

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Glasgow Square. Present were Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor MacDonald, Councillors Dorrington, Peters, Fraser, El-Haddad and Borden. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Peter Douthwright, Senior Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Prasad Patil, Communications and Engagement Manager; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Rohan Mishra, Environment and Sustainability Lead; Veronica Deno, Active Living Manager; Jeff Turnbull, Senior Development Officer; and Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works. Absent from the meeting was Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works; Ryan Leil, NGRP Deputy Police Chief; Stephen Chisholm, NGRP Police Chief; and Derek Eisan, Director of IT.

Mayor Dicks stated that as we gather this evening, we pause to remember that in this province we live and work on lands that are by law the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the land of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people. We also recognize the African Nova Scotians whose culture, heritage, and history have been and remain a key part of our province for more than 400 years.

AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION VIOLA'S PLACE SOCIETY

Lisa Deyoung, Executive Director & Dwayne Wright, Board Chairperson presented a powerpoint presentation to Council regarding Viola's Place Society and the operation of the shelter as well as the services provided.

Councillor Fraser expressed admiration of the challenging work being done by Viola's Place and expressed concern that this is not a New Glasgow exclusive issue but rather a regional issue and we have no support or acknowledgement from the other municipal units in our region. Councillor Fraser asked if there is a capacity for other units to support services and/or people.

Lisa Deyoung advised that there were no inquiries from other municipalities.

Councillor Dorrington asked about the maximum number of beds in the shelter and time frames for the various services. She also expressed concern over drug use on the outside areas of the property in the daylight. She stated that the fence is bent down, and the wooden slats have been down all summer.

Lisa Deyoung advised the shelter houses 20 people at night. There is video monitoring directed at the parking lot. She expressed there are consequences for the residents if the

staff are aware of drug use on the premises. The shelter can hire security personnel to monitor the parking lot however, the outcome would not be to the best interests of the community, the residents using drugs would move elsewhere within the Town. In the past the shelter has enforced a curfew, but it was unsuccessful as residents then were forced to sleep in the streets during the colder months. Presently, they use a two-hour window where the residents can leave and return, each time they return they are required to go through security. They are aware of the gap in the metal fencing and there is a plan in place to fix it.

Councillor Borden expressed appreciation for the work they are doing and asked about staff training for the handling of needles. He asked if there were any work related incidents that impacted employees. He also asked if a database was being used for users of the shelter and he asked who was responsible for property maintenance.

Lisa Deyoung stated that there has not been any major work related incidents and very few incidents on their property. She advised they have a good neighbour program.

Councillor El-Haddad expressed concern about the relationship with neighbours and the growing separation of views on the services. He also asked if there has been an approach made to Construction Engineering Flight Pictou (CEF) for support to build the fence. He referenced the shortage of labour in our community and whether there are any clients who are willing and able to work.

Lisa Deyoung stated that the relationship between the shelter and its neighbours presents as challenging, staff have met with the neighbours and have invited them to presentations.

They

want to be able to work with their neighbours and another presentation will be held in the near future. Dwayne Wright stated that the application to CEF was incomplete when submitted for funding.

Councillor Peters expressed that a large amount of human and financial resources are being expended from the Town to address the issues impacting our community related to the encampments and shelter as well as our capacity to continue at this level. She asked if Viola's Place had any plans for expansion, she requested that the Town be included in any conversations to expand the capacity of the shelter. She expressed safety concerns in the community and the need for addiction services in our community. She asked if there are coalitions being made across the province through conversations with Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Health and Dept. of Housing and are there any steps being taken to collaborate with other organizations/shelters within the province?

Lisa Deyoung advised that at this time there are no conversations regarding increasing the number of beds within the shelter. The shelter can't take on more capacity and they are working towards a strategic plan. There has been no collaboration with other organizations/shelters within the province. Dwayne Wright referenced they will be working on the development of a strategic plan with efforts to work with housing and other resources.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald expressed concern with municipal cost burdens to our Police, Fire, Public Works, and Community Development Department. How does the shelter admit residents without ID? He also asked where the shelter saw itself in one year?

Lisa Deyoung advised that the residents are admitted to the shelter through information sharing by engaging in conversations with staff. She hoped the shelter would be more involved with tenant readiness in a year.

Mayor Dicks thanked Lisa and Dwayne for their presentation. Mayor Dicks stated that she recognized that this is not a unique situation in our community. She stated this is a health issue and there is a need for supportive housing that allows people access to services that promote independent living. Dwayne Wright indicated that open conversations with mutual respect between the residents of the Town and organizations supporting the Vulnerable Population must continue as we work towards solutions.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Finance Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Engineering and Public Works Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Solid Waste Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Police Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Community Development Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Business Development Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

FIRE REPORT AND FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Fire Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

There was no Fire Inspection Report due to Covid.

BUILDING REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Building Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Information Technology Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Strategic Initiatives and Projects Report be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

SECOND READING – LUB MAP AMENDMENT AND REZONING OF PID 00957241 &

65238420

Deputy Mayor MacDonald presented for second reading an amendment to the LUB Map Amendment and Rezoning of PID 00957241 and 65238420.

The purpose of the amendment is to rezone PIDs 00927241 (Eighth Street) and 65238420 (Parkview/Chestnut Street) from Single Unit Residential (R1) Zone to Residential Two Unit (R2) Zone to align the subject sites with the abutting property zoning.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the proposed amendment to the Bylaw should be approved and adopted by Council in accordance with the procedures set out in the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INCAMERA

The recommendation from incamera was tabled for the next Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Motion carried.