

A special scheduled meeting of Trenton Town Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, June 03, 2019 beginning at 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Mayor Shannon MacInnis  
Deputy Mayor Don Hussher  
Councillor Alec Dove  
Councillor VJ Earle  
Councillor Steven Stewart  
Wayne Teasdale, CAO  
Marilou Sutherland, Deputy Clerk

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shannon MacInnis.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Stewart

Seconded by Councillor Dove

A request from Deputy Mayor Hussher to add additional item regarding the town rate. Motion carried.

### **Items for Approval**

#### **Collective Agreement between Town of Trenton and CUPE Local 281**

Moved by Councillor Stewart

Seconded by Councillor Earle

WHEREAS the proposed Collective Agreement between the Town of Trenton and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 281, as negotiated and recommended by the Chief Administrative Officer, be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Stewart thanked the team who negotiated the contract.

#### **Approval of 2019-20 Town Operational Budget**

WHEREAS the Council agreed to accept the Operating Budget for 2019-20 which was presented by the Chief Administrative Officer to Council

Moved by Councillor Stewart

Seconded by Councillor Dove

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Trenton that the statement of estimated revenues and expenditures for the 2019-20 fiscal year amounting to \$4,495,260 be approved;

BE IT RESOLVED that municipal services user fees from \$165.20 to \$143.42 per dwelling unit for solid waste collection and disposal, \$0.0725 per \$100 of assessment for hydrant fire protection and \$2.15 per cubic metre of water consumed for wastewater collection and treatment be approved for the 2019-20 fiscal year;

BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate for 2019-20 be approved at \$1.62 per \$100 of residential assessment and \$4.10 per \$100 commercial assessment;

BE IT RESOLVED that all interim taxes be due and payable on or before the 30th day of June 2019 and all final taxes be due and payable on or before the 31st day of October 2019;

BE IT RESOLVED that on and after the due dates, interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum (1.25% per month) will be charged on all unpaid amounts;

BE IT RESOLVED that on and after the due date of the final tax billings, the said rates and taxes may be collected by warrant of distress.

Deputy Mayor Hussher stated this is the highest increase in the tax rate he has ever seen. He expressed his appreciation the work the Chief Administrative Officer has put into the budget. The increase will affect a lot of families having the sewer rate increase 0.76 cents, residential increase 0.24 cents and the commercial 0.12 cents. The town needs to take a serious look at correcting the situation. He stated it is a very difficult decision.

Councillor Earle stated that the town should have increased the taxes 1 to 2% every other year over the past 14 years, it would have been easier to handle.

Councillor Stewart stated that no one is happy. According to the bylaw the town must charge for the debit on the sewer charge, the usage dictates the cost. Trenton tax rate is not the highest in the province.

Councillor Dove stated every statement is correct. The cost of services is not doing down, but the Town held the same rate for over 12 years. It will not be an easy fix.

Deputy Mayor Hussher disagreed with the statements. The tax base put the town in this situation. A hard look needs to be taken to get the town in better financial shape, discussion about the public meeting held at the rink annex in 2018 followed.

Mayor MacInnis gave his appreciation to everyone for giving their input. There has been circumstances beyond the town's control. First the property assessments are down which result in less taxes being collected, the plant not being sold has been a challenge, and the grant in lieu from Nova Scotia Power are all reasons for the town to being in this situation. It is his hope that next year may be a better year. Keeping Trenton as a town is the only option.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2019-20 Water Budget

WHEREAS the 2109-20 Water Budget was presented by the Chief Administrative Officer to Council  
Moved by Councillor Earle  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hussher

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Trenton that the Water Operating Budget for the year 2019-20 be approved at \$523,115.00 total expenditures.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2019-20 General Capital Budget

WHEREAS the 2019-20 General Capital Budget was present by the Chief Administrative Office to Council.  
Moved by Councillor Dove  
Seconded by Councillor Earle

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Trenton that the General Capital Budget for the year 2019-20 be approved at \$15,310.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2019-20 Water Capital Budget

WHEREAS THE 2019-20 Water Capital Budget was presented to Council by the Chief Administrative Officer  
Moved by Councillor Earle  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hussher

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Trenton that the Water Capital Budget for the year 2019-20 be approved by \$25,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Added Items**

Item 5 – Town Tax Rate

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hussher  
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

It was recommended that the Town of Trenton establish a finance committee to work with the Chief Administrative Officer to look at the tax rate solution for the next fiscal year 2020-21 to start as soon as possible.

The Chief Administrative Officer recommended that the Council in conjunction with administration review the existing finance/audit committee policy to ensure it's effectiveness. Discussions to follow.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resident Communication

Motioned by Councillor Stewart requesting an update on the letter to the Islamic Association of Nova Scotia.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hussher

Seconded by Stewart

To send a welcome letter to Islamic Association of Nova Scotia on the recent purchase of 29 Forge Street property with an invitation to attend a Council meeting. Letter to be written and issued by administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Earle

Seconded by Councillor Stewart

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Motion carried.