

PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
January 9, 2025

A public council meeting was held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday January 9, 2025

Present: Tom Rose Mayor, Chairperson
Susan Fowlow Deputy Mayor
Laura Aylward Councillor
Maurice Hynes Councillor
Tom O'Brien Councillor
Darren Roberts Councillor
Myra White Councillor

Staff: Bill Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Candace Simon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk
Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communication Officer
Mike Ratter, Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager
Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 12:07pm.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the Town of Stephenville as the ancestral homeland of different populations of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge with respect, the rich histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-001 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to Approve the agenda for January 9, 2025 as presented.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-002 Moved by Deputy Mayor Fowlow, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved to approve Public Meeting of Council Minutes dated December 19, 2024

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NONE

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Mayor read the following statement, "Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, I am pleased to inform you that new legislation for municipalities and local service districts took effect on January 1st.

One key change is that committee meetings are now open to the public, an exciting step forward in making municipalities more transparent and accessible.

Our regular finance committee meetings will take place every Monday at 12:00 PM, prior to the public meetings of the same week. The planning committee meetings will be held every Tuesday at 12:00 PM, also the same week as the public meeting.

In the event of a holiday, the finance committee meeting will be moved to Tuesday at 1:00 PM, following the planning meeting. All meetings take place in the Council Chambers of the Town Office.

While committee meetings are not televised, we invite the public to attend in person, just as you would our general meetings.

To keep you informed, we have updated our events calendar on the town website, which includes a schedule of all Committee and Public Meetings.

Additionally, we are pleased to continue offering virtual attendance for our regular general meetings. Please note, however, that this remains optional, as long as in-person attendance is available.

We look forward to another year of serving you and are happy to accommodate these positive changes. Together, let's continue building a more engaged and connected community. Wishing you all the best in 2025."

The Chief Administrative Officer stated the town is working with Municipal and Provincial Affairs to pass new bylaws and revise the rules of procedures under the new act.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Expense Cheque - Expense cheques for month of December 2024
2. Request for Grant - Stephenville Historical Society.

25-003 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved to Defer items one and two of the finance committee.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Reports

None

BY-LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICYS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Aylward

She stated the Christmas Adventure on Main Street event was successful and well attended. She thanked everybody who contributed to the event.

Sent condolences to Mr. Kinsman on the passing of his father.

She stated the council is encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting with Health Services to discuss our concerns and advocate for a number of services to be returned to our hospital. She noted as a councillor and vice-president of the healthcare action committee she is frequently contacted by community members who express their experiences and concerns of our health care. Mayor Rose agreed with Councillor Aylward that it's vital to emphasize our hospital has the resources available to have obstetrics services at the hospital, furthermore it's also important we continue to advocate, the same as we advocated for a new medical clinic.

Councillor White

Send condolences to the family of the late Mr. Eddy Jesso.

75th Anniversary of Confederation Medal

Chief Administrative Office acknowledged that Councillor Aylward, Councillor Hynes and Councillor O'Brien were awarded the 75th Anniversary of Confederation Medal.

Municipal and Provincial Affairs - Long Service Award

Mayor Rose presented Councillor Aylward with long service award from the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs. She was recognized with 30 years of municipal service.

(Councillor O'Brien left chambers from 12:28-12:36pm)

Mayor Rose

He unveiled the new street signage that will be installed first on all streets from Queen Street, West Street and Main Street. These bilingual signs will feature two murals celebrating our French Acadian and Indigenous cultures. He acknowledged the signage can be credited to our Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager; he also thanked management and staff for their work. He also noted funding was obtained from the provincial government to offset the costs.

Send condolences on the passing of former President Carter, today he was honored with a state funeral. We will remember his visit to Stephenville and his acknowledgement of his visit. His legacy of service and humanitarian work will continue to inspire us all. Councillor O'Brien stated during one interview he indicated the greatest benefit to his presidency was the influence it provided him to continue his humanitarian work for over forty three years after leaving office.

NOTICE OF MOTION

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

25-04 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:41pm

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried