

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Special Meeting
Thursday, March 25th, 2021
3:00 pm
Council Chambers

Council: Warden Laurie Cranton
Deputy Warden Bonny MacIsaac
Councillor Alfred Poirier
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Lynn Chisholm
Councillor Catherine Gillis

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Christine Murray, Manager of Legal and Governance
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll Call was taken.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *That the agenda be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

2. CHARITABLE TAX EXEMPTIONS

The Director of Finance, Tanya Tibbo, provided an explanation of the various assessment codes applicable for tax exemptions, as well as the tax exempt properties per district.

MOTION: *That the charitable tax exemptions listed in Schedule "A" of the Council Package be approved in the amount of \$334,000.00 as per Section 71 of the Municipal Government Act.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

3. UNCOLLECTABLE TAXES

The Director of Finance provided an explanation on the process for collecting taxes as well as a detailed listing of taxable exempt properties, capital accounts, and inactive property tax accounts.

MOTION: *That Council write off the outstanding amounts attached in the Council Package, as they are deemed uncollectible, specifically:*

- \$66,806.41 in principal and \$19,101.02 in interest for taxable exempt accounts;
- \$3,912.75 in principal and \$1,756.04 in interest for capital accounts;
- \$32,782.33 in principal and \$25,410.26 in interest for inactive accounts;

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

4. PROPOSED GROUP BENEFIT CHANGE

The Director of Finance provided an explanation of the Group Benefits for staff of the Municipality of the County of Inverness provided by Morneau Shepell. There are two available benefit options. Currently, the Municipality participates in Option 2, which offers less coverage than Option 1. The Director of Finance proposed a change in the Municipality's current coverage.

MOTION: *That the Municipality accept the changes proposed for the Morneau Shepell group benefits plan effective April 1, 2021, and the Municipality move to Option 1 from Option 2 of the Dental Plan as outlined in the Council package.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

5. COST OF LIVING INCREASE

The Director of Finance provided an overview of the cost of living increases implemented by the Municipality in recent fiscal years, and discussed the available options for addressing a potential cost of living increase for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

MOTION: *That Council accept the 3 year average cost of living increase in fiscal 2021 – 2022 in the amount of 1.6%.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

6. NEXT MEETINGS

Regular Council: April 1, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Budget Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Committee of the Whole: April 15, 2021 at 9:30 am (followed by Budget Meeting).

7. IN CAMERA

The purpose of today's In Camera session was to discuss matters related to:

- a) Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 4:26 pm.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 4:43 pm.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 4:43 pm.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION CARRIED