

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Council Meeting – Minutes

**Tuesday,
November 22, 2022
9:40 a.m.
Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS**

Deputy Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order.

Council: Deputy Mayor James Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Gordon MacDonald
Councillor Earlene MacMullin
Councillor Cyril MacDonald
Councillor Steve Gillespie
Councillor Eldon MacDonald
Councillor Glenn Paruch
Councillor Steve Parsons
Councillor Ken Tracey
Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger
Councillor Darren O’Quinn
Councillor Lorne Green

Staff: Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer
John MacKinnon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk
Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Regional Solicitor
Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Michael Ruus, Director of Planning & Development
Kirk Durning, Director of Recreation, Parks & Grounds, & Buildings & Facilities
Deanna Evely, Director of Human Resources
Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management
Christina Lamey, Communications and Information Officer
Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant
Angela Ross, Recording Secretary

Absent: Mayor Amanda M. McDougall (Regrets)

Council met In Camera November 15th 2022 and earlier this date, pursuant to Section 22 (d) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Summary of Decisions

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the November 22nd, 2022, Council Agenda as circulated.

2. PROCLAMATIONS:

2.1 National Housing Day - 2022:

Motion that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 22nd, 2022 as National Housing Day; as a reminder to all Nova Scotians that access to safe, sustainable and equitable housing affects our collective mental health; and to have a mentally healthy community we must work together to ensure every member of our community has a place to call home. **Carried.**

2.2 United Way Cape Breton Giving Tuesday:

Motion that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council recognize November 29th, 2022, as GivingTuesday in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. **Carried.**

2.3 Project Red Ribbon Launch - 2022:

Motion that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim the launch of MADD Cape Breton's Project Red Ribbon in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. **Carried.**

2.4 National Campaign for Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day – 2022:

Motion that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 26th of each year as “Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. **Carried.**

Continued...

PROCLAMATIONS (Cont'd):

2.5 James Delorey Day - 2022:

Motion that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council declare December 3rd, 2022, as James Delorey Day in the CBRM. **Carried.**

3. DELEGATION:

3.1 Marketing Levy:

Motion to approve the request by Destination Cape Breton to amend the following amendments to the CBRM Marketing Levy By-law:

- increase rate to 3%
- remove 10 rooms or more threshold and adopt *Tourist Accommodation Registration Act* definition of fixed-roof accommodations
- start date of January 1, 2024

Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 In Camera Council Meeting – November 22, 2022:

- a) **Ratification of Tentative Agreement - CUPE Local 933 (Inside Bargaining Unit):**

Motion to approve the tentative Collective Agreement for CUPE Local 933 which covers a four-year term ending October 31, 2025, as presented. **Carried.**

5. COUNCILLOR AGENDA REQUEST:

5.1 Comfort Centers

Motion that staff be directed to provide an Issue Paper to determine the feasibility of designating community fire halls, professional and volunteer, as emergency comfort centers. **Carried.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Council met In Camera November 15th 2022, and earlier this date, pursuant to Section 22 (2) (d) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, to approve the November 22nd, 2022, Council Agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried.

2. PROCLAMATIONS:

2.1 National Housing Day – 2022:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Green, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 22nd, 2022 as National Housing Day; as a reminder to all Nova Scotians that access to safe, sustainable and equitable housing affects our collective mental health; and to have a mentally healthy community we must work together to ensure every member of our community has a place to call home.

Motion Carried.

2.2 United Way Cape Breton Giving Tuesday:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council recognize November 29th, 2022, as GivingTuesday in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried.

2.3 Project Red Ribbon Launch - 2022:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim the launch of MADD Cape Breton's Project Red Ribbon in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried.

Continued....

PROCLAMATIONS (cont'd):

2.4 National Campaign for Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day – 2022:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 26th of each year as "Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried.

2.5 James Delorey Day - 2022:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council declare December 3rd, 2022, as James Delorey Day in the CBRM.

Motion Carried.

3. DELEGATION:

3.1 Marketing Levy:

Terry Smith, CEO - Destination Cape Breton, provided a Power Point presentation on the Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy as outlined in the agenda package. He recommended amendments to the CBRM Marketing Levy By-Law to increase the rate to 3%; remove 10 rooms or more threshold, and to adopt the *Tourist Accommodation Registration Act* definition of fixed-roof accommodations, with a start date of January 1, 2024.

After the presentation, Council discussed Airbnb regulations and possible exceptions to payment of the Levy for emergency stays under 30 days.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Green, to approve the request by Destination Cape Breton to amend the CBRM Marketing Levy By-law as follows:

- increase rate to 3%
- remove 10 rooms or more threshold and adopt *Tourist Accommodation Registration Act* definition of fixed-roof accommodations
- start date of January 1, 2024.

Continued...

DELEGATION - Marketing Levy (Cont'd):

Motion (Cont'd):

Discussion:

During discussion, some Councillors shared their views on the issue including the following:

- Proposed use of incremental funds;
- Destination Cape Breton's consultation with CBRM staff regarding the levy;
- The allocation of funds dedicated to CBRM events;
- Exemptions to the levy;
- Changes to the legislation received Royal Assent on November 9, 2022.
- By-law must be updated by November 9, 2023 to align with legislation.

Following discussion, the Deputy Mayor called for the vote.

Motion Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 In Camera Council Meeting – November 22, 2022:

a) Update on Contract Negotiations with CUPE Local 933 (Inside Bargaining Unit):

Deanna Evely, Director of Human Resources, provided background information on the issue and recommended that Council pass a motion to approve the tentative Collective Agreement for CUPE Local 933 which covers a four-year term ending October 31, 2025.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to approve the tentative Collective Agreement for CUPE Local 933 which covers a four-year term ending October 31, 2025, as presented.

Motion Carried.

5. COUNCILLOR AGENDA REQUEST:

At this point in the meeting, Councillor MacMullin assumed the Chair to allow Deputy Mayor Edwards to bring forward his issue on the agenda.

5.1 Comfort Centers:

Deputy Mayor James Edwards reviewed his Request Form in the agenda package and requested an Issue Paper to determine the feasibility of designating community fire halls, professional and volunteer, as emergency comfort centers.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, that staff be directed to provide an Issue Paper to determine the feasibility of designating community fire halls, professional and volunteer, as emergency comfort centers.

Discussion:

During the discussion, some Councillors expressed their opinions which included:

- the number of comfort centers required for each district;
- the radius/population coverage for each comfort center;
- consult with volunteer fire departments to determine if they want to be a designated comfort center;
- consider including community centers as well as fire departments.

In response to a question, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that the CBRM Website could be formatted to allow residents to provide input on the names of individual volunteers and community groups that helped during Hurricane Fiona so they can be included in any event that may be planned for those who assisted CBRM with that storm.

After discussion, the Chair called for the vote.

Motion Carried.

Deputy Mayor Edwards resumed the Chair.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

N/A

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Deputy Mayor James Edwards
Chair

Deborah Campbell Ryan
Municipal Clerk