

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Regular Council meeting convened 6:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing on the above date. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

A moment of silence was held to honour the victims of the tragic events that occurred here in Nova Scotia this past weekend.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-04-20-20-2397

SECONDED: D Currie

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. Pictou Fire Department (PFD) and Mutual Aid Responders

Town Council acknowledged the Pictou Fire Department and neighbouring departments in their efforts over the last few weeks in fighting several back-to-back fires. He reiterated how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated group of professionally trained people in our community; that as we celebrate Volunteer Week, how they epitomize volunteerism. He noted that the PFD and all fire fighters put their lives on the line and go above and beyond each time they answer a call, all in the name of volunteering to protect our communities.

b. Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2020

Mayor Ryan declared April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. On behalf of the Town of Pictou, he joined all Mayors and the Warden of the Municipalities of Pictou County, as well as anti-sexual violence advocates and support service providers in promoting that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence.

c. Provincial Volunteer Week – April 19-25, 2020

Mayor Ryan declared April 19-25, 2020 Volunteer Week and noted that Pictou is a more desirable place to live because of the collective result of the work done by our community's volunteers.

d. Earth Day – April 22, 2020

Mayor Ryan proclaimed April 22, 2020 as Earth Day in Pictou and encouraged all citizens to use Earth Day to celebrate the Earth and promote the protection of all species.

4. PRESENTATIONS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Council – March 16, 2020

MOVED: N LeBlanc

RTC-04-20-20-2398

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of March 16, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Committee of Council – April 6, 2020

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-04-20-20-2399

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: That the Committee of Council minutes of April 6, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Motion – REMO Budget COC-04-06-20-2384

MOVED: D Currie

RTC-04-20-20-2400

SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: To approve a \$5,000 budget for Covid-19 related expenses for joint REMO projects and internal operational expenses; and to create a new expenditure line item for tracking purposes.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Motion – Interim Tax Bill Due Date COC-04-06-20-2385

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-04-20-20-2401

SECONDED: N LeBlanc

MOTION: To set July 31, 2020 as the due date for the 2020 interim tax bill.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Update – Current Water Bills Due Date

Following the April Committee of Council Meeting, CAO Troke submitted a written request to NSUARB to change the due date for the current water bill from May 8, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The request was approved.

Council would like to encourage citizens that have not been financially impacted by Covid-19 to continue to pay their bills on the usual due dates. This helps to maintain fiscal liquidity in provision of necessary services.

d. Update – Spring Cleanup

CAO Troke had a conversation with Pictou County Solid Waste Management (PCSWM) and GFL Environmental (the company hired by PCSWM to collect curbside residential waste and recyclables) about the spring cleanup conducted by PCSWM. This cleanup will

still take place at its usual time – on May 6, a regular collection day – and allows for additional garbage bags to be picked up at curbside. The details of a second cleanup that is completed by the Town of Pictou are being worked on. This cleanup usually involves larger items and some materials that are not picked up during the first collection. In the meantime, citizens are being asked to refrain from placing these larger items at curbside until just before the second cleanup takes place, likely the first of June.

Details will be published in the Advocate, on the town website and via social media.

e. Update – Security at Waterfront

Although RCMP have increased patrols of the waterfront and downtown area, Council has asked that additional security measures be put in place to protect public and private properties.

Staff have contacted several security companies that are already at capacity providing services to essential stores during this COVID-19 State of Emergency. A few more companies and other possible coverage options are being explored with an expectation that something will be in place very soon.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

8. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporation Reports:

i. Pictou County Wellness Centre

A report was circulated with agenda packages, for info purposes.

ii. Pictou County Shared Services Authority

Nothing to report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Funding Request – Hector Quay Society (HQS)

Councillor LeBlanc had to leave the meeting at this point in the evening.

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-04-20-20-2402

SECONDED: D Currie

MOTION: To approve contributing up to \$25,000 to the HQS from the 2019-20 Operating Budget, for purposes of assisting with the removal of the Ship Hector from the water.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Waterfront Masterplan

Three major projects are in the works along the waterfront: the Cultural Hub construction, the HQS ship repairs and Interpretive Centre renewal; and breakwater and Market Wharf upgrades. A masterplan would support these individual projects providing an overarching

framework for implementation. It would also be beneficial as a complement to funding applications being submitted to federal and provincial agencies.

As a starting point, staff can review previous plans and solicit input from current organizations.

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-04-20-20-2403

MOTION: To direct staff to internally develop the background work for a Waterfront Masterplan, that will include involving key stakeholders while looking at some of the proposed site-specific plans.
MOTION CARRIED

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-04-20-20-2404

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO