

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Special Council Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

# Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council

## Special Council Meeting

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Immediately following  
General Committee*

**Council Chambers  
Second Floor, City Hall**

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

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#### Roll Call

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: (Motion Required)
2. BUSINESS ARISING:
  - 2.1 General Committee – November 4, 2019
    - a) New Waterford Hub Project: Request from Province of Nova Scotia - PID 15478613/15478647/Lowell Cormier Avenue:  
Sheila Kolanko, Property Manager
    - b) Request for Street Closure: Province of Nova Scotia – Reservoir Road, Sydney NS – Portion of 15864739 – Public Right of Way: Sheila Kolanko, Property Manager
  - 2.2 Council Meeting – October 9, 2019:
    - a) Parade Safety:
      - i) Recommendation #4 Re: Two Yearly Regional Parades:  
Kirk Durning, Manager of Recreation (See page 3)
      - ii) CBRM Parades: How to be Safer without Banning Community Traditions – Request to Rescind Motion Banning Nighttime Parades in CBRM: Councillor Amanda McDougall (See page 7)

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Excerpt – DRAFT Council Minutes  
October 9, 2019**

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**Parade Safety**

It was **agreed** to bring recommendation #4 outlined in the staff report regarding two yearly Regional Parades to the November General Committee meeting.

# PARADE SAFETY

## Recommendations to CBRM Council - October 2019

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cape Breton Regional Municipality Staff, including representatives from Police, Recreation, Communications and Directors, have put together a list of safety concerns and recommendations for Council consideration on the issue of Parades, and CBRM issuing parade permits going forward.

Safety is the main priority in these considerations. In the CBRM alone, there has been two near misses involving children in the last two years. As well as the tragic accident in Yarmouth last year resulting in the fatality of a child. Not to mention the countless accidents across North America in the last several years, many involving children.

Not only are parades inherently dangerous, but the moving floats themselves are open and obvious risks. Parade events can be among the most challenging types of events to plan and manage. They present some very particular challenges, resulting in significant hazards and risks, notably when mixing pedestrians with moving vehicles.

The proposed list of Parade Rules is a cumulation of similar rules and regulations used across Canada and North America. We believe these rules will help make parades within CBRM as safe as possible. Including more responsibility for the parade organizers and the parade entries to fully understand the risks and work together to mitigate and educate both participants and spectators.

Even with the new proposed rules, it is impossible to remove all risk when mixing moving vehicles with pedestrians. Therefore, with safety as top priority, we are recommending limiting the amount of parades taking place in the CBRM to two Regional parades. This is not to discourage celebrations in each community, but to move towards other types of events, such as stationary parades or festivals. This will allow the CBRM to better manage the risk and safety of two parades.

As an example, Yarmouth has responded to the tragic accident last year by changing from a parade to a Christmas Festival, which will include closing their main street and having decorated floats parked along the street. The public will be able to walk through the street and see the floats up close. Other ideas for Yarmouth's new Festival include a Merry Madness shopping event, a tree lighting, a possible candy cane lane, live music, photos with Santa and a Frost Park. The idea of a non-moving parade is to minimize risk, while continuing to host a fun and memorable event.

### AREAS OF CONSIDERATION:

#### A. Night time Parades

- Visibility is a major concern for nighttime parades; safety risks increase under the cover of darkness.
- Winter conditions are especially dangerous.
- Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal in their parade application, states: *"Parades should be held during daylight hours and under adequate visibility conditions."*
- Police call volumes spike between 2pm-9pm daily, primetime for nighttime parades, putting additional stress on resources.
- Limiting parades to daylight hours has also come as a recommendation from CBRM's insurance provider. Comment from CBRM's Insurance Provider:  
*"Children can be unpredictable and can easily get away from their parents in the daytime. If the parade is at night, it greatly reduces a parent's ability to ensure the safety of their children due to the*

*limited visibility and their children could potentially be wearing dark clothing. It becomes even more difficult if there is only one parent trying to monitor more than one child. While I can understand it may be more colourful at night because of the lights I do not think children really care, they just want to watch the parade and see Santa. It is for those reasons my recommendation would be to move your parade from the evening to when there is daylight.”*

## **B. Length of Parades**

- The risks and challenges of a parade increase with the length of the parade, this includes stretching of resources such as police and designated spotters.
- There is more risk of gaps and breaks in the parade procession, creating an accordion like situation, increasing risks of traffic and cars cutting through parade.
- Spectators become less attentive with long wait times.
- The longer the route, the more taxing the parade is on the participants, volunteers, staff and police.
- A shorter parade aids with flow and function of the event.

