



Regular Meeting of Council

January 29, 2025

(Held virtually via Zoom due to inclement weather)

PRESENT Warden Eleanor Roulston
 Deputy Warden Carl MacPhee

Councillors: Cecil Dixon	Craig Merriam
Walter Tingley	Norval Mitchell
Elie Moussa	Eldon Hebb
Keith Rhyno	Sandra Garden-Cole
Michael Perry	

STAFF Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Wade Tatttrie, Director of Finance
 Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
 Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
 Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
 Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
 Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
 Ms. Erin Taylor, Communications Coordinator
 Ms. Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
 Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Roulston called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. (Delayed start due to technical difficulties which were corrected).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Roulston respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty people.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION

A moment of silent contemplation was observed.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

C25 (10) On the motion of Councillors Tingley and Dixon:
January

Moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C25(11)
January On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Hebb:

Moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) Meeting held December 10, 2024 and Regular Meeting of Council held December 18, 2024, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

A complete copy of "Correspondence for Information" is attached to and forms part of the minutes.

ITEM #13. CONGRATULATIONS LETTER TO SIPEKNE'KATIK FIRST NATION FROM WARDEN ROULSTON

Councillor Mitchell asked if there was a reply with regards to setting up a meeting between the two Councils. The CAO noted there has been no direct reply to the letter, but a meeting is planning next week with Chief Glasgow on unrelated matters and discussion will be held regarding a joint Council meeting.

ITEM #47. CORRESPONDENCE TO MINISTER JOHN LOHR FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER OUTLINING THE CONCERNS REGARDING THE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Warden Roulston asked Council if we would be interested in sending a letter to Minister Lohr in support of the Municipality of Chester's concerns regarding the Code of Conduct Policy as it relates to Clause 14(2) of the model policy.

C25(12)
January On the motion of Councillors Mitchell/Dixon:

CAO

Moved to send a letter to Minister John Lohr in support of concerns raised by the Municipality of Chester regarding the Code of Conduct Policy.

Discussion was held and questions answered by Staff.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #10. RESPONSE LETTER FROM JOHN LOHR, MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS ADVISING THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING AMENDMENT TO SECTION 22(2) OF THE MGA

Councillor Perry expressed a desire that the timeline regarding the amendment to Section 22(2) of the MGA to allow in-camera discussions regarding federal and provincial government topics in alignment with the Halifax Charter is soon.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

A complete copy of “Correspondence for Decision” is attached to and forms part of the minutes.

ITEM #69. REQUEST FROM HANTS NORTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION SEEKING PERMISSION TO RETAIN GRANT FUNDING PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED FOR THE HANTS NORTH JAYS INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2019.

C25(13)
January

On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Tingley:

Tapper

Moved for the funds awarded (\$9,000 issued) to the Hants North Baseball Association be retained and used by the Association, and for the Association to report back to Council on their activities before March 31, 2026.

Discussion was held and questions answered by Staff.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #68. COUNCIL PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO INVITE THE THREE MLA'S SERVING EAST HANTS RESIDENTS TO JOIN COUNCIL FOR A GROUP DISCUSSION. STAFF ARE SEEKING COUNCIL'S PREFERENCE TO SCHEDULE A MEETING.

Discussion was held.

C25(14)
January

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Moussa:

CAO

Moved that Council select Option 2 to break for a longer lunch break during an Executive Committee meeting (provide lunch) in Room 168 so that Council can attend a meeting with the three MLA's serving East Hants residents.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #64. LANTZ VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THEIR 2 CENT FIRE LEVY INCREASE REQUEST

Discussion was held and questions answered by Staff.

C25(15)
January

On the motion of Councillors Merriam and Tingley:

Tattrie

Moved to revisit the request from Lantz Volunteer Fire Department during the budget process.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #57. DRAFT AGREEMENT NS AND EAST HANTS RCMP SUPPORT STAFF FOR COUNCIL REVIEW AND APPROVAL TO SIGN.

The CAO explained the purpose and terms of the agreement.

C25(16)
January

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Moussa:

CAO

Moved to authorize the CAO sign and extend the agreement with the Province until May 6, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #48. CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING AFFORDABILITY AND ICE TIME SCHEDULING FOR THE EAST HANTS SKATING CLUB

C25(17)
January

On motion of Councillors Perry and Mitchell:

Tapper

Moved to postpone this request from the East Hants Skating Club until such time that staff presents rates during budget meetings.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM #46. LETTER FROM KIM MASLAND, MINISTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RE: MOVING TOWARDS CONSISTENT AND IMPACTFUL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The CAO outlined some concerns with the expectations described in the letter from Minister Masland.

Discussion was held and questions answered by Staff.

C25(18)
January

On motion of Councillors Dixon and Tingley:

CAO

Moved that council write a letter to Minister Kim Masland expressing concerns regarding the emergency response protocols suggested in the letter.

Discussion was held and staff addressed questions.

MOTION CARRIED

SETTING SUMMER ICE RATES - EAST HANTS SPORTSPLEX

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture explained the desire to set summer ice rental rates for the East Hants Sportsplex to accommodate planning for the summer season.

C25(19)
January

On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam:

Tapper

Moved that Council approve the ice in Ice Pad B be maintained for the summer (June 15th - August 31st) and rented at non-prime rates, and that rates for the summer be set at \$117.39 for general users and \$223.36 for corporate users (HST not included).

MOTION CARRIED

Ten (10) voting in favour and one (1) voting against, with Councillor Rhyno voting nay.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Tingley, as Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on January 20, 2025. The minutes of that meeting were made available to all members of Council. There are no motions coming forward as a result of that meeting.

C25(20)
January

On motion of Councillors Tingley and Dixon:

Moved the adoption of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

CORPORATE & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on January 21, 2025. The minutes of that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion came forward as a result of that meeting:

BYLAW F-400-10, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW F-400, TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW - FIRST READING

C25(21)
January

On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Moussa:

Tattrie

Moved that Council give first reading to By-law F-400-10, an amendment to By-law F-400, Tax Exemption By-law, and be amended to reflect the following changes:

- ***Add Property #01078852, Tots Academy Child Care Society to Schedule B;***
- ***Remove Property #00088897, Anglican Church of Canada (Christ Church) from Schedule A;***
- ***Remove Property #10560985, Corridor Community Options Society***
- ***Update addresses:***
 - ***Property #10560977, Corridor Community Options Society to 201 Park Rd***
 - ***Property #07840764, Hants North Food Bank to 7070 Hwy 236***

MOTION CARRIED

PROCUREMENT POLICY UPDATE - LOW VALUE THRESHOLD

C25(22)
January

On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Mitchell:

Clarkson

Moved that Council amend their Procurement Policy as attached to the Executive Agenda January 21, 2025; as well as, change the Financial Guidelines for Volunteer Fire Departments to reflect the same changes.

MOTION CARRIED

RURAL TRANSIT SOLUTIONS FUND - CAPITAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

C25(23) On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Tingley: Clarkson
January

Moved that East Hants apply to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund to support the \$2,405,000 capital costs associated with implementing Phase 1 of the Battery Electric Bus Strategy for public transit in East Hants.

MOTION CARRIED

Eight (8) voting in favour and three (3) voting against, with Warden Roulston and Councillors Garden-Cole and Rhyno voting nay.

DOG TAG REGISTRATIONS

C25(24) On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Perry: Clarkson
January

Moved that Council continues to maintain a dog tag registration program and that Council consider implementing a lifetime dog registration fee option and instruct staff to bring back draft amendments to the Municipal Fee Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

C25(25) On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Moussa:
January

Moved the adoption of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Perry, as Chairperson of the Infrastructure & Operations Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on January 21, 2025. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion is coming forward as a result of that meeting.

SOLID WASTE - EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

C25(26) On motion of Councillors Perry and Hebb: Hulsman
January

Moved that Council have a letter sent to Circular Materials stating the Municipality of East Hants' interest to continuing to explore East Hants managing the curbside collection program on behalf of Circular Materials are

part of a transition related to the Extended Producer Responsibility programming.

MOTION CARRIED

C25(27)
January On motion of Councillor Perry and Mitchell:

Moved the adoption of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Mitchell, as Chairperson of the Planning Advisory Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on January 21, 2025. The minutes of that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions came forward as a result of that meeting:

MINI HOMES AS ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

C25(28)
January On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Tingley: Woodford

Moved that Council authorize staff to come back with an additional report regarding the design requirements for accessory dwelling units with consideration around stick-built units, and that the report be brought back as soon as possible so that it can be dealt with in a timely manner.

MOTION CARRIED

CONCEPT PLANS AND REZONING APPLICATIONS

C25(29)
January On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Moussa: Woodford

Moved that Council direct staff to improve communication to the public as outlined in the staff report (titled "Motion C24(138): Rezoning and Concept Plans" as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated January 21, 2025).

MOTION CARRIED

HAF INITIATIVE - VILLAGE CORE (VC) ZONE DENSITY INCREASE

C25(30)
January On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Hebb: Woodford

Moved that Council authorize staff to schedule a public information meeting to consider the proposal to amend the East Hants Official Community Plan to increase the density in the Village Core (VC) Designation and Zone

MOTION CARRIED

Nine (9) voting in favour and two (2) voting against, with Councillors Garden-Cole and Rhyno voting nay.

C25(31)
January

On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam:

Moved the adoption of this report.

MOTION CARRIED

FIRST READING (REPEAT) - BYLAW P-800-2, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW P-800, CIVIC ADDRESSING BYLAW

C25(32)
January

On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Moussa:

Woodford

Moved that Council give first reading to Bylaw P-800-2, a Bylaw to amend Bylaw P-800, Civic Addressing Bylaw.

MOTION CARRIED

FIRST READING - BYLAW F-400-10, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW F-400, TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW

Done earlier in the meeting during the Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Deputy Warden MacPhee assumed the chair, at the request of the Warden. The Warden provided a verbal report on her recent activities.

Warden Roulston resumed the Chair.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided verbal reports on their recent activities.

Staff addressed questions from Councillors. The following motions resulted from their reports.

EXISTING CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF THE MILFORD RECREATION CENTRE

C25(33)
January

On the motion of Councillors Merriam and Hebb:

Hulsman

Moved that a letter be sent to Nova Scotia Department of Public Works seeking to collaborate on improvements to the existing crosswalk in Milford, along Highway 2 near the Milford Recreation property, on improving crossing effectiveness through items such as the use of Zebra markings and accessible features coming from the sidewalk side of the road.

Discussion was held.

MOTION CARRIED

LETTER REGARDING UNIACKE QUARRY EXPANSION

C25(34)
January

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Mitchell:

Woodford

Moved to resend the letter to the Minister that was approved by Council against any expansion of the Uniacke Mines Road Quarry and copy the three MLA's serving East Hants residents.

MOTION CARRIED

UNIACKE LEGION PARK FLAG POLE REQUEST

C25(35)
January

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Moussa:

Tapper

Moved that the Municipality provide funds for two new flag poles at the new cenotaph location at the Uniacke Legion Park, one to raise the Municipal flag and the other to fly the Grand Council (Mi'kmaq) flag, with funds to come from the same funding source as the Shubenacadie Cenotaph movement project (Housing Accelerated Funding), up to \$15,000.

Discussion was held.

MOTION CARRIED

SETBACK VARIANCES FROM WATERCOURSES ON UNDERSIZED LOTS

C25(36)
January

On motion of Councillors Moussa and Perry:

Woodford

Moved that staff bring a report back to Council through the Mount Uniacke planning review regarding set back variances from watercourses and lakes on undersize lots.

MOTION CARRIED

SETTING DATE & TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

C25(37)
January

On motion of Councillors Mitchell and Moussa:

Moved that the February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) and February 26, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

C25(38)
January

On motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Moussa:

Moved that Council adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED



Approved By: Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
Date: January 30, 2025



Approved By: Eleanor Roulston, Warden
Date: February 26, 2025

/ar