

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024

6:00 p.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

Councillor Lorne Green

Staff

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Regional Solicitor

Michael Ruus, Director of Planning and Development

Kirk Durning, Director of Recreation, Parks and Grounds, and Buildings and Facilities

Deanna Evely, Director of Human Resources

Robert Walsh, Chief of Police

Stephen MacKinnon, Deputy Chief of Police

Sheila Kolanko, Property Manager

Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant

Kelly McDonald, Recording Secretary

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.

The Council met In Camera on December 12, 2023, pursuant to Section 22 (2)(e) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

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

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. Approval of Agenda

Mayor McDougall-Merrill asked Council if it is preferred if item number six be addressed as open session proceedings instead of an In Camera session, Council agreed.

Motion

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, to approve the January 9, 2024, council agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, to approve the CBRM minutes from:

- Special Council – July 20, 2023
- Council – October 10, 2023
- Special Council – October 20, 2023
- Council – October 24, 2023

Motion Carried

3. Presentation

3.1 Sydney Baseball Park Association

Alana MacLeod, Sydney Baseball Park Association President, provided a presentation titled, "Sydney Baseball Park Association – Bernie MacNeil Baseball Field Revitalization". Discussion took place regarding the project plans and community impacts. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Green, to defer the Sydney Baseball Park Association's request to capital budget for consideration.

Discussion:

- Entirety of project
- Phased approach
- Documentation of the relationship between SBPA and Sydney and District Little League

Motion to Amend

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Green, to defer the Sydney Baseball Park Association's request to capital budget for consideration including the entirety of the project.

Motion to Amend Carried

4. Corporate Service Issues

4.1 Request for Easement – NSPI Kings Road, Sydney (District 5) – PID 15884562

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 Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Easement Agreement in favour of Nova Scotia Power Incorporation across the CBRM property (PID 15884562).

Discussion

- Cost and fees associated shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

Motion Carried

4.2 East Bay Area Community Council / PID 15437726

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Regional Solicitor, 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 MacMullin, to authorize a new lease for a ten-year term from the 1st day of January 2024, to the 31st day of December 2033, with the terms and conditions unchanged from the previous lease.

Motion Carried

4.3 Grand Lake Road Fire Department Lease

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Regional Solicitor, reviewed the memo and recommendation in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, to authorize a new lease for a five-year term with the expiry date of November 30, 2027, including the new price rates stated in the memo dated January 4, 2024.

Motion Carried

5. Councillor Agenda Request

Deputy Mayor James Edwards reviewed the councillor agenda request form included in the agenda package. Discussion took place regarding extended power outages CBRM residents are experiencing. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Green, for Mayor and Council to send a letter to Nova Scotia Power requesting a line maintenance report and an updated report outlining pro-active steps that have been taken and are planned to take to address compromised power assets since Fiona struck CBRM in September of 2022.

Discussion:

- To request Nova Scotia Power to attend a future council meeting
- NS Power rate increases versus services provided
- Businesses losing revenue
- The need for NS Power to wrap power lines
- Maintenance plan
- Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Motion Carried

6. In Camera – This item proceeded in open session

6.1 Report on Tentative Agreement Police Negotiations

Director Evely reviewed the issue paper and recommendation included in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, to approve the Tentative Collective Agreement Police NSGEU, with the wages and terms included in the agenda package, for a 4-year contract from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2027.

Discussion:

- Ranking of Nova Scotia Police Services wages
- Gratitude for Police Services, NSGEU, and negotiating team
- Police budget

Motion Carried

Mayor McDougall-Merrill noted action items from this meeting which included deferring the Sydney Baseball Park Association to the budget workshop for discussion and to send a letter to Nova Scotia Power Incorporation to request NS Power to attend an upcoming council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill
Mayor

Christa Dicks
Municipal Clerk
/km