Approximate distances for Christmas parades in other areas:

Halifax – 2.6 km  
Truro – 3.6 km  
Yarmouth – 2.4 km  
Antigonish – 2.3 km  
New Glasgow – 2.0 km  
Amherst – 3.0 km  
Moncton – 2.6 km  
Fredericton – 3.5 km  
Saint John – 3.3 km  
Montreal – 2.5 km

CBRM’s parade lengths:

Sydney – 5km, inclusive of an overpass  
Dominion – Traditionally 8km; however, was shortened to 2.7km following the accident in Yarmouth  
North Sydney – 1.8 km  
Sydney Mines – 1.8 km  
Glace Bay – 4.2 km  
Louisbourg – 2.5km  
New Waterford – 3.8km  
Reserve Mines – 3.3 km

## **C. Regional Parades**

- CBRM currently has 7 Christmas parades in a 3-week period.
- With the exception of the Sydney parade, all are held by the community groups, with in-kind assistance by CBRM Recreation and Police.
- With this many parades, in such a small window of time, it creates a resource drain for the CBRM, increasing risk and safety.
- We must consider the strategic flow of resources, both for Police and Recreation considering tight financial budgets. Police and CBRM Staff must be conscious on how much they are spending on parades, while also maintaining safety of residents.
- In kind costs from Recreation spent on parades is \$6000- \$6500 yearly.

- In moving towards one regional Christmas parade, each community could then offer a unique Christmas experience, with a light up, hot chocolate, vendors, all in a festival like and social atmosphere. CBRM Recreation department could assist with the light ups in each community, greatly reducing strain of resources.
- One Regional parade could be live streamed and draw a bigger crowd.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Pass list of additions to the CBRM Parade Safety & Rules (attached)
2. All parades held in CBRM must be held during daylight hours and under adequate visibility conditions
3. Limit all parade routes to a maximum of 4 kilometers in length
4. Approve two yearly Regional parades
  - 1 Regional Pride parade in summer (hosted by Pride Cape Breton)
  - 1 Regional Christmas parade in winter. Each community can have their own Christmas light up party or Christmas Festival, which will be supported by the Recreation Department.



City Hall  
 320 Esplanade  
 Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Item No.

<b>Council Agenda Request Form</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm seven days before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Late Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon the day before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor: (New Business)</b> - Announcement - Referral - Submit Petition - Notice of Motion
<p><b>Date of Council Meeting:</b> November 4, 2019</p> <p><b>Subject:</b> CBRM Parades: How to be safer without banning community traditions</p>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b></p> <p>A.) To rescind the motion of Council banning all nighttime parades in the CBRM.</p> <p>B.) To engage in a process of public consultation that would examine additional measures of parade safety and risk mitigation while allowing community parades to continue operating in the interim under the updated regulations that were passed down from the Province in 2018 after the heart wrenching incident in Yarmouth, as has been the practice last season into this year.</p>		
<p><b>Reason:</b></p> <p>The community reaction towards the CBRM Council decision was exactly what I expected; a tremendous amount of people who are genuinely saddened by this rash decision and confusion as to why the community was not consulted prior to a decision like this being made. I can't say I blame them.</p> <p>I am hopeful that CBRM Council will agree to rescind the motion and engage in a process that will allow for meaning dialogue and examination into what additional measure of parade safety and risk mitigation can be sought out without jumping to conclusions such as banning community traditions that have brought communities and people together for many years.</p>		
<p><b>Outcome Sought:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) The continuation of nighttime parades in the CBRM.</li> <li>2.) Educational outreach for parade organizations and participants on safety updates and risk mitigation as per agreed upon safety regulations passed in Council.</li> </ol>		

3.) engage in a process of public consultation that would examine additional measures of parade safety and risk mitigation while allowing community parades to continue operating in the interim under the updated regulations

<i>Councillor Amanda McDougall</i>	<i>District 8</i>
<i>October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019</i>	<i>Received by Clerk's Department (date):</i> <i>October 15, 2019</i>

**Excerpt – DRAFT Council Minutes  
October 9, 2019**

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**Parade Safety**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Marshall, to approve the staff recommendation that all parades held in CBRM must be held during daylight hours and under adequate visibility conditions.

**Discussion:**

- Community Christmas light-up events and festivals
- Taking traditions away from communities
- Citizens engage in parades and encourage community spirit
- Increasing safety and risk mitigation
- Support from Recreation for Festivals
- Dark by 4:30 p.m. in December
- This is a recommendation from Police
- Increased risks at night time
- Personal and parent/guardian responsibility during event participation
- Automobiles parked on side of road in parade route
- Parade entrants throwing candy into the street
- Rotating Regional parades
- Yarmouth Tragedy
- Weekend parades
- CBRM insurance provider suggests that there shall be no parades during dark time hours
- Close streets during parades
- Halifax daytime and nighttime parades
- More public consultation required
- Safety regulations specific for night time parades
- There were incidents that took place during daylight in CBRM

**Motion Carried.**

