

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Council Meeting – Minutes

**Wednesday,
June 3, 2021
10:01 a.m.**

Via Video Conferencing

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall called the meeting to order.

Council: Mayor Amanda M. McDougall
Councillor Gordon MacDonald
Deputy Mayor Earlene MacMullin (left at 11:59 a.m.)
Councillor Cyril MacDonald
Councillor Steve Gillespie
Councillor Eldon MacDonald
Councillor Steve Parsons
Councillor James Edwards
Councillor Ken Tracey
Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger
Councillor Darren O’Quinn
Councillor Lorne Green

Staff: Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer
John MacKinnon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk
Demetri Kachafanas, Regional Solicitor
Michael Ruus, Director of Planning and Development
Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant
Angela Ross, Recording Secretary

Also Attending: Sylvie Gerbasi, PSDC Secretary/Treasurer
James Kerr, PSDC Chair of Governance, Member with Expertise in
Business & Commerce
Dan MacDonald, PSDC Member Licensed to Practice Law in Nova Scotia
Greg Delaney, PSDC Member with Expertise in Business & Commerce
Richard Paul, PSDC Membertou Representative
Marlene Usher, CEO - PSDC
Paul Carrigan, General Manager - PSDC
Nicole MacAulay, Manager of Cruise- PSDC

Absent: N/A

Summary of Decisions

Land Acknowledgement:

Roll Call

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor McDougall advised that a request was made by James Kerr, Chair of Governance for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation (PSDC), to address Council regarding the Articles of Association for the Port of Sydney. **AGREED**

Motion to approve the June 3, 2021, Council Agenda and Addendum as presented.
Carried.

2. Welcome and Introductions:

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and advised that the intent of the meeting is to alleviate any tension and rebuild relationships between Council, PSDC staff, and the PSDC Board of Directors.

3. CBRM Nominating Committee – Process:

The Municipal Clerk provided an overview of the recruitment procedure for citizens, followed by the process used by the Nominating Committee when dealing with citizen applications to the PSDC Board of Directors.

For Information Only.

*Council **agreed** to relax the speaking limit rules for the meeting.*

4. Port of Sydney Development Corporation – Review of Strategic Plan and Port Update:

A presentation was provided on the Strategic Plan for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation.

For Information Only.

Continued...

5. ADDENDUM

James Kerr, Chair of Governance for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation, recommended changes to the Articles of Association.

6. Continued Collaboration between the PSDC Board of Directors and CBRM Council:

The Mayor discussed next steps in regards to the continued collaboration between CBRM Council and the PSDC Board of Directors.

Adjournment

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor McDougall discussed the relationships with CBRM Council and First Nations and noted the importance of continuing to work toward truth and reconciliation. She offered deepest condolences to CBRM Mi'kmaq, First Nations neighbours and all indigenous communities across Canada.

Roll Call

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor McDougall advised that a request was received from James Kerr, Chair of Governance for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation (PSDC), to address Council regarding the Articles of Association for the Port of Sydney. **AGREED**

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to approve the June 3, 2021, Council Meeting Agenda and Addendum as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. Welcome and Introductions:

Mayor McDougall advised that with the recent reports regarding the relationship between the Port of Sydney Development Corporation Board, Port staff, and CBRM Council, and the recent Nominating Committee process, the intent of the meeting is to alleviate any tension and improve these relationships.

Mayor McDougall introduced Marlene Usher, CEO of the Port of Sydney Development Corporation, who welcomed the Port staff and Board members in attendance.

3. CBRM Nominating Committee – Process:

Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk, provided an overview of the recruitment procedure for citizens, followed by the process used by the Nominating Committee when dealing with citizen applications to the PSDC Board of Directors.

For information only.

Council **agreed** to relax the speaking limit rules for the meeting to provide Council members with the opportunity to speak multiple times at 5-minute intervals.

4. Port of Sydney Development Corporation – Review of Strategic Plan and Port Update:

Marlene Usher, Chief Executive Officer - PSDC, provided an overview of the Strategic Plan for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation and highlighted the following:

- Background
- Strategic Objectives
 - Novaport and Novazone
- Advocate for Private Enterprise Growth
- Non-profit and government stakeholders
- Navigational Aids & Harbour Bottom
- State of the Cruise Industry
- Retail at the Port
- Marina
- South Dock & Cove
- Port of Sydney Fisherman's Cove Quay Market

After the presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Navigational Aids:
 - Timeline, need for upgrades and funding for the Navigation Aids
 - Larger vessels cannot enter Sydney Harbour with current Navigational Aids (i.e. not positioned for dredged area)
- Acquisition of the Harbour Bottom
- Clarification regarding the Nominating Committee process and how the appointments were made
- Structures and buildings in the Cove
- Some Councillors shared their opinions regarding comments made by PSDC staff through email correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce and the media in terms of the recent appointments to the PSDC Board of Directors
- Location available for "Shop the Fiddle"
- Council more involved with the Port Board
- PSDC Board minutes should be publicly available and be provided for posting on the CBRM website

At this point in the meeting, Deputy Mayor MacMullin assumed the Chair to allow Mayor McDougall to participate in discussion.

Continued...

Port of Sydney Development Corporation – Review of Strategic Plan and Port Update (Cont'd):

Mayor McDougall expressed her enthusiasm regarding the development on the waterfront and spoke about the scope of work being done which she believes should be the focus of the PSDC. She then asked for clarity on the mandate of the PSDC mandate re: advocacy work involving the container terminal and how the process took place.

Ms. Usher explained that advocacy for the Port development has been ongoing and there may have been a misunderstanding of that role.

Mayor McDougall reassumed the Chair.

Council discussion continued, including the following:

- Update on Port projects in Louisbourg and Glace Bay
- Clarity on advocacy and work being done by the Port
- Lack of information to Council
- Suggestion to appoint Council members to serve on the Port Board
- Port financials and compensation for staff
- Crafters and Vendors
- Political endorsement of Navigation Aids needed
- Buildings on the boardwalk and Cove

5. ADDENDUM:

James Kerr, Chair of Governance for the Port of Sydney Development Corporation, advised that the Governance Committee met and discussed some gaps they identified in the Articles of Association, and recommended the following amendments:

1. Timeline in writing when directors are nominated
2. Annual General Meeting (AGM) date moved to February
3. Ability of the Board to reappoint Members to the Board

Mayor McDougall thanked Mr. Kerr for his suggestions.

Some Councillors shared their comments on the suggestions and discussed further joint conversations are needed.

6. Continued Collaboration between the PSDC Board of Directors and CBRM Council:

The Mayor noted the following:

- Regular communication to Council – more frequent than quarterly
- Board minutes should be made public
- Review and update Articles of Association
- Navigational Aids - CBRM Council to reach out to federal counterparts
- Tourism - ensure waterfront is thriving
- Governance Committee report around the Articles of Association closing the gaps has to happen immediately so that the Port Board is as functional as possible.

Council members expressed concern regarding emails, correspondence, and the media coverage on information discussed at Council's In-Camera session.

The Mayor thanked the PSDC Board volunteers, all staff and Council for their participation, and noted the need to work on the Articles of Association and further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall

/acr

**Deborah Campbell Ryan
Municipal Clerk**