

2025-09-16 Municipal Council

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Minutes of the regular session of Municipal Council held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Municipal Administration Building, 752 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS.

Roll Call

District 1 – Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman, present
District 2 – Jesse Hare, present
District 3 – Dustin Enslow, Deputy Warden, present
District 4 – Charles “Chuck” Cranton, present
District 5 – Lynn Longmire, present
District 6 – Jon Welch, present
District 7 – Ted Agombar, excused
District 8 – Nile Harding, present
District 9 – Gail “Gidget” Oxner, present
District 10 – Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, present
District 11 – Diane Le Blanc, Warden, present

Also Present: CAO Rob Frost; Administrative Clerk Tina Halliday; Director of Finance Paul Wills; Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Alyssa Blais; Communications Coordinator Nadine McCormick; Manager of Information and Technology Ben Olsen; Director of Municipal Operations Jim Young

A note of thanks was received from Zofya Handley-Armstrong.

Warden Le Blanc extended an official welcome to incoming CAO Rob Frost. She also expressed a huge thank-you to Intermin CAO, Dawn Campbell for all her hard work.

Disclosure of Interest

None

Order of the Day

Amended to add an in-camera session in accordance with Section 22(2)(f) of the *Municipal Government Act* (litigation or potential litigation).

Approved as amended.

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Oxner

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes

Re: 2025-07-11 Special Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-07-15 Regular Council Minutes

Approved with minor corrections

Re: 2025-07-15 Public Hearing Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-07-29 Special Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-08-16 Emergency Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-08-22 Emergency Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-08-29 Emergency Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

Re: 2025-09-05 Emergency Council Minutes

Approved, no errors or omissions

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Re: SR2025-86 Creation of a Genealogy/History Centre

Motion 250916.01 Creation of a Genealogy/History Centre

To receive the report for information, and that no further action be taken by the Municipality at this time, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole

Moved: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Seconded: Councillor Welch

Motion passed unanimously

Re: SR2025-87 Road Naming for Primary Shared Access Road

Motion 250916.02 Road Naming for Primary Shared Access Road

To approve the road name "Catalpa Court" for the shared access road in Carleton Corner, on PID 05311493, in accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Deputy Warden Enslow

Motion passed unanimously

Re: SR2025-88 Road Naming for Secondary Shared Road

Motion 250916.03 Road Naming for Secondary Shared Road

To approve the road name "Sunward Lane" for the shared road in Carleton Corner, on PID 05311493, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole

Moved: Councillor Oxner

Seconded: Councillor Connell

Motion passed unanimously

Re: SR2025-89 Letter to the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council

Motion 250916.04 Letter to the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council

To send a letter to the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council (NSISC) requesting coordinated efforts to raise awareness and promote a unified response to invasive species, in accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole

Moved: Councillor Welch

Seconded: Councillor Harding

Motion passed unanimously

New Business

Re: SR2025-93 Approve Bylaw 10 Livestock

Motion 250916.05 Approve Bylaw 10 Livestock

To give final reading to approve *Bylaw 10 Livestock*, first reading having been given on July 15, 2025

Moved: Councillor Parsons-Saltzman

Seconded: Councillor Cranton

Motion passed unanimously

Council Motion Tracking List (May, June, July)

Reviewed for information

Councillor Comments

District 1 – Councillor Parsons-Saltzman extended greetings from District 1. She noted that summer quickly passed with challenges we have never experienced before within the county. She passed her thoughts on to the citizens of the West Dalhousie community. She extended a thank you to all who stepped in to make a bad situation better. Councillor Parsons-Saltzman mentioned that farmers are trying to get their crops in for harvest this season and she hoped the yields would be there and that mother nature blessed us all with some rain.

District 2 – Councillor Hare extended greetings from District 2. He noted Margaretsville cancelled the monthly breakfast in September due to the wildfire. He stated the Port George breakfast was fortunate to have a local neighbor donate scallops for the breakfast, which was a nice treat for the community. Councillor Hare encouraged people to make use of the wharf in District 2 and the skid way. He stated that the bay is not as scary as one would think when you get out there in it. He would love to see more people use it with the woods ban in place and before the snow flies.

