

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

9:33 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

Council

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill

Councillor Gordon MacDonald

Councillor Earlene MacMullin

Councillor Steve Gillespie

Councillor Eldon MacDonald

Councillor Glenn Paruch

Councillor Steve Parsons

Deputy Mayor James Edwards

Councillor Ken Tracey

Councillor Lorne Green

Staff

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Michael Ruus, Director of Planning and Development

Chris March, Acting Fire Chief/Director of Fire and Emergency Services

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

Deanna Evely, Director of Human Resources

Francis Campbell, Manager of Solid Waste

Robert Walsh, Chief of Police

Rob MacNamara, Communications Advisor – Mayor's Office

Kirk MacNeil, Financial Services Clerk of Engineering and Public Works

Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant

Kelly McDonald, Recording Secretary

Absent

Councillor Cyril MacDonald (Regrets)

Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger (Regrets)

Councillor Darren O'Quinn (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 Green, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to approve the November 28, 2023, Council Agenda and Addendums as presented.

Motion Carried

2. Proclamations

2.1 Project Red Ribbon Launch

Motion

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

Motion Carried

2.2 James Delorey Day

Motion

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Tracey, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim December 2nd, 2023, as James Delorey Day in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

2.3 Lebanese Heritage Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill and Council proclaim the month of November 2023, as Lebanese Heritage Month in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and invite all residents to learn more about the contributions of Lebanese Canadians to our culture, our economy, and our communities.

Motion Carried

3. Delegation

3.1 Victory Park – An Investment in the Revitalization of Downtown North Sydney

Ryan Duff, Board Chair of Victory Park Society provided a presentation titled, “Victory Park – An Investment in the Revitalization of Downtown North Sydney”. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that the ask by Victory Park of \$333,333 be moved to budget deliberations under the Capital Budget.

Discussion:

- Ownership of property parcels
- Benefits of parks

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising

4.1 Council Meeting – November 14, 2023

a) Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs’ Association

Mayor Amanda McDougall-Merrill read a letter of appreciation for CBRM’s Fire Fighters. The letter will be circulated for signatures of Council and a copy will be sent to each fire station across the municipality.

5. Corporate Service Issue

5.1 2024 Municipal and CSAP Elections – Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer

Marie Walsh, CAO, reviewed the memo included in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to approve the appointment of the Municipal Clerk as the Returning Officer and that the Regional Solicitor be designated as the Assistant Returning Officer for the 2024 Municipal and CSAP elections.

Discussion:

- Mentor requirements
- Election reserve budget

Motion Carried

6. Public Service Issue

6.1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging, Paper, and Paper-Like Products (PPP) Phase 1

Francis Campbell, Manager of Solid Waste, reviewed the Issue Paper and recommendation in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, that going forward CBRM will opt into EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) for PPP (Packaging, Paper, and Packaging-Like Products).

Discussion:

- Communication Plan
- Provincial uniform program
- Producer Responsible Organization (PRO) responsible for deciding how to run the program
- PRO responsible for the education of the program
- Savings and revenue opportunities
- Collection time frames
- No immediate requirement for change in equipment

Motion Carried

7. Councillor Agenda Request

7.1 Review of CBRM’s belonging to Associations, Federations

Councillor Steve Gillespie reviewed the Councillor Agenda Request Form that is included in the agenda package. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that senior staff bring back to Council for discussion the costs associated with and measurable results of membership to current associations and federations such as and not limited to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Municipal Administrators.

Discussion:

- Clarification of outcome sought
- Mandated Associations
- Costs, pros, and cons of association memberships
- Timeline considering budget deliberations
- Organize a workshop regarding associations and federations that Council is affiliated with

Motion Carried

8. Financial Statements

8.1 CBRM Financial Projections 2023 - 2024

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation titled, “CBRM Financial Projections 2023 – 2024”. The following motion was then put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Deputy Mayor Edwards, to have a CBRM Forecast Workshop focusing on opportunities for savings and deficit management.

Discussion:

- Workshop must be held within December 2024, allocated over a number of days
- Department Directors to be included in the workshop
- Financial spending freeze
- Importance of public awareness

Motion Carried

9. Review of Action Items from this Meeting

Mayor Amanda McDougall-Merrill noted the following action items from this meeting:

- Organize a workshop to discuss Council affiliated associations and federations
- Organize a CBRM Forecast Workshop focusing on opportunities for savings and deficit management

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill
Mayor

Christa Dicks
Municipal Clerk
/km