

**TOWN OF AMHERST
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes**

Date: December 17, 2018
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
Councillor Jason Blanch
Councillor Vince Byrne
Councillor Darrell Jones
Councillor Wayne MacKenzie
Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present Greg Herrett, CAO
Jason MacDonald, Deputy CAO Operations
Bill Schurman, Director Recreation
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Dwayne Pike, Acting Police Chief
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Shelley Rector, Chief Financial Officer
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 6:30 P.M.

1.1 Land Use Bylaw Amendments - Cannabis Related Uses

Mayor Kogon opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Fisher reviewed the proposed amendments, included as part of the agenda package.

Councillor Blanch asked that by restricting lounges to only those operated by the NSLC and not private entities; is the intention to allow the Town to revisit where lounges might be permitted should provincial legislation change? Mr. Fisher responded that yes that is the intention, and stated that it would be premature to decide where private lounges or retail sales could be located in Town because those uses are prohibited by Provincial legislation. If the legislation changes in the future the proposed amendments would give the Town the opportunity go through another amendment process to decide where these uses are appropriate.

Councillor Byrne asked if provincial legislation permits lounges to be operated by the NSLC. Mr. Fisher answered that lounges are currently prohibited outright. Councillor Byrne asked if this prohibition is specifically in provincial legislation, to which Mr. Fisher confirmed that it is.

There being nothing further from the Committee the Mayor opened the floor to the public. Three members of the public were in attendance.

Darren Akey spoke to the poor condition of soil in the Industrial Park, and wanted to advise that should it be permitted in the future plant should be planted along the marshland. He indicated he has just moved back to Amherst and has a license to grow medical marijuana, and is debating whether or not to rent a space to grow for others with a medical marijuana license that do not want to grow their own.

Wajdi Mohamad stated he is a licenced medical marijuana grower designated by the federal government. Now that the growing of four plants in a primary resident is legal; can a resident pass along their four plants to a designated grower? Mr. Fisher replied that his understanding is that under federal regulations that the 4-plant personal cultivation right cannot be designated or otherwise transferred.

2. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. O'CANADA

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the Agenda

Moved By Councillor Rhindress

Seconded By Councillor Blanch

To approve the agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

4.2 Approval of Minutes

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Christie

To approve the minutes of the November 26, 2018 regular meeting of Council.

Motion Carried

5. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

5.1 Capital Budget Amendment - Erncliff CNR Crossing

Moved By Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That Council authorize approval of \$52,877 to be allocated in the current (2018/19) Capital Budget for the Town's contribution to the installation of new warning gates at the Erncliff Street railway crossing and that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the attached Crossing Warning System Modification Agreement.

Motion Carried

5.2 Fundy Winds Project

Moved By Councillor Rhindress

Seconded By Councillor MacKenzie

That Council approve of the purchase of two park benches to be located in a rest area of Fundy Winds at a cost no greater than \$1200. The benches are to include a nameplate indicating the contribution is from the Town of Amherst. Further, that before any further funding is considered that staff attempts to, along with Mr. Barrow, arrange for a stakeholders meeting to discuss in more detail the project. Stakeholders to include the County of Cumberland and the Province of Nova Scotia (Communities Sport & Recreation).

Motion Carried

Moved By Councillor Blanch

That staff be directed to deliver one load of gravel to the Fundy Winds site.

There being no seconder for the motion the motion failed.

5.3 Police Sustainability Report

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor Jones

That Council accept the Amherst Police Sustainability Review report and the recommendation to move forward with option 2 which is to do an expanded internally focused review based on the revised terms of reference and not proceed with a proposal from the RCMP.

Motion Carried

6. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Physician Recruitment Report

Mayor Kogon reviewed his report included as part of the agenda package. Information item; no direction given or action required.

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Planning Advisory Committee

Information item; no direction given or action required.

7.2 Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Information item; no direction given or action required.

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.2 Cumberland YMCA

Information item; no direction given or action required.

8.4 Northern Region Solid Waste Committee

Information item; no direction given or action required.

8.6 Tourism Strategic Planning Committee

Information item; no direction given or action required.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded By Councillor Jones

To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion Carried

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor