



Town of Shelburne
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
September 16th, 2024
APPROVED

Council Members Present

Mayor Harold Locke
Deputy Mayor Sheldon Ringer
Councillor Elizabeth Acker
Councillor Ben Nickerson
Councillor Rick Davis

Staff Present

Chief Administrator Officer, Sarah Mattatall
Deputy CAO, Ken Smith
Senior Planner, Mike Kahn
Executive Coordinator, Jill Webb

Call to Order

Mayor Locke called the Council meeting to order at 6pm.

The Town of Shelburne is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, (Mi'kma'ki), in the District of Kespukwitk, home to Acadia First Nation. We are all Treaty people.

We also acknowledge the history, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities.

Approval of the Agenda

THAT Council approves the agenda for September 16th, 2024.

Acker-Ringer

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes

THAT Council approves the minutes from the regular Town Council Meeting held on September 3rd, 2024.

Davis-Nickerson

CARRIED

Proclamations and Announcements:

a) Right to Know Week

Mayor Locke Read: WHEREAS the Town of Shelburne has adopted the principles of openness, transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS sections 462 through 502 of the Municipal Government Act gives citizens a right of access to information in the custody or under the control of the Town of Shelburne; and

WHEREAS access to information ensures citizens of Nova Scotia have the opportunity for meaningful participation in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS a celebration of the right of citizens to access information will facilitate informed public participation in policy formulation, ensure fairness in government decision-making and permit the airing and reconciliation of divergent views; and

WHEREAS the Town of Shelburne joins all other Canadian jurisdictions and democracies world-wide in acknowledging international Right to Know Week.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Harold Locke, Mayor of the Town of Shelburne, do hereby proclaim September 23rd to September 29th, 2024, to be Right to Know Week in the Town of Shelburne.

b) National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30th, 2024

September 30th marks Truth and Reconciliation Day, a day to honor the survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. This day, also known as Orange Shirt Day, encourages reflection on the dark legacy of residential schools in Canada and the ongoing impact on Indigenous peoples. It is a time for all Canadians to engage in the reconciliation process, acknowledging the injustices faced by Indigenous communities and working towards healing and understanding. Wearing orange symbolizes the commitment to remember and honor the children who were taken from their families, emphasizing the importance of every child's cultural identity and the right to be cherished.

c) Mi'kmaq History Month – October

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time dedicated to celebrating and learning about the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. Established in 1993 by the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and the Province of Nova Scotia, this month provides an opportunity to recognize the enduring heritage of the Mi'kmaq, who have lived in the Atlantic region for thousands of years. Throughout the month, events and educational activities highlight the Mi'kmaq language, traditions, art, and history, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Mi'kmaq Nation. It's a time for all to reflect on the importance of preserving Indigenous culture and strengthening relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

d) Breast Cancer Awareness Month – October

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, supporting those affected, and promoting the importance of early detection and research. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women worldwide, but early diagnosis and advancements in treatment have significantly improved survival rates. Throughout the month, communities, organizations, and individuals come together to educate about the risks, encourage regular screenings, and support fundraising efforts for research and treatment. Wearing a pink ribbon during October symbolizes solidarity with survivors and a commitment to the ongoing fight against breast cancer.

Delegations/Presentations:

a) Janet O'Connell/James Hartley – concerns of statements presented by Shelburne Resident

Mayor Locke invited Janet O'Connell to address the Council. Ms. O'Connell began her presentation by

clarifying that certain information and accusations circulating within the community are not based on facts. She referred to her letter included in the Council package, specifically addressing concerns related to a resident of the Town of Shelburne, Louise Delisle.

Following her remarks, Mayor Locke invited Mr. Hartley to speak. Mr. Hartley echoed many of Ms. O'Connell's concerns, emphasizing that Ms. Delisle does not represent nor speak on behalf of all families in the South End of Shelburne. For further details, please refer to the Council video available at <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1010647154>.

Councillor Acker inquired if there were plans to engage with news outlets on this matter, to which Mr. Hartley responded that there were no such intentions. The Mayor and Council expressed their gratitude to Ms. O'Connell and Mr. Hartley for presenting their information.

Correspondence

Action:

a) Letter from Shelburne & Area Chamber of Commerce re: Commercial Tax Rate

Councillor Acker addressed the letter included in the package, expressing surprise at its content, which she found disrespectful. In her response, she noted that compared to several other towns and municipalities, our current commercial tax rate is not significantly out of line. She further explained that the lower commercial tax rate in the surrounding Municipality is largely due to the fact that they are not responsible for maintaining infrastructure, such as roads. Councillor Acker questioned the implications of reducing the commercial tax rate to 1.99% or 2.99%, asking what services would be sacrificed as a result— stop operating Graham's Park? Layoff public works staff? Forego the purchase of a new fire truck? Councillor Ringer expressed his concern that the Chamber of Commerce's perspective lacked foresight. Several other Council members, Mayor and staff expressed support for Councillor Acker's remarks.

