

PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
January 23, 2025

A public council meeting was held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday January 23, 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
Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communication Officer
Mike Ratter, Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager
Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager
Don Gibbon, Fire Chief

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

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

25-05 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Hynes
Be it Resolved to Approve the Agenda for January 23, 2025 as presented.
In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-06 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien
Be it Resolved to approve Public Meeting of Council Minutes dated January 9, 2025
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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met on January 20, 2025 the following items were recommended for council approval.

Accounts Payable

25-07 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts
Be it Resolved to pay accounts payable dated January 23, 2025 in the amount of \$1,103,489.35.

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

Expense Cheque

25-08 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts
Be it Resolved to pay expense cheques for month of December 2025 in the amount of \$611,587.52

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

Request for Grant – Stephenville Historical Society

25-09 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward
Councillor Hynes declared a conflict of interest as vice-chair of the historical society and left the table at 12:20 pm

Be it Resolved to approve a grant in the amount of \$12,000 to the Stephenville Historical Society.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, O'Brien, Roberts, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Councillor Hynes returned to the Council table at 12:21 pm

Property Tax

25-10 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to to write-off property taxes in the amount of \$3,448.62

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

Water & Sewer

25-11 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to adjust Water & Sewer Tax in the amount of \$2,674.16

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

Business Tax

25-12 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved to approve Business Tax Adjustments in the amount of \$28,088.02

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

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Planning & Traffic committee met on January 20th, 2025, and the following items were recommended for Council approval.

Amendment to Policy – Quarry Operation Permits

25-13 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to amend the Quarry Operation Policy to include that the contractors/operators will be required to obtain annual lease with the Town of Stephenville for the land on which the pit is located at a rate of minimum \$1,000 or \$1,000 per hectare.

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

Approval for Easement: New Mexico Drive – NL Power Inc and Bell Canada

25-14 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to enter into agreement with Newfoundland Power Inc and Bell Canada to provide "easement of land" for electrical and telecommunication on the parcel of land described in Schedule "A" on New Mexico Drive.

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

Approval to issue expression of interest

25-15 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved, to issue an expression of interest for the Stephenville Garden Corporations (Stephenville Dome) Board of Directors

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

BY-LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICYS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councillor Roberts asked was there any update on the building that was once the Women's Penitentiary. CAO Ramsay said that during meetings in St. John's earlier that week, he attempted to meet with the Department of Transportation but was unsuccessful, so will do a follow up with the Minister's office. Mayor Rose said there are formal request letters on file. He mentioned that the building is quite dilapidated, and the biggest concern is the safety of people who work and live in the area. With each windstorm, pieces of the building break off and fly around. Deputy Mayor Fowlow suggested setting a timeline and keep on top of it and on top of everyone's to do list.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rose

He said he has been getting a lot of compliments on the signs. There were a couple of signs that had grammatical errors that needed fixing. He said that once the new signs are all up, the old signs might be available for purchase through an auction.

Appointment of Fire Chief

25-16 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved, to hire Donald Gibbon as Fire Chief for the Town of Stephenville.

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

Councillor Aylward

She noted the meeting with NLHS officials went well. There was an OB/GYN online for the meeting and there is currently 4 in the region right now. She noted there is a former resident who wants to come home and work. She is graduating in 2026 and will be here in August for a wedding, so would be a good time to set up a meeting. She also mentioned that our recently hired surgeon is now living in Corner Brook and has also joined a fee for service team in there. He is currently only coming out here part time. Councillor Aylward said we need to lobby for another surgeon who will live here in case an emergency surgery is ever needed.

Chief Administrative Officer

He advised that during his time in St. John's he met with two Assistant Deputy Ministers from the Department of Health. They were aware of the meeting that was held between Council and NLHS. They spoke briefly on OB/GYN, Surgery and also the future Long Term Care Facility. There are selection sites currently being looked at and the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology will be contacting the Town for more information.

He also spoke on recruitment of Doctors, Specialists and Medical Personnel and there are many applications being submitted from Towns throughout the Province. The Government Officials noted that daycare seems to be the key element in the recruiting process and having daycare services near to the hospital is higher on the list or priorities than money. He said this is something we need to move on and prioritize along with wastewater management.

Mayor Rose

He said new industries and existing industries have higher demands for acute care and we need to start fighting for our services now. These projects will help us lobby for additional services and will bring young families to our area.

NOTICE OF MOTION

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

25-17 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm

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