

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 @ 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
Councillor Paul Long
Councillor Mary Desmond
Councillor Neil Decoff
Councillor Hudson MacLeod

OTHERS PRESENT

Shawn Andrews, Deputy CAO
Danita Imlay, Director of Finance
Glen Avery, Director of Public Works
Gordon MacDonald, Director of Economic Development
Debbie Torrey, Development Officer
Angie Cleary, Director of Recreation
Magdelyn Connolly, Municipal Clerk
Nathan Sparks, RCMP
Kenny Sceles
Tonya Pelley
Alicia Ash
Juanita Byard
Sabrina Skinner

REGRETS

Deputy Warden Janet Peitzsche
Councillor Dave Hanhams
Councillor Fin Armsworthy
Barry Carroll, CAO
Sean O'Connor, Business Development Officer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

24-02-30552

5.b Recognition of Councillor Mary Desmond

MOVED: Councillor Paul Long
SECONDED: Councillor Neil Decoff
MOTION: **THAT** Council approve the agenda with the noted addition.
MOTION CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIBATION – KENNY SCELES

MOTION & SIGNING OF PROCLAMATION

24-02-30553

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond
SECONDED: Councillor Paul Long
MOTION: **THAT WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has deemed February as African Heritage Month;

WHEREAS people of African ancestry contributed significantly and positively to the shaping of our Canadian society for 150 years;

WHEREAS people of African ancestry have been residents of Nova Scotia for more than four hundred years;

WHEREAS the General Assembly of the United Nations designated 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the District of Guysborough is provincially recognized as one of more than 52 African Nova Scotian communities in the Province of Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the District of Guysborough values and celebrates the rich cultural diversity of its community; and salutes the sacrifices and leadership of our African Nova Scotian citizens of Guysborough and across Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS this year's theme is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience";

THEREFORE, I, Warden Vernon Pitts, of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough do hereby proclaim the Month of February 2024 as African Heritage Month in recognition of the achievements and legacy of the African Nova Scotian community while also looking forward to future greatness. We will strive to address inequities and injustices, to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding among all people while furthering pride, dignity, and inspiration in those who identify with African heritage.

MOTION CARRIED

SIGNING OF PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION OF MARY DESMOND

Warden Pitts read out loud the written recognition of Councillor Desmond by the Antigonish Woman's Resource Centre, commending her for her excellence and dedication to our residents.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST YEARS MEETING

UPDATE ON INTERPRETATION PANELS

Mrs. Tavares reported that the Sunnyville panels have been completed and will be installed at the head of the trail going into Sunnyville in the Spring. She reported that she is working with community representatives to complete the Upper Big Tracadie Panels. Mrs. Tavares stated that the panels for Lincolnville are the last ones to be completed, which intend to be completed this year.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Andrews provided a brief update on the formation of an EDI Committee, outlining the proposed Committee structure. He stated that a call for applicants is planned to be advertised in late April.

TIME FOR MEETING

24-02-30554

Councillor Desmond stated that the time allotted for the ANS Special Council Meeting has not been adequate in previous years. She stated that she does not want the ANS Special Council Meeting to be on the same day as other meetings of Council or Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

SECONDED: Councillor Paul Long

MOTION: **THAT** the African Nova Scotia Special Council Meeting be scheduled as a stand alone meeting in future years to allow for adequate time.

MOTION CARRIED

LAND TRUST

Ms. Skinner asked Municipal representatives if there has been any progress made to date with the Land Trust. She furthered by asking if the Municipality is accepting of Land Trusts and if there are additional lots that may be considered.

Mrs. Torrey reported that the Municipality has not been progressing on the Land Trust, since 2022 when she was requested to research the workings of such a Trust. Mrs. Torrey reported that there have been no updates released to her knowledge since 2021-2022. She stated that land needs to have clear title in MODG's name for it to be transferred, and that she will investigate potential lots.

Mrs. Torrey stated that in the past Municipal Council has the option under the MGA to follow a process to transfer land to non-profit organizations upon request, which may be an option for them.

Councillor Desmond stated that there is a non-profit organization in the process of establishing a request and that they will be approaching various levels of government with the request.

EMANCIPATION PLANNING EVENTS

Mrs. Byard stated that community members would like to start the Emancipation activities earlier in the year, with the possibility of hosting various events year-round.

Councillor Desmond stated that the community has taken the lead with Emancipation planning thus far and that the community feels that MODG should be planning separate events to celebrate Emancipation Week. She stated that community members do not feel they belong, and that most people do not attend the events that the ANS community host.

Councillor Desmond stated that there were no staff or representative from MODG that attended the meeting with the RCMP Deputy Commissioner in November, when they came to apologize to the ANS Communities. She stated that MODG talks about EDI, but the communities do not see it put into action. Councillor Desmond stated that the Deputy Commissioner sent a follow up email to her, stating that of all the communities he visited, Guysborough's meeting affected him the most.

Ms. Skinner stated that she attended because she felt that the RCMP needed to hear from community members, and that it would have been very educational for MODG Council to attend.

EDUCATIONAL PIECE – CODE OF CONDUCT

Mrs. Hartling asked if MODG has any bylaws or policies in place regarding discrimination.

Mr. Andrews advised that MODG does.

Mr. Sparks reported that the within the RCMP they complete restorative justice, which is a very effective method of education.

Mrs. Hartling stated that MODG should amend their policies to ensure that they are up to standard, to prevent incidents and effectively deal with the restoration.

FREQUENT UPDATE – ACTION PLAN

Ms. Skinner indicated that community members would like to be updated regularly on MODG's process. She stated that they will gather the respective email addresses and forward the list to MODG.

Mr. Sparks replied that they asked last year for regular updates but have not received any.

Mr. Andrews stated that it was the assumption that communications were being relayed by the Councillor.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES – KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

Councillor Desmond stated that a group of seven participants partook in a Knowledge Keeper's course, funded by the Community Health Board's Wellness Fund.

Councillor Desmond stated that a Knowledge Keeper is somebody who takes the traditions and cultures, taught to them by an Elder, to share with and teach others.

Councillor Desmond proceed to present the Knowledge Keepers in attendance with their certificates.

ADJOURNMENT

24-02-30555

MOVED: Councillor Mary Desmond

MOTION: **THAT** the Special Council meeting of February 28, 2024 stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED (4:15 p.m.)

WARDEN

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE

DRAFT