THAT Council direct staff to send a copy of the CAO Report found under 9. A) of the agenda on September 16th, 2024, to Mrs. Harris with the suggestion that in the future towns be compared to towns and not to municipalities.

Acker-Ringer

CARRIED

M24-255

Information: NONE

Council Items:

a) Noise By-law Amendments – First Reading

Mr. Nash explained the amendments to the Noise By-law regarding the Roads to Trail By-law.

THAT Council approve the first reading of the Noise By-law.

Davis-Acker

CARRIED

M24-256

b) Development Officer Appointment

CAO Mattatall spoke to her report found in the package.

THAT Council approve the appointment of a second Development Officer, Mike Kahn, to support the Town's growing development needs. This appointment would add capacity to review variance applications and, over time, could expand to other development approval processes as needed, ensuring that the Town continues to provide efficient and responsive service to all applicants.

Acker-Davis

CARRIED

M24-257

c) Shelburne Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection System Assessment

Ken explained that we have been dealing with one engineering firm regarding analysis of our network, however, it wasn't what we had expected, we have now received another proposal from CBCL and it has everything they need right now.

THAT Council approve the proposal dated September 13th, 2024 from CBCL Limited under the Municipal Capital Growth Program.

Davis-Ringer

CARRIED

M24-258

Committee Reports: NONE

Staff Reports

a) CAO Report

CAO Mattatall spoke to her report found in the package. She highlighted Council's hard work over the last 4 years with emphasis on the last year's projects including: Nursing Home Rebuild Project, Municipal Capital Growth Program Success, Lift Station Upgrades, Affordable Housing Development, Landfill Decommission Project, Wharves Restoration, Roger Grovestine Complex Revitalization, Roads to Trails By-law, Relocation and Accessibility Upgrades, Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation (*She mentioned something new that has come to light from CCA Program – Climate Resilience Coastal Communities Program – \$11, 500 over the course of 3 years, however, the Clean Foundation has agreed to pay half the cost, leaving us with \$5,750 over 3 years*), Lagoon and Drying Bed Installation, Emergency Preparedness, Healthcare Advocacy and Residential and Commercial Tax Rates. She then wanted to thank Council and Staff for all their hard work, but an extra special thank you goes out to Ken Smith for his significant contributions to the Town of Shelburne.

THAT Council transfer from operating reserve \$1,750 this fiscal year, allocate \$2,000 from the 2025/26 budget and \$2,000 from the 2026/27 budget.

Acker-Ringer

M24-259

CARRIED

b) Building Inspector Report – August

c) SVFD Report – August

d) By-law Officer Report – August

e) Water Utility Report

The above reports were reviewed for information only.

In-Camera: MGA 22 (2) (c) – Personnel Matters and MGA 22 (2) (e) – Contract Negotiations

Motion to go in Camera at 7:02pm

Acker-Davis

CARRIED

Council came out of in-camera at 7:14pm. Motions coming out of in-camera:

THAT Council transfer \$4000 from operating reserve to extend the Accessibility Coordinator Position.

Acker-Nickerson

M24-260

CARRIED

THAT Council pause and not continue with the Oakhill Solar Program but send a letter of support.

Nickerson-Davis

M24-261

CARRIED

New Business:

Councillor Acker explained that she was in Halifax on the weekend and noticed gas prices were \$151.9, on the same day, gas prices in Yarmouth were \$152.8, but yet in Shelburne and Barrington they were \$155.1 she then discovered there are 6 different zones with the Utility and Review Board, so for our zone (3) the minimum was a \$152.8 and max was \$155.1, she is wondering who decides the price of the gas for our zone. Why are we being charged the maximum price when Yarmouth is being charged the minimum. Councillor Davis, believes the gas companies get to decide.

No other new business.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

a) Reminder that the Town Office is now located at 162 Mowatt Street, 2nd Floor of the Post Office Building. **Please note, the elevator lift is up and running, if you have any questions or concerns, please use the intercom system and we can assist you.*

Stay tuned for our GRAND OPENING DATE!

- b) Reminder – Audit Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 18th, 2024, 5pm, Council Chambers.
- c) Town Wide Yard Sale, October 5th, 2024, 8am-2pm, all over town, rain or shine, tables can be setup on sidewalks or in Community Centre parking lot, 63 King Street.
- d) Empty Bowls Fundraiser, October 5th, 2024, 11am-2pm, Shelburne Guild Hall.
- e) Giant Pumpkin Festival and Regatta, Dock Street Area, October 12th, 2024.
- f) Business of Excellence Awards, November 7th, 2024, 6:00pm, 63 King Street, Shelburne Community Centre.

Adjournment

THAT the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 16th, 2024, be adjourned at 7:18pm.

Davis