

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Glasgow Square. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Dorrington, Councillors Peters, McKenna, Fraser, and Joe MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Kim Dickson, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Ryan Leil, NGRP Chief; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Absent from the meeting were Councillor Jessica MacDonald; staff members, Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering and Derek Eisan, Director of IT.

AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of item C. Memo – Citizen Appointments for Committees of Council and item D. FCM Annual Conference Report – Councillors McKenna, Peters, and Jessica MacDonald under Unfinished Business.

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CARMICHAEL PARK USAGE POLICY

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the Director of Community Development recommending that the Council approve the adoption of the revised Carmichael Park Usage Policy to replace the following three policies: Use of Carmichael Park Policy no 12-718-10(03) August 17, 1992, Structures and Monuments in Carmichael Park November 9, 1998 and Carmichael Park Policy effective November 3, 2009.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the revised Carmichael Park Usage Policy be

approved as presented.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES – CREDIT CARD AND PURCHASING CARD POLICY

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the Director of Corporate Services recommending that Council approve the Credit Card and Purchasing Card Policy.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Credit Card and Purchasing Card Policy be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND ACTIVE LIVING MANAGER – ACCESSIBLE STAIRS AND RAMP AT WARD 1 RECREATION CENTRE

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the Director of Engineering and Active Living Manager recommending that Council award the Design-Build contract to the sole bidder, I. Matheson and Company Ltd. The contract includes fabrication, assembly and construction of accessible stairs, a ramp, and exterior entrance features at the Ward One Recreation Centre, in compliance with current accessibility standards. The cost of \$142,970 plus HST has been approved in the CD Capital Budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the successful proponent, I. Mathson and Company Ltd. be approved as presented.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington inquired if there was a backup plan due to delays in the work being completed according to the schedule within the contractor's proposal outlined in the recommendation.

Director of Engineering and Public Works advised that the department feels confident that the work will be completed according to the schedule provided by the contractor.

Councillor Peters asked if there was any consultation with the organizers of the Black Gala Homecoming and would the work interfere with the upcoming homecoming events hosted at the Ward 1 Community Centre.

Director of Community Development advised that the Board of Directors of Ward 1 Community Centre are aware of the contractor's timeline and are communicating with the Black Gala Homecoming Committee as the building rentals and operations are managed by the Ward 1 board.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION NGRP CHIEF AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY – PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR CHILDREN PLAYING

TRAFFIC AWARENESS SIGNS POLICY

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the NGRP Chief recommending that Council adopt the policy on Processing Requests for Children Playing Traffic Awareness Signs which prioritizes a comprehensive education and enforcement strategy.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Processing Requests for Children Playing Traffic Awareness Signs Policy be approved as presented.

Councillor Fraser inquired if traffic humps would be an effective solution to regulate traffic.

NGRP Chief Leil advised that speed humps are being introduced in residential areas in cities as a traffic calming measure and more investigation will be conducted regarding potential installation in the Town.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION NGRP CHIEF – SAFEWATCH PUBLIC SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEM POLICY

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the NGRP Chief recommending that Council adopt the Safewatch – Public Safety Camera System Policy as the governing framework for the use, management, and oversight of public safety camera technology within the Town of New Glasgow.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Safewatch – Public Safety Camera System Policy be approved as presented.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington asked how the public safety cameras differ from the cameras already installed or are they the same.

NGRP Chief Leil advised that these cameras do not differ from the cameras already installed, this policy is intended to capture all those cameras as well as future camera installations.

Councillor McKenna asked how these cameras would be monitored.

NGRP Chief Leil advised that these cameras will not be live stream monitored unless there is a need for it, the cameras are used to record the events and later reviewed for evidentiary purposes.

Councillor Peters asked if there were any additional costs associated with the implementation of this policy.

NGRP Chief Leil advised that there are no additional costs related to the implementation of this policy.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington asked if these cameras will be installed at the community centres.

NGRP Chief Leil responded that the department recognizes that there is a need for infrastructure and hopes to grow this project throughout the community.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS – ASPHALT PATCHING TENDER

Council reviewed the recommendation submitted by the Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that the contract for the 2025/26 Asphalt Patching Contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Webster Brothers Paving and Concrete Ltd., of Westville, for total estimated quantities, for a cost of \$156,500 plus HST.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the asphalt patching contract to Webster Brothers Paving and Concrete Ltd. be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWN OF TRENTON – SALE OF SERVICE POLICE CONTRACT UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO and Police Chief recommending that Council acknowledge the letter from the Town of Trenton providing notice that the town will not be renewing their police services through NGRP and indicate that the provision of policing services from NGRP will terminate on March 31, 2026. It is also recommended that the Town of Trenton assume responsibility for their crosswalk guards effective September 1, 2025, which would include the transfer of payroll services, scheduling, and operational management of their crosswalk guards. It is recommended that the NGRP and Town management begin to work on the assessment of impact on the NGRP operations and bring forward the analysis as well as recommendations back to the Council for further consideration to ensure a smooth transition with minimal implications to our operations.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved as presented.

Councillor Joe MacDonald asked whether any specific aspects of the service, such as court services, are expected to extend beyond the date of March 31, 2026.

NGRP Chief Leil responded that there will be substantial planning and consideration given for court processes for criminal matters and the plan will be to transition all outstanding files, including exhibits, to the new police service for fulfillment after March 31st. Further discussions will be held regarding the issuance of subpoenas to NGRP members and the potential compensation for their time.

Council members expressed concern for our police members and supported building a succession plan to minimize staffing impacts.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington indicated that the NGRP Commission had a meeting the day with no indication before receiving the letter from the Town of Trenton with their decision, so it comes as a shock.

NGRP Chief Leil indicated that it was very disappointing and there was only a limited amount of time provided to notify members, which has caused stress for our membership, but he was working to ensure the members are well informed.

Councillors McKenna and Peters inquired about details of the RCMP proposal, difference in the levels of services, costs, and hours of service for police coverage.

NGRP Chief Leil indicated that we were not privy of the RCMP proposal, so he was not able to comment but understood that the costs are comparable.

Motion carried.

MEMO FROM CAO – COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

Council reviewed a recommendation from the CAO to approve the citizen appointments for the Committees of Council as presented:

- i. Accessibility Advisory Committee – Ivan Willis and Jessica Nairn
- ii. Forbes Lake Watershed Source Protection Committee – Nick Munro (Ward 2)

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

FCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT – COUNCILLORS PETERS, MCKENNA AND JESSICA MACDONALD

Councillor Peters reported that the conference was a positive experience. Key topics discussed included climate change, homelessness, mental health and addictions, and the rising costs of living. The conference emphasized inclusivity, highlighting the use of an equity lens tool on their website and equipping municipal leaders with addressing misinformation.

Councillor McKenna stated that the workshops were diverse and informative, offering innovative solutions to homelessness, bail reform, and building healthy communities.

Mayor Dicks thanked the councillors for their report and acknowledged their participation in the FCM Annual Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO – PICTOU COUNTY WELLNESS CENTRE BUILDING AUTHORITY INC. UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the special budget meeting which took place on May 26, 2025.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

EMAIL REQUEST FROM THE JUBILEE – REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO THE SMOKING BYLAW

Council reviewed an email from Janine Linthorne, Co-Chair and Harold MacLeod, Site Director requesting an exemption from the smoking bylaw for the Jubilee weekend of August 1-3, 2025, based on the site plan for liquor licensing requirements.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the exemption be approved for the Jubilee weekend of August 1-3, 2025, as per their liquor licensing requirements and site plan for the event.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Motion carried.