District 3 – Deputy Warden Enslow extended a thank-you for all the work that had happened in the Municipality and offered a warm welcome to the new CAO. He expressed his gratitude to everyone in the Municipality, including Council, for the support and effort they put into the whole fire situation. He also wanted to thank the other departments in the province. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been phenomenal and so has the Department of Emergency Management. Deputy Warden Enslow noted

that most of the events in his district had been cancelled or moved because of the support of the forest fire. He hoped that now that the command center has moved back to West Dalhousie, the hall will be used for community activities again. The Clarence Country Market, on Clarence Rd, is open every Sunday until mid-October. There are other activities happening throughout Port Lorne and Hampton. He encouraged people to look at the County information guide as well as the Bridgetown Reader. He mentioned another program that the Municipality is leading, which is a 10-week virtual business accelerator program. It's a partnership we have that was developed for those 18-30 years that are looking to start entrepreneurship, which is very important in the Annapolis Valley. He would like to encourage anyone that is interested to apply.

District 4 – Councillor Cranton extended greetings from District 4. He welcomed our new CAO, Rob Frost. He acknowledged all of those affected by the wildfires. Councillor Cranton thanked all involved with the firefighting efforts and support involved with combating the wildfire. He offered some updates about community halls and their fall programs. The Moschelle Community Hall will be having their monthly pancake breakfast on September 27th from 8-11am and they have noted that this particular pancake breakfast is a fundraiser with all funds going to those affected by the fires. Bishop Park will be having a drive-thru chili supper, also on September 27th from 4:30-6pm with a vegan option available. Tupperville Community Hall is having their Harvest Supper on October 4th from 5-7pm. There are also ongoing, weekly events at the Granville Ferry Hall which is very active with lots of ongoing weekly events. The family literacy program returns to Champlain Elementary School this week and this is on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7pm. This is a free program for families in the local area if they wish to attend. Lastly, Councillor Cranton, as council's appointment to the board for the Annapolis Valley Exhibition, wanted to express that it has been a real pleasure to represent Council on that board for this past year just to see all the work that goes into planning for one big week. He acknowledged they have lots of things going on around the grounds year round but it has been a really big learning experience to see all the work that goes into the exhibition.

District 5 – Councillor Longmire offered a warm welcome to our CAO Robert Frost. She noted that this summer has been both inspiring and challenging for our communities. August was certainly different this year as we faced the Long Lake wildfires in West Dalhousie. Councillor Longmire expressed her heartfelt thanks to all those involved with the wildfire. She stated that beyond the fires, it has been a busy season filled with opportunities to celebrate our heritage, creativity, and community spirit. She listed the following highlights:

- Raven Haven: Annapolis County Staff & Council Social
- Centrelea Community Hall: Opening of the new Community Comfort Centre
- Heritage Events: Acadian Festival at Fort Anne, Belle Isle Open Mic hosted by Jennifer and Charlie Thibodeau, and the Garrison Graveyard event with Parks Canada marking 13 years of MAPannapolis
- ArtsPlace: Celebrating District 5 artists Susan Tooke Exhibit -Table Talk and Lorne A. Julien - A Mi'kmaw Family Story
- Port Royal Lighthouse Association had a very successful lobster roll fundraiser for the Schafner Point Lighthouse- sincere, thanks to the communities and volunteers that made this a success, it was sold out.

- Volunteering in fundraising efforts and supporting the Bridgetown Legion/ Sunset Tides Cornwallis Park helping to feed the agencies responding to the fires.

Councillor Longmire mentioned the following community events:

- Lower Granville Hall: (Port Royal): Fitness walking, Book Club, Coffee Fridays 10 am
- Youngs Cove Hall: Coffee Mondays 10:30 am, Music Jams Friday nights 7 pm
- New Horizon Hall: Music Jams Monday nights 7 pm

She noted that September is an exciting time for students. She wished them a wonderful year. She encouraged residents to stay tuned for updates on the Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail 40-year Celebration in early October.

