

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: March 18, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Charlie Chambers
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Leon Landry
Councillor Lisa Emery

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Kim Jones, Director, Corporate Communications
Krista Crossman, Director, HR & Customer Services
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Sean Payne, Corporate Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Mayor Kogon gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councillor Landry asked that item 3.5 Strategic Priorities Update be removed from the consent agenda.

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

To approve the consent agenda with the removal of item 3.5 Strategic Priorities Update.

MOTION CARRIED

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes

1.4.1 February 20, 2024

The minutes of the February 20, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as part of the consent agenda.

1.4.2 March 7, 2024

The minutes of the March 7, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as part of the consent agenda.

2. Council Direction Requests

2.1 Street Inspection and Maintenance Policy

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That Council forward to the March 25, 2024 regular meeting, approval of the amendments to the Street Inspection and Maintenance Policy (31600-10).

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Sidewalk Inspection and Maintenance Policy

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That Council forward to the March 25, 2024 regular meeting, approval of the amendments to the Sidewalk Inspection and Maintenance Policy (31600-11).

MOTION CARRIED

2.3 Tree Planting on Town Owned Land Policy

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That Council forward to the March 25, 2024 regular meeting of Council approval of the amendments to the Tree Planting on Town Lands Policy (64000-01).

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 Sidewalk and Curb Construction Policy Memo

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That Council refer the Sidewalk and Curb Construction Policy to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review.

MOTION CARRIED

2.5 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Motion - In The Works

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That Council direct the CAO to discuss a collaborative funding arrangement with the CAO of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to provide funds for In The Works to hire an Executive Director, and further, that this funding arrangement be made for one year and stipulate that In The Works be responsible for funding the position in subsequent years.

MOTION CARRIED

2.6 Basic Income Guarantee Resolution

Moved By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Landry

That Council forward to the March 25, 2024 regular meeting of Council approval to send the letter of support for a Basic Income Guarantee to the Basic Income Nova Scotia Society to ensure our support is included with the other municipalities.

MOTION CARRIED

2.7 Attendance Administration Policy Memo

The following item was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Fawthrop

That the Director of HR develop a new Attendance Administration Policy to bring to Council for consideration no later than June Committee of the Whole.

MOTION CARRIED

2.8 Stadium Netting

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Chambers

That Council forward to the March 25, 2024 regular meeting, direction to staff to remove the stadium netting from the sides before the next hockey season.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Information Items

3.1 Accessible Parking

The Traffic Authority will proceed with moving the accessible parking spot in front of the Bank of Nova Scotia building to a spot in front of Town Hall.

3.2 Appointment of Caregivers to Committee of Council

Item approved as part of the consent agenda. Information item only.

3.3 Event Planning Toolkit

Item approved as part of the consent agenda. Information item only.

3.4 By-Law and Policy Review

Item approved as part of the consent agenda. Information item only.

3.5 Strategic Priorities Update

Councillor Landry asked for an update on the Community Centre Feasibility Study meeting with potential stakeholders, particularly Cumberland County scheduled to take place in March. The Director of Planning & Strategic Initiatives Andrew Fisher replied discussions are still taking place. Council agreed a more detailed update could be given while in closed session. Councillor Landry also asked about the Municipal Planning Strategy Review, specifically the March due date to have draft documents provided to the consultant. Mr. Fisher replied this project has been delayed due to the volume of recent development applications; however, the intent is to bring significant changes being recommended to the PAC before going back to the consultants.

3.6 CAO Task Report

Item approved as part of the consent agenda. Information item only.

4. Monthly Reports

The following monthly reports were approved as part of the consent agenda, information items only:

- 4.1 Business Development
- 4.2 Community Living
- 4.3 Corporate Communications and IT
- 4.4 Financial Services
- 4.5 Fire Services
- 4.6 HR and Customer Service
- 4.7 Operations
- 4.8 Planning & Strategic Initiatives
- 4.9 Police Services
- 4.10 Solid Waste Education and Enforcement

5. Closed Session

**Moved By Councillor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Baker
That the Committee move to Closed Session.**

MOTION CARRIED

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Kogon adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor