



Regular Meeting of Council

March 25, 2026

PRESENT: Warden Eleanor Roulston
Deputy Warden Cecil Dixon

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

STAFF:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Mr. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Planning, Recreation & Culture
- Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Ms. Amanda Hatfield, Information Management Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER & HISTORICAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Roulston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and recited the historical acknowledgement.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION

A moment of silent contemplation was observed.

SETTING DATE & TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) will be held on April 14, 2026 and the Regular Meeting of Council on April 22, 2026.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

C26(81)
March

The agenda was approved as presented with unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C26(82)
March

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council (Policy and In Camera) held on February 17, 2026 and the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 25, 2026 were approved with unanimous consent.

PRESENTATION - EAST HANTS GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE (EHGSR)

00:02:50

Mr. Matthew Barkhouse and Mr. Gilbert Chandler, of EHGSR, gave a presentation on what the organization does, who they are, and an update on their 5-year plan.

Mr. Barkhouse answered questions from councillors. Warden Roulston thanked the group for their presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

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

ITEM 36: EMAIL AND INFORMATION FROM NS COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION NETWORK (NSCTN) AND RURAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (RTA)

00:26:33

Correspondence has been received from the chairpersons of each organization providing an update on recent changes to provincial community transportation funding and potential implications to the organizations providing that service in East Hants. Councillor Merriam asked how these cuts will affect East Hants and the Community Rider. It is possible that requests for increased funding will come to municipalities because of the provincial funding cuts.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

ITEM 66: PACE PROGRAM SERVICE AGREEMENT UPDATE

00:34:57

The Municipality’s PACE program, administered by the Clean Foundation since 2022, will no longer accept new applications after March 31, 2026. This decision was made by the Clean Foundation to allow for the completion of existing projects while it reviews funding and the future of the program. The current service agreement is being extended to November 1, 2026 to support the completion of active files. To date, three projects have been completed and five are in progress, representing approximately \$163,700 in total financing.

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and MacPhee:

00:35:00

Moved (later withdrawn) that Council direct staff to return to Council with a report outlining options for the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

C26(83)
March

On the motion of Councillors Tingley and MacPhee:

00:39:07

Moved that Council discontinue the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program as of March 31, 2026.

Clarkson

Ten (10) voting in favor, one (1) voting against. Councillor Perry voting nay.

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 62: DATE SELECTION FOR THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN SESSION WITH THE RCMP

C26(84)
March

On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Mitchell:

00:44:32

Moved that Council direct staff to work with the RCMP to schedule the annual performance plan meeting on April 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 59: LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST FROM CORRIDOR COMMUNITY OPTIONS FOR ADULTS

C26(85) On the motion of Councillor Garden-Cole and Deputy Warden Dixon: 00:46:32
March *Moved that Council direct staff to send a letter of support of the Corridor Community Options for Adults application to the Nova Scotia Community Housing Growth Fund.* Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

SECOND READING BYLAW A-300 ENCROACHMENT ON MUNICIPAL REAL PROPERTY BYLAW

C26(86) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Tingley: 00:48:24
March *Moved that Council give second reading to Bylaw A-300, Encroachment on Municipal Real Property.* Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

SECOND READING BYLAW P-1200-1, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW P-1200, LOT GRADING AND DRAINAGE BYLAW

C26(87) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam: 00:57:15
March *Moved that Council give second reading to Bylaw P-1200-1, a bylaw to amend Bylaw P-1200, Lot Grading and Drainage Bylaw.* Woodford

MOTION CARRIED

SECOND READING BYLAW P-1000-2, AN AMENDMENT TO BYLAW P-1000, DOG BYLAW

C26(88) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Mitchell: 00:59:38
March *Moved that Council give first reading to Bylaw P-1000-2, an amendment to Bylaw P-1000, Dog Bylaw.* Woodford

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORPORATE & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee presented the report from the meeting held on March 10, 2026. The minutes of that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions are coming forward as a result:

LANTZ VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT- MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXTENSION

In 2024, Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lantz Volunteer Fire Department (Lantz Fire). The MOU is to explore the former Lantz School site PID 45148111 for mixed use development opportunities that may include a future fire station. The MOU expired March 1, 2026. Because a larger municipal fire services review may be coming, it would make sense for Lantz Fire to hold off on investing funds into a needs assessment at this time, and instead extend the MOU with the Municipality.

C26(89) On the motion of Councillor Garden-Cole and Deputy Warden Dixon: 01:01:10
March ***Moved that Council direct the CAO to extend the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Lantz Volunteer Fire Department for two (2) years, with terms to be agreed upon by both parties.*** Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

C26(90) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and MacPhee: 01:01:44
March ***Moved that Council direct staff to bring back a report on the level of study we could do at this time for risk and needs assessment (of the fire service) to move this thing along.*** Clarkson

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPAL FEE POLICY - IMPOUND & BOARDING FEES FOR DOGS

There is a facility in Truro that has expressed interest in operating as our municipal kennel, and meets all of the requirements to impound a dog. The rate is \$80/dog/day plus HST, and includes housing, food, and exercise for the impounded dog. The fees recommended for this service are purposely higher than other jurisdictions to encourage dog owners to ensure their dogs do not roam and as a means of partial cost recovery for the service. Based on discussion by Council last month, a clause has been added to the draft policy to allow these fees to be waived at the discretion of the Compliance Officer.

