date of issuance; and that amounts past due be charged interest at the rate of 18% per annum;

MOTION CARRIED

b. Second/Final Reading – Vendors By-Law

- There was one inquiry asking Council to consider an annual discounted rate
- Council commented that the intent behind the by-law was to make busking easier and to vending more financially accessible, but not free
- Question on non-profit groups
- Question on who can enforce by-law

MOVED: M Houser
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-04-15-19-2270

MOTION: To approve second/final reading of the Vendors By-Law.
MOTION CARRIED

7. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporations Reports:

- i. Pictou County Wellness Centre
Have not met since last Council meeting.
- ii. Pictou County Shared Services Authority
January 21 minutes were circulated.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pre-Primary Site Locations

Mayor Ryan indicated that in the Pictou West area, pre-primary locations have just been announced for the upcoming school year – at West Pictou, Scotsburn and Saltsprings schools. That prompted him to write a letter to Superintendent Gary Adams regarding education inequality opportunities in the Town of Pictou, which he circulated to Council.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Question on federally restricted heritage properties and their connection to the Provincial Heritage Committee
- Question on walking tours and whether they fall under the Vendors By-Law
- Question on water bill

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: DM LeBlanc
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-04-15-19-2271

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO