

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024

9:31 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

Council

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill

Councillor Gordon MacDonald

Councillor Earlene MacMullin

Councillor Cyril MacDonald

Councillor Steve Gillespie

Councillor Eldon MacDonald

Councillor Glenn Paruch

Councillor Steve Parsons

Deputy Mayor James Edwards

Councillor Ken Tracey

Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger

Councillor Darren O'Quinn

Staff

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Regional Solicitor

Karen Neville, Acting Director of Planning and Development/Senior Planner

Mark Bettens, Fire Chief/Director of Fire and Emergency Services

Craig MacNeil, Deputy Fire Chief

Sheila Kolanko, Property Manager

John Crane, Manager of Bylaws and Building Inspections

Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant

Kelly McDonald, Recording Secretary

Absent

Councillor Lorne Green (Regrets)

The following does not represent a word for word record of the proceedings of this meeting. The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at www.cbrm.ns.ca.

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, to approve the April 23, 2024, council agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gordon, to approve the CBRM minutes from:

- Council – February 27, 2024
- Council – March 12, 2024
- Council – March 26, 2024
- Emergency Council – March 28, 2024

Motion Carried

3. Proclamations

3.1 Emergency Preparedness Week

Motion

Moved by Councillor O’Quinn, seconded by Councillor Tracey, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim the week of May 5th – 11th, 2024, as “Emergency Preparedness Week” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to promote public understanding and awareness of emergency preparedness issues and to educate CBRM residents of emergency risks in their community and how to prepare their home and family for potential emergencies.

Motion Carried

3.2 Health and Safety Professionals Canada – Safety and Health Week

Motion

Moved by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim the week of May 6th to May 11th, 2024, as “Health and Safety Professionals Canada Safety and Health Week” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.3 Celebration of Harmony Weekend

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th, 2024, as “Celebration of Harmony Weekend” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.4 Mental Health Week

Motion

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Councillor O’Quinn, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 6th to May 12th, 2024, as “Mental Health Week” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.5 International ME/CFS Awareness Day

Motion

Moved by Councillor Tracey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Edwards, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim Sunday, May 12th, 2024, as “International ME/CFS Awareness Day” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.6 Falun Dafa Day

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 13th, 2024, as “Falun Dafa Day” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.7 Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 2024, as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.8 Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Deputy Mayor Edwards, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 2024, as “Gaelic Nova Scotia Month” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.9 Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Parsons, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 2024, as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.10 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 2024, as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.11 Melanoma and Skin Care Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Tracey, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim May 2024, as “Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

4. By-Laws and Motions

4.1 Second / Final Reading – Public Hearing

i) Passenger Vehicle for Hire By-Law – Debit or Service Fee Provision

Mayor McDougall-Merrill informed John Crane is present for questions and answers. The Mayor called three times for any members of the public wishing to speak on the matter, no speakers came forth. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to adopt the amended Passenger Vehicle for Hire By-law to allow taxi operators to charge a fee if the total fare is not paid in cash subject to terms identified in Appendix B.

Motion Carried

4.2 First Reading - N/A

5. Presentations

5.1 SolarBank – The Future is Bright

Representatives of SolarBank provided a presentation titled, “The Future is Bright”. Discussion took place between SolarBank representatives, Council, and staff regarding timelines, designs, site selection processes, and permit and set back requirements. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, to send SolarBank a letter of support for the project submission on behalf of CBRM Council.

Motion Carried

6. Corporate Services Issues

6.1 Request to Deem CBRM Property Surplus PID 15528805 – Lingan Road (District 12)

Sheila Kolanko, Property Manager, reviewed the issue paper and recommendation in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, to declare the subject property, identified as PID 15528805, surplus and to be sold at market value.

Motion Carried

6.2 Affordable Housing Policies

Acting Director Karen Neville reviewed the issue paper and recommendation in the agenda package. Discussion took place between Council and staff regarding authority and the *Municipal Government Act*. The following motions were then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, to adopt the CBRM Affordable Housing Property Tax Adjustment Policy.

Motion Carried

Motion

Moved by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to adopt the CBRM Affordable Housing Grant Policy.

Motion Carried

6.3 2024 Municipal and CSAP Elections – Polling Divisions

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk/Municipal Returning Officer, reviewed the memo in the agenda package.

For Information Only

7. Council Agenda Request

7.1 Accessory Dwelling Unit Amendment

Mayor McDougall-Merrill reviewed the memo included in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Eldon, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to direct CBRM Planning staff to provide an issue paper with proposed amendments to the Land Use By-Law that would allow AUDs to be permitted for supportive housing properties.

Motion Carried

8. Committee Reports – N/A

9. Financial Statements

9.1 CBRM to February 29, 2024

For Information Only

9.2 Port of Sydney Development Corporation to February 29, 2024

For Information Only

10. Review of Action Items from this Meeting

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill noted the following action item:

- Send SolarBank a letter of support for the project submission on behalf of CBRM Council.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill
Mayor

Christa Dicks
Municipal Clerk
/km