C26(91) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Mitchell: 01:03:00
March ***Moved that Council approve updates to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated March 10, 2026.*** CAO

MOTION CARRIED

2026/2027 WATER UTILITY OPERATING BUDGET

C26(92) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Mitchell: 01:04:40
March ***Moved that Council approve the East Hants Water Utility Financial Estimates from 2026/2027 to 2028/2029 as presented on March 10, 2026.*** Tattrie

MOTION CARRIED

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Mitchell, as Chairperson of the Planning Advisory Committee, presented the report from the meeting that was held on March 10, 2026. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions are coming forward as a result:

PLN25-007 PORTUCANA CONSTRUCTION - INITIAL REPORT

The Municipality has received an application from Portucana Construction Services Limited to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. One property is a municipally owned property, which has been deemed surplus by Council.

01:05:17

C26(93) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell & Hebb: 01:06:00
March *Moved that Council authorize staff to schedule a public information meeting to consider a proposal for PID 45329901 and PID 45379864 to redesignate and rezone the two (2) properties located on Lacy Anne Avenue from the Established Residential Neighbourhood (ER) designation to the Medium Density Residential Neighbourhood (MR) designation and to rezone the same lands from the Two-Dwelling Unit Residential (R2) zone to the Townhouse (R2-T) zone; and that Letters notifying surrounding properties of the public information meeting be sent to any property within 500 m.* Woodford

Seven (7) voting in favor, four (4) voting against. Deputy Warden Dixon and Councillors Moussa, Rhyno and Garden-Cole voting nay.

MOTION CARRIED

SAM CRESCENT PARKING ISSUES

Council directed that staff prepare a report to outline options to alleviating parking concerns in the Sam Crescent and Tyler Street area. This was prompted by a resident on Sam Crescent writing to Council to request a review. Several options were presented and discussed.

C26(94) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell & Moussa: 01:07:47
March *Moved that Council direct staff to provide education material to residents of Sam Crescent and Tyler Street in the Autumn, prior to the snow season, to remind vehicle owners to find alternative parking and clear out their garages if it is needed for parking.* Woodford

Ten (10) voting in favor, one (1) voting against. Councillor Garden-Cole voting nay.

MOTION CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Councillor Perry, as Chairperson of the Infrastructure & Operations Committee presented the report from the meeting held on March 10, 2026. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions came forward as a result of that meeting:

SOLID WASTE TIPPING FEE POLICY

The current tipping fee schedule is set to expire March 31, 2026. Therefore, the policy requires a review and updates to the rates. The schedule is 1-year to align with contracts for processing and transportation scheduled to go to market in the upcoming fiscal year.

C26(95) On the motion of Councillors Perry and Merriam: 01:09:39
March *Moved that Council adopt the proposed amended Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy, with pricing schedule effective April 1, 2026 to expire March 31, 2027.* Hulsman

MOTION CARRIED

POSSIBLE UPDATES TO BYLAW IO-400, SOLID WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL BYLAW

Regulations related to the Nova Scotia recycling program prompted a review and update of Bylaw IO-400 Solid Waste Resource Collection & Disposal Bylaw. Staff have conducted a thorough review of the bylaw and have recommended updates for consideration.

C26(96) On the motion of Councillors Perry and Hebb: 01:08:37
March ***Moved that Council direct staff to proceed with revisions of the Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Bylaw IO-400, and prepare to bring back the final revised draft for detailed review.*** Hulsman

MOTION CARRIED

CCOA CROSSWALK REQUEST

The new Corridor Community Options for Adults (CCOA) building has recently opened in the Elmsdale Business Park, and it is expected that there will be an increase in pedestrian travel from the CCOA site to the public sidewalk network on the opposite side of Park Road. A review was conducted to determine if a mid-street crosswalk would be warranted for this location. Discussion was held and concern was raised around CCOA clients safely crossing the street.

C26(97) On the motion of Councillors Perry and Merriam: 01:10:39
March ***Moved that Council request that a crosswalk in support of the Community Corridor Options for Adults location in the Elmsdale Business Park be brought back in a future budget for consideration, once more traffic data is collected and pedestrian movements to access the institutional/commercial site are better understood.*** Hulsman

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

MOTION CARRIED

C26(98) On the motion of Councillor Garden-Cole and Deputy Warden Dixon: 01:13:01
March ***Moved that Council direct staff to bring back a report on the feasibility of including crosswalks for any institutional buildings that we build in East Hants, such as CCOA and others, in areas where the sidewalk is on the opposite side of the road.*** Woodford/
Hulsman

Nine (9) voting in favor, two (2) voting against. Councillors MacPhee and Moussa voting nay.