District 6 – Councillor Welch offered greetings from District 6. He noted that regular councillor duties have kept him busy meeting with residents, handling property matters, and following up on road maintenance with Public Works and our provincial partners. He thanked everyone who came out to ask questions and listen to James Wallace, the new developer for the former ABDS lands north of Highway 1 on August 14, 2025. Councillor Welch served as a panelist at Paint the Town and delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Warden on August 17, 2025. He commented that this wildfire tested us, and our community answered proving that our sense of community does not stop at a boundary line. He noted that we will remember the damage, but even more we will remember the resilience—the quiet, unseen help, the neighbours checking on neighbours, the way people showed up without waiting to be asked. He thanked everyone who has been involved.

District 7 – Councillor Agombar was not present to give councillor comments.

District 8 – Councillor Harding extended greetings from District 8. He expressed that he hoped everyone had a good summer but realized that many in our county did not. He stated that his family’s thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by the wildfires. He welcomed the news that more evacuees were allowed back into the area yesterday. Councillor Harding thanked everyone involved in the fire response, and those who worked to keep the public informed. He mentioned that he took a tour of the facility in Cornwallis Park that housed the firefighters and was impressed with what was being done to accommodate those staying there. Councillor Harding attended the firefighter’s breakfast in Bear River. He stated that the summer was busier and more chaotic than expected. He noted that he still plans on hosting “Coffee with your Councillor” sessions; with the next sessions to be held at the Milford Hall in late September or early October. He extended a welcome to CAO Rob Frost.

District 9 – Councillor Oxner offered greetings from District 9. She extended a welcome to new CAO Rob Frost. She expressed a heartfelt thank you to Dawn Campell, Interim CAO, the County staff, Councillors, partners and Volunteers for their hard work and long hours they have committed to the Dalhousie Wildfire. Councillor Oxner stated that she felt fortunate to have been able to help out at the Animal Care Facility on a few occasions and got to meet the interesting and hysterical friends they had visiting. She felt it eased the minds of some of the evacuees to see that we have such a lovely facility for their animals to reside in for the duration of the evacuation.

She noted that she is looking forward to the East End Advisory Committee meeting this week, as they had an unexpected slowdown in the process but are moving forward again.

District 10 – Councillor Connell extended greetings from District 10. He welcomed CAO Rob to the County. He expressed his thanks to everyone involved with the wildfire. Councillor Connell states he spent couple of weeks helping people move in and out of district 10, took lots of calls from everyone over the county on a variety of issues. He noted that August was a busy month. Councillor Connell stated that he visited the exhibition and realized that with the economy the way it is, and definitely the wildfire going on in our community, affected some of the events that were going on in the month of August. He noted that Wharf Rat Rally, which supports a lot of Annapolis County businesses, was down a large amount this year.

Councillor Connell mentioned that Beaver Creek Wine had a wine tasting and car show, which was their first one and it went very well. There were lots of local antique cars and vehicles there. He attended the 150th Anniversary of Albany Church, and while listening to the history of the church discovered that many years ago, there was a major forest fire in Albany Cross and those fires came right up behind the Church, and the way they tell it, it was an act beyond ours, that the wind shifted and took the fire away from the Church and it wasn't touched. He stated that the event was great and well attended.

District 11 – Warden Le Blanc took a few moments to say a huge, heart-felt thank you to everyone. She noted that "Thank you" is such a little word for what everybody has been giving of themselves, even the people who are not from our county, that have come to the county to help. Those that are not from our province but have still come to the county to help. She noted that we are in it together, we are united, and we will stay united until this is all done. Warden Le Blanc expressed that there have been so many things going on this month, but the major thing was making sure our residents were taken care of from the wildfires. She mentioned the Three Rivers Community Centre, will be having a bake sale and ticket auction on Saturday, September 27th from 10-2. This is at 41 Messenger Road, Torbrook Mines. She encouraged everyone to check their Facebook page for other upcoming events.

In-Camera (10:47 a.m.)

To meet in-camera in accordance with Section 22(2)(f) of the *Municipal Government Act* (litigation or potential litigation).

Moved: Deputy Warden Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Oxner

Motion carried

The meeting resumed at 11:50 a.m. with all councillors present as prior to the in-camera session.

Adjournment

The Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

Warden

Recording Secretary