

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held in-person at the Town Hall, via Facebook Live on Monday, June 17, 2024, starting at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Sylvester Atkinson; Deputy Mayor Gail Smith, Councillors Bernadette Knapp, Chad Leblanc, Gary Marshall and John Bartlett (via ZOOM); Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker; and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau

Regrets: Councillor Michael Fairn

Also in Attendance: Sandra Fournier, Patricia Leslie, Caitlin Coleman, Tara Balcome, and Krystal Cane

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atkinson called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

240617.01 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Middleton Pool Society

2023 Key notes:

- AKHK Grant allowed to give free swimming lessons to individuals in need
- Created private changing rooms in male and female bathrooms
- Operated a canteen throughout the summer
- Purchased new equipment, picnic tables, chairs and replaced windows
- Town supplied new benches for changing room and pool deck
- Started accepting credit and debit card payments through square

2024 Short Term Goals

- Replace diving boards, purchase robot vacuum, replace thermal blanket and reel, purchase BBQ and pressure washer, increase number of swimming lessons offered, launch online registration platform, open pool in June, increase accessibility and inclusion at the pool, pursue grants to help expand programming, fundraising for future renovations

Long Term Goals

1. Full Facility Renovation
2. Increase Efficiency
3. Create a Gathering Place for Community

4. MINUTES

4.1 Council Meeting

240617.02 It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

4.2 Special Council Meeting Minutes

240617.03 It was moved and seconded to approve the Public Hearing minutes of June 3, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

4.3 In-camera Council Meeting Minutes

240617.04 It was moved and seconded to approve the special council minutes of May 6, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

Citizen Patricia Leslie brought forward the following concerns via email and in person:

1. Budget? When will it be done?
Who is responsible for its completion? The process?
 - CAO Crocker advised that the Director of Finance is typically responsible for the budget, however, the position has been vacant since February, which has caused some delay in the budget, year-end audit, some of our reporting, etc. The goal is to present the draft to the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 2nd and to Council on July 15th.
2. Tax dollars, where are they being allocated? Another increase this year?
 - We can't comment on whether there will be a tax rate increase this year until the budget is completed – we are still working on it and bringing some final pieces together.
3. We are paying taxes without knowing where the money is going?
 - CAO Crocker communicated that there is quite a bit of information regarding this in last year's budget presentation which can be found on the Town's website. The Town's Committee of the Whole meeting and Council meetings on budget presentation/discussion is open to the public.
4. Free recreational equipment at Riverside Park. Did tax dollars pay for it? Should there not be a nominal fee to use, due to maintenance, salaries and replacement. Another option, if our taxes are paying for it, then let Middleton taxpayers use it for free and nonresidents pay a rental fee.
 - CAO Crocker stated the Town's free equipment, whether it be indoor or outdoor equipment, is funded by grants. At Riverside it is only bikes, canoes and kayaks which were all obtained with grant funding.

5. What is Middleton doing for pride this year?
- CAO Crocker advised the following:
 - Town Council proclaimed May 17th as International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
 - The Pride Flad has been put up by the Town at Centennial Park, as well as the Museum.
 - People First Group will have a Pride activity at Rotary Park (date TBD) at which they will raise the Pride Flag.
 - Town approved a new policy called “Gender Diversity Workplace Inclusion Policy” in February 2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 RFD 030-2024 Health and Wellness Policy

CAO Crocker recommended that Council approve the Health and Wellness Policy as circulated.

Councillor Barlett asked about cost sharing and what is the cost from previous years? CAO Crocker explained this policy was approved previously with no dollar value.

240617.05 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Health and Wellness Policy. **Motion carried.**

6.2 RFD 031-2024 Municipal Innovation Program Grant

CAO Crocker recommended that Council approve the Municipal Innovation Program Grant as circulated.

CAO Crocker stated that through discussions at the Annapolis County Inter-Municipal Working Group, the Town of Annapolis Royal, Town of Middleton and the Municipality of the County of Annapolis are interested in combining their efforts with respect to economic development. This program would support the hiring of one economic development officer focused specifically on economic development for the three municipalities. The economic development person would not replace what Valley REN is doing.

240617.06 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Municipal Innovation Program Grant as circulated. **Motion carried.**

240617.07 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Resolution as circulated. **Motion carried.**

7. REPORTS

7.1 Management Report

CAO Crocker gave an overview of some of the highlights of the Management report that was circulated. The Audit has been moved to the first week of September.

7.2 Middleton Fire Department Dispatch Report for May

CAO Crocker noted that the report has been circulated.

7.3 Annapolis County Inter-Municipal Working Group May 30/24 DRAFT Minutes

Mayor Atkinson noted that the report has been circulated.

7.4 IMSA Board Special Meeting May 28/24 DRAFT Minutes

Mayor Atkinson noted that the minutes have been circulated.

7.5 IMSA Board May 15/24 "Meeting Minutes"

Mayor Atkinson noted that the minutes have been circulated.

CAO Crocker stated the "Meeting Minute" is something new and will be done once a month moving forward.

7.6 Valley REN LOC May 22/24 DRAFT Minutes

Councillor Bartlett noted that the minutes have been circulated. Councillor Bartlett has a lot of hope for more people coming into the Town.

7.7 Audit Committee May 27/24 DRAFT Minutes

Councillor Knapp noted that the report was circulated to Council members. Sandra Fournier and Chris Bradley are new members to the Audit committee. Deputy Mayor Smith is now the Chair and Chris Bradley is the Vice-Chair.

7.8 Mayor's Report

Mayor Atkinson noted that the report was circulated to Council members.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Minister Lohr Financial Measures Act

- CAO Crocker gave a brief overview of the Letter from Minister Lohr regarding the Financial Measures Act.

8.2 Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- CAO Crocker gave an overview of the Letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

8.3 Increase to Policing Resource Level

- CAO Crocker gave an overview of the correspondence regarding the increase in policing resource level.

9 ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Marshall stated that Public Works has been doing a great job at doing the street cleaning.

Councillor Leblanc noted the Middleton High School prom and parade is on Tuesday, June 25th in the evening.

Mayor Atkinson noted that there are many rodents and rats seen coming from the corner of Bridge Street and Spring Garden.

A citizen reached out to Mayor Atkinson regarding the noise bylaw. CAO Crocker has been speaking with the citizen.

10 IN CAMERA

240617.08 It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting and move to in camera at 8:07pm. **Motion carried.**

240617.09 It was moved and seconded to move out of in-camera at 8:45pm. Motion carried. Adjourn in camera at 8:45pm. **Motion carried.**

11 ADJOURNMENT

20240617.10 It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. **Motion carried.**


Mayor


Recording Secretary