MOTION CARRIED

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Rhyno, as Chairperson of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee presented the report from the meeting held on March 10, 2026. The minutes from that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motions came forward as a result of that meeting:

2026 VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS AND MODEL VOLUNTEER

C26(99) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Mitchell: 01:17:42
March *Moved that Council approve the Volunteer Award nominees and the Model Volunteer as presented in the confidential memo sent to Council by email; and for the Model Volunteer to be designated to represent the Municipality of East Hants at the Provincial Volunteer Award ceremony.* Tapper

MOTION CARRIED

2026 TOURISM GRANTS

C26(100) On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Hebb: 01:18:34
March *Moved that Council approve Tourism Grant funding recommendations totaling \$52,500 for the following organizations, with \$12,500 drawn from the Tourism Grant reserve:* Tapper

- *Maitland District Development Association - \$19,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society - \$12,500*
- *Come Home East Hants Association (Tide Fest) - \$10,000 toward facility rental costs*
- *Gore Trails - \$6,000*
- *Walton Area Development Association - \$5,000.*

MOTION CARRIED

DISTRICT RECREATION FUND (DRF) - 1ST INTAKE

Councillor Garden-Cole declared a conflict of interest as she is a member of the EH Horne Preservation Society board, signed the Book of Disclosure and moved to the gallery until after the vote on the application.

C26(101) On the motion of Councillor Rhyno and Deputy Warden Dixon: 01:20:51
March *Moved that Council approve District Recreation Funding in the amount of \$36,500 to the EH Horne School Preservation Society (\$10,000 from District 1, \$2,000 from District 2, \$1,000 from District 3, \$1,000 from District 6, \$2,500 from District 7 and \$20,000 from District 10).* Tapper

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Garden-Cole resumed her seat.

C26(102) On the motion of Councillor Rhyno and Deputy Warden Dixon: 01:21:54
March *Moved that Council approve District Recreation Funds totaling \$170,651 in the following amounts:* Tapper

- *East Hants Gymnastics & Trampoline Club - \$15,003 (\$2,000 from District 1, \$8,003 from District 2, \$2,000 from District 3, \$1,000 from District 6, \$1,000 from District 7 and \$1,000 from District 10)*
- *Nine Mile River Trail Association - \$27,360 (\$2,000 from District 1, \$2,000 from District 2, up to \$16,860, pending external funding, from District 3, \$2,000 from District 4, \$1,000 from District 6, \$2,500 from District 7 and \$1,000 from District 10)*
- *Milford Recreation Association - \$17,925 (\$2,000 from District 2, \$5,000 from District 3, \$8,692 from District 6 and \$2,233 from District 7)*
- *Uniacke District Home & School - \$22,500 (\$11,250 from District 8 and \$11,250 from District 9)*

- *Uniacke Legion, RCL 165 - \$20,000 (\$10,000 from District 8 and \$10,000 from District 9)*
- *Mt. Uniacke Mustangs - \$10,554 (\$5,277 from District 8 and \$5,277 from District 9)*
- *Shubenacadie Canal Commission, Lock 6 Park - \$30,000 (\$5,000 from District 1, \$2,500 from District 2, \$2,500 from District 7 and \$20,000 from District 10)*
- *Rawdon District Home & School - \$27,310 (\$2,000 from District 3 and \$25,310 from District 11)*

MOTION CARRIED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Deputy Warden Dixon assumed the Chair at the request of the Warden.

Warden Roulston, as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on March 10, 2026. The minutes of that meeting were made available to all members of Council. The following motion came forward as a result of that meeting:

EAST HANTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE - PUBLIC MEMBERS

C26(103)
March

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Mitchell:

01:27:08
Hulsman

Moved that Council re-appoint the following members for a three-year term starting April 1, 2026 ending March 31, 2029 to the East Hants Source Water Protection Committee:

- *Customer of the Water Utility within the Regional Water Supply System: Jill Searle*
- *Representative from Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) or an equivalent association as determined by the East Hants Nominating Committee: Tom Mills*
- *Resident living within the East Hants portion of the Near Zone of the Grand Lake watershed: Patricia Lyall*

MOTION CARRIED

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden provided a verbal report on her recent activities.

Warden Roulston resumed the Chair.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

01:30:33

Councillors provided verbal reports on their recent activities. Staff addressed questions from Councillors. The following motion resulted from their reports:

C26(104)
March

FLOODING IN LANTZ AT ROUNDABOUT

On the motion of Councillors Tingley and MacPhee:

Move that staff write provincial public works and report that a hazard exists on Highway 2 between the Lantz roundabout and East Hants Sportsplex caused by significant stormwater flowing over the crosswalk and road with significant force during normal rainfalls and, request that a technical study of the flooding in this area be completed to analyze the risk and identify flood risk mitigation options.

01:47:13
Hulsman

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Date: March 27, 2025

Approved by: Eleanor Roulston, Warden
Date:

/ah

