

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 @ 3:00 P.M.
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE COMPLEX

Warden Pitts called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENANCE

Warden Vernon Pitts
Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche
Councillor Paul Long
Councillor Mary Desmond
Councillor Neil Decoff
Councillor Dave Hanhams
Councillor Hudson MacLeod

OTHERS PRESENT

Shawn Andrews, Deputy CAO
Danita Imlay, Director of Finance
Angie Cleary, Director of Recreation
Magdelyn Connolly, Municipal Clerk
Nathan Sparks, RCMP
Catherine Hartling
Juanita Byard
Tonya Pelley
Deb Reddick
Delma Desmond
Alicia Ash

REGRETS

Councillor Fin Armsworthy
Barry Carroll, CAO

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

23-02-30295

MOVED: Councillor Neil Decoff

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the agenda with the noted addition.

MOTION CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIBATION – CONST. NATHAN SPARKS

PROCLAMATION

23-02-30296

MOVED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

SECONDED: Councillor Paul Long

MOTION: **THAT WHEREAS** February is recognised internationally as African Heritage Month - a time to recognise and salute the many contributions and ongoing achievements of people of African Descent all over the world and;

WHEREAS we are in the 9th year of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

WHEREAS this year's theme is "*Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*";

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Guysborough does hereby proclaim the month of February to be African Heritage Month in the

Municipality. We encourage residents, businesses and community groups to participate in the activities and celebrations, and to take the opportunity to reflect on the story of Nova Scotia's vibrant African Nova Scotian Community.

MOTION CARRIED

SIGNING OF PROCLAMATION

BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST YEARS MEETING

UPDATE ON INTERPRETATION PANELS

Mrs. Tavares stated that she is working with a community group in Sunnyville to compile the information for the interpretation panels, and that they have already chosen a location. She stated that next they will complete Interpretation Panels in Lincolnville with Upper Big Tracadie to follow.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Ms. Tonya Pelley stated that the idea is to develop a community group with representation from a wide range of minorities, including LGBTQ, African Nova Scotian, Immigrants, Acadian etc.

Councillor Desmond stated that other Municipalities have an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and she would like to see MODG follow suit. She stated that she does not believe non for profits should be expected to host events with their own funding and resources. Councillor Desmond stated that keeping in tune with MODG's *You Belong Here* slogan, we should be doing a better job at following through with that for all. She stated that it is a nice model but not everybody feels like they belong here so a committee of this nature would go a long way to help others feel a sense of belonging. A committee would be responsible for inclusively addressing issues and hosting events, celebrations etc.

Mr. Nathan Sparks stated that Community Groups in our African Nova Scotian communities have to financially fund and organize their own events, whereas other celebrations are hosted by MODG's, Recreation Department.

A discussion was held on various suggestions of how the proposed committee would look.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

23-02-30297

SECONDED: Councillor Neil Decoff

MOTION: **THAT** Council refer to staff for a report and recommendation on Council Representation on a newly developed Community Group.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Mrs. Catherine Hartling stated that there are various funds available to Community Groups such as the Green Fund. She stated that they would like to have money allocated to their own pot instead of identifying specific reasons and asking for it.

Councillor Desmond stated that if projects are going to come into the African NS Community, she believes the money should go directly to the African NS Community. She stated that if Goose Harbour Wind Project is going to be placing turbines in their community, they should be given notice, brought into the conversation and then be financially looked after.

Mr. Andrews stated that we have rules that need to be followed in regards to taxation and unfortunately that cannot happen. He stated that large investments in other districts support the entire Municipality.

A discussion was held, raising various concerns about MODG representation at gatherings and events in our African NS Communities.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

23-02-30298

SECONDED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough refer the request of funding being allocated to the community for their sole direction to staff for report and recommendation.

MOTION CARRIED

AFROCENTRISM CARE

Mrs. Delma Desmond echoed concerns heard that they do not see MODG representatives at their organized events in our African NS Communities.

Councillor Desmond stated that healthcare is important for everybody, but that there are more road blocks in Afrocentrism Care. She stated that MODG and Council should be looking at healthcare in Guysborough as a whole. Councillor Desmond stated that our African NS Communities need to be better represented when these issues are discussed. She stated that Afrocentrism Care cannot be taught, it is something that you need to see yourself, which will only happen if you attend events in our African NS Communities.

Ms. Alicia Ash questioned why brush cutting and road maintenance is not being done in Lincolnville. She also questioned why paving stopped just before the community of Lincolnville. Ms. Alicia Ash stated that seeing her community not being well taken care of does not encourage her or others to move back home.

Warden Pitts stated that MODG is continuously advocating to have this work completed but it is a provincial responsibility.

Mr. Andrews indicated that Council does meet with Department of Public Works quarterly to discuss these exact issues. He stated that a letter on Highway 16 paving was set to the province just before Christmas.

Mr. Andrews reported that the flag raising ceremony will be at the Municipal Office at 4:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT

23-02-30299

MOVED: Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche

MOTION: **THAT** the Special Council meeting of April 6, 2022 stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (4:00 p.m.)

WARDEN

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE