

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm

A regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held in person, via ZOOM and on Facebook Live on Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Sylvester Atkinson; Deputy Mayor Gail Smith, Councilors John Bartlett, Michael Fairn (via ZOOM), Bernadette Knapp, Chad LeBlanc and Gary Marshall; Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker, and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau

Regrets:

Also, in attendance were Sandra Fournier, Patricia Leslie, Howard Selig, Dianne MacDonald and three (3) citizens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atkinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

240702.01: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

240702.02: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

4. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

4.1 Citizen Brent Johnson brought forward the following concerns via email:

- * We should require that the RCMP we hire maintain insurance.
- * Everyone has insurance, except the RCMP
- * Why don't we require that the RCMP carry insurance? Can you give me a good reason why?

CAO Crocker stated that she's spoken with the RCMP previously and they do not carry liability insurance across Canada. However, they do operate a claims center to process claims for property damage.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 2024-2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets

CAO Crocker gave high level overview of the Draft Operating and Capital Budgets.

Staff put forward a proposal for a 2% increase in taxes, among other suggestions.

Councillors would like to have a budget working session on Tuesday, July 9th at 6:00 pm.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 RFD 032-2024 Fees and Fines Policy

CAO Crocker recommended council approve the amendments to the following policies:

- Water Arrears, Collection Policy
- NSF Cheques
- Tax Certificate
- Dangerous & Unsightly Premises
- Fees and Fines Policy

240702.03: It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the Water Arrears Collection Policy, as circulated/amended. **Motion carried.**

240702.04: It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the NSF Cheques Policy as circulated/amended. **Motion carried.**

240702.05: It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the Tax Certificate Policy as circulated/amended. **Motion carried.**

240702.06: It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the Dangerous & Unsightly Premises as circulated/amended. **Motion carried.**

240702.07: It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the Fees and Fines Policy as circulated/amended. **Motion carried.**

6.2 RFD 033-2024 Valley Waste TBR for 2024-25 Capital Projects

CAO Crocker stated the RFD is attached and recommended that Council approve the included Town of Middleton's Loan guarantee resolution.

240702.08: It was moved and seconded to approve the included Town of Middleton's Loan guarantee resolution. **Motion carried.**

7. **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7.1 Dangerous and Unsightly Status Report for June 2024

CAO Crocker gave a brief overview of the Dangerous and Unsightly Status Report for June 2024. CAO Crocker informed us that letters have been sent out to certain properties. Additionally, an update was provided regarding 121 Main Street; they are planning to demolish the building. Last week, someone stopped in for a demolition application.

7.2 Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy

CAO Crocker received a letter from the province stating we're required to have an Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy by April 1st, 2025. CAO Crocker convened with neighboring municipalities, including the County of Annapolis, Village of Lawrencetown and Town of Annapolis Royal, to initiate a planning session for an Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy. There was significant discussion regarding the development of a county-wide strategy, and the consensus was to bring the proposal back to our Council for further deliberation. One potential recommendation included the restructuring of the accessibility committee to form a new committee focused on equity, accessibility, and anti-racism.

Councillor Fairn mentioned that other organizations are doing something similar with the acronym IDEA, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility. Councillor Fairn will send CAO Crocker information from Rotary International.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Financial Condition Indicators – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

CAO Crocker received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding our 2021-22 high risk indicator and has asked for an update. CAO Crocker is going to schedule meetings with the management team and finance staff.

9. **ANYTHING BY MEMBERS**

Deputy Mayor Smith expressed admiration for Mayor Atkinson's Canada Day speech.

10. **IN-CAMERA**

240702.09 It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting and move to in-camera at 9:28 p.m. **Motion carried.**

240702.10 It was moved and seconded to move out of in-camera at 9:53 p.m. **Motion carried.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

240702.11: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. **Motion carried.**


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY