

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held in-person at the Town Hall, via Facebook Live on Monday, April 15, 2024, starting at 7:00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Sylvester Atkinson; Deputy Mayor Gail Smith, Councillors Michael Fairn, Bernadette Knapp, Chad Leblanc, and John Bartlett; Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker; and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau

**Regrets:** Councillor Gary Marshall

**Also in Attendance:** Becca Green-LaPierre, Roger Tatlock (exited at 7:26 pm) and seven (7) members of the public.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Atkinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**240415.01** It was moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda as circulated.

**Motion carried.**

3. **PROCLAMATIONS**

3.1 Emergency Preparedness Week

Mayor Atkinson proclaimed May 5 – 11, 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Week in Middleton.

3.2 Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor Atkinson proclaimed May 2024, as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Middleton.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Kings County Community Food Council

Becca Green-LaPierre and Roger Tatlock from Kings County Community Food Council gave a presentation requesting for the Town of Middleton to Support a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). Ms. Green-LaPierre and Mr. Tatlock are asking:

1. That the mayor and council write letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Houston asking for federal and provincial/territorial governments to work together to create a national livable basic income guarantee.
2. That the mayor and council write a letter to Premier Houston and all MLAs, with copies to Prime Minister Trudeau and Nova Scotia Members of Parliament requesting

that the province establish an all-party committee of the legislature to research and design the implementation of a livable basic income guarantee for all Nova Scotians.

There was a brief discussion around templates used to write a letter. The Town of Wolfville wrote a letter, and Prime Minister Trudeau responded. Ms. Green-LaPierre will send a copy of the letter to Sara Marceau.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Council Meeting

**240415.02** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of March 18, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

Councillor Fairn brought forward that 3.1 of the March 18, 2024, minutes refers to a donation of \$20,000 for the Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation as the foundation is a registered charity would it be appropriate to call it a grant from a Canada Revenue Agency perspective.

**Action:** To investigate proper terminology for Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation.

5.2 In-Camera Council Meeting

**240415.03** It was moved and seconded to approve the in-camera minutes of March 18, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

Councillor Fairn also noted that the grant or donation for the Soldiers Memorial Hospital should specifically be noted for the diagnostic imaging equipment fundraising project with the foundation.

5.3 Special Council Meeting

**240415.04** It was moved and seconded to approve the special council minutes of April 2, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

6. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

Citizen Hilary Campbell brought forward the following concerns via email and in person:

1. Sidewalks – west side of Brooklyn Road from Main Street to the entrance of the New Marsh Trail.
2. ATV season – sent an email to the Canadian Quad Council and copied the ATV Association of Nova Scotia.
  - Councillor Knapp asked Ms. Campbell if a response has been received. Not at this time, however, will pass along information to the Council once received.
3. 2023/24 Budget – the most recent needs to be added to the website.

4. Northland's Secondary Planning Strategy – suggesting a spot on the Town of Middleton's website page be directed to house the strategy.
5. Mitigation methods for speeding on Main Street.
6. Infrastructure funding regarding replacement of Main Street.
7. Water infrastructure – not all fire hydrants can be used by the Fire Department
8. Assurance that the new development will not overburden our water and sewer services.

CAO Crocker responded to Ms. Campbell's questions before the meeting.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 **RFD 020-2024 Appointment List Update**

- CAO Crocker recommended to the Council appoint Sandra Fournier as a member of the Audit Committee.

**240415.05** It was moved and seconded that Council appoint Sandra Fournier as a member of the Audit Committee. **Motion carried.**

- That Council appoint Sara Marceau as Returning Officer and Town Clerk for the Town of Middleton

**240415.06** It was moved and seconded that Council appoint Sara Marceau as Returning Officer and Town Clerk for the Town of Middleton. **Motion carried.**

- **240415.07** The Council approve the Appointment list as presented. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Appointment List as circulated. **Motion carried.**

### 7.2 **RFD 021-2024 Low-Income Tax Exemption Policy**

CAO Crocker noted that this will serve as a seven-day notice to council. The intent of this policy is to revisit every April, increasing low-income amounts. This policy will come back to Council for consideration at the May 6, 2024, Special Town Council meeting.

CAO Crocker stated she will work with the Finance department and create weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly checklists of accounting tasks.

### 7.3 **RFD 022-2024 Reserve Bank Account Closures**

CAO Crocker recommended that the Council approve the closure of the six (6) reserve bank accounts and their balances moved to the RBC Capital Reserve bank account.

**240415.09** It was moved and seconded that Council approve the closure of the six (6) reserve bank accounts and their balances moved to the RBC Capital Reserve bank account. **Motion carried.**

8. REPORTS

8.1 Management Report

CAO Crocker gave an overview of some of the highlights of the Management report that was circulated.

8.2 Middleton Fire Department Dispatch Report for March

CAO Crocker noted that the report has been circulated.

8.3 Planning Advisory Committee Mar 27/24 DRAFT Minutes

Mayor Atkinson noted that the minutes have been circulated.

8.4 Annapolis County Inter-Municipal Working Group Mar 21/24 DRAFT Minutes

Councillor Leblanc noted that the minutes have been circulated. Councillor Leblanc stated the next presentation is Thursday, April 25, 2024, and that is on Policing, taking place in the Town of Annapolis Royal.

8.5 REMO Advisory Committee Mar 11/24 DRAFT

Mayor Atkinson noted that the minutes have been circulated.

8.6 IMSA Board Mar 27/24 DRAFT Minutes

Mayor Atkinson noted that the minutes have been circulated.

8.7 Accessibility Advisory Committee Apr 9/24 DRAFT Minutes

Councillor Fairn noted that the minutes have been circulated. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be meeting more frequently. National Accessibility Awareness Week is May 26-June 1. Several events are planned in Middleton and Bridgetown.

8.8 Police Advisory Board Apr 9/24 DRAFT Minutes

Deputy Mayor Smith noted that the minutes have been circulated.

8.9 Mayor's Report

Mayor Atkinson noted that the report was circulated to Council members.

8 AN THING BY MEMBERS

- Councillor Fairn went back to Ms. Campbell’s comments. Councillor Fairn was made aware of a situation in the town where an ATV was zipping up and down the streets. A complaint was lodged to the Department of Natural Resources reporting service and within five minutes the RCMP were dispatched.
- Councillor Bartlett stated Valley REN hosted an event (asset management) at the Capitol Pub. He would like Valley REN to come into present to the Council about its ability to encourage or entice business to move to the area through demographics and population. Emily Boucher is the new CEO of Valley REN. Councillor Bartlett said Valley Ren should also present to Annapolis Valley Council.
- Mayor Atkinson shared the Town of Middleton’s Spring cleanup is May 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>.

9 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm.

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Mayor

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Recording Secretary