

# **TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026**

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Peters, Councillors Dorrington, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, McKenna, and Fraser. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Ryan Leil, NGRP Chief; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Absent from the meeting were staff members: Nick Hirtle, NGRP Deputy Chief; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works; and Derek Eisan, Director of I.T.

### **AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

### **MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

#### **RECOMMENDATION PROGRAM, CULTURE, EVENTS MANAGER – TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF ATLANTIC CANADA**

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Program, Culture and Events Manager recommending that Council approve the Program, Culture and Events Manager attend the Folk Alliance International Conference and Festival in New Orleans from January 21 – 26, 2026.

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

Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS –**

**AWARD RECOMMENDATION WASTEWATER FLOWMETERS TENDER 2025/26**

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that Council approve the award of TNG25-PW-011 Wastewater Flowmeters Tender to bid submission from Flowmetrix, with the highest overall qualified evaluation, in the amount of \$90,975 plus HST (\$94,486.44 Net HST) for all mandatory bid items along with the list of provisional items included in this report at a total cost of \$34,980 plus HST (\$35,330.15 Net HST), for a total cost of \$125,955 plus HST (\$130,816.60 Net HST), as the successful proponent to provide a total of twelve (12) new wastewater flowmeters with specified attachments to the Town of New Glasgow using funds from the Town of New Glasgow approved 2025/26 General Capital Budget.

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

Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS –**

**2026/27 BUDGET PREAPPROVAL – LITTLE HARBOUR ROAD WATERMAIN PROJECT**

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that Council approve the 2026/27 General Capital Little Harbour Road Watermain project for an estimated total project cost of \$3,303,209 Net HST using approximately \$800,000 Net HST from the Housing Accelerator Funding; \$200,000 Net HST from 2026/27 General Capital Budget Capital Paving Program, \$301,000 Net HST from 2026/27 General Capital Budget Capital Sidewalk and \$1,589,209 Net HST from 2026/27 General Capital Budget Little Harbour Road Watermain Project.

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

Motion carried.

**MEMO WITH RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS –  
AWARD RECOMMENDATION – GRAVEL TENDER 2025-2026**

Council reviewed the memo for the evote recommendation submitted by the Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that Council award the Gravel Contract 2025/26 to the lowest bidder, S. W. Weeks Construction in the amount of \$116,750.00 (\$133,095.00 Net HST).

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

Motion carried.

**MEMO WITH RECOMMENDATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC  
WORKS – AWARD RECOMMENDATION- SALT HAULING CONTRACT 2025-2027**

Council reviewed the memo for the evote recommendation submitted by the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that Council approve the termination of the current contract with Michael Cameron Trucking Ltd., and award the Salt Hauling Contract 2025-2027 to Pictou County Bulk Carriers in the amount of \$16.30 per tonne, plus HST plus an increase of \$0.05 per tonne for every cent the average price of fuel has increased over the price of fuel as of the closing date, October 16, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

**MEMO – NEW GLASGOW REGIONAL POLICE CHIEF – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW BODY-WORN CAMERA, IN-CAR VIDEO AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Council reviewed a memo from the New Glasgow Regional Police Chief commending Town Council, the Information Technology Department and Axon Canada for their support in the successful implementation of a new Body-Worn Camera Program, In-Car Video System, and Digital Evidence Management System.

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

Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMO - PICTOU COUNTY SHARED SERVICES AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Council received a memo from the CAO regarding the regular meeting update which took place on Monday, November 24, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

**MAYORS AND WARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the regular monthly meeting update which took place on Monday, November 24, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

## **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

### **COUNCIL MEETING BYLAW**

Councillor Jessica MacDonald asked that the Council Meeting Bylaw dated 1994 be updated with emphasis on the language used, meeting times, and technology advances. It is the same for the Committee, Boards and Commissions Bylaw. The Committee's of Council also need to be updated on the website as they are dated 2023.

It was noted that the revision of these bylaws is not an urgent request and that it will be noted to have these updated in a timely fashion.

Councillor Fraser noted that there are many dogs that are on the trail, unleashed, and asked what action is taken when an innocent dog is subjected to not having a dog tag and not being leashed while outside in the community.

CAO MacDonald advised that there is a Dog Bylaw that requires dogs be licensed and on leash while in the Town. While the Town does receive complaints of dogs being off leash, reporting information is hard to confirm as residents are not willing to disclose personal information required for further investigation.

### **TRAFFIC AND CANADA POST – MUNROE AVENUE**

Councillor Jessica MacDonald advised that she received a request from a resident stating safety concerns in relation to speed of traffic on Munroe Avenue. Also, Canada Post has cited safety concerns for carriers delivering mail, due to the speed of traffic, and will be completing a safety assessment and residents have been notified by Canada Post that home mail delivery will no longer proceed during this period. A request was made to have a traffic analysis conducted for Munroe Avenue.

Chief Leil will have a traffic analysis completed and requested a copy of the Canada Post safety assessment once received.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald advised that the Canada Post Safety Assessment report would be circulated once received.

### **RESOLUTION TO MOVE VIOLA'S PLACE**

Councillor Jim McKenna gave notice of motion to a Resolution: Collaborative Review of Viola's Place Homeless Shelter Location and Community Safety Enhancements

**Whereas**, the Town of New Glasgow recognizes the vital importance of Viola's Place in providing essential emergency shelter services to those experiencing homelessness, offering hope, support, and a path toward stability; and

**Whereas**, the Town is deeply committed to supporting vulnerable individuals in need while ensuring the safety, vitality, and well-being of the entire community, including residents, businesses, visitors, and especially children and families in the downtown core; and

**Whereas**, ongoing community feedback, supported by New Glasgow Regional Police data indicating increased calls for service related to safety, crime and broader community impacts (including a reported rise in disturbances and related emergency responses), has highlighted concerns that the shelter's current location at 189 Marsh Street – being within approximately 800 meters of an elementary school – may be contributing to challenges in the downtown core, the surrounding residential areas, and particularly in proximity to school zones; and

**Whereas**, the Town seeks to address these concerns thoughtfully, collaboratively, and in a manner that prioritizes the protection of children while continuing to provide compassionate support for those experiencing homelessness;

**Be it resolved that the Town Council of New Glasgow:**

1. Affirms its ongoing support for maintaining high-quality homeless shelter services serving the needs of Pictou County and directs the administration, in partnership with provincial partners, to establish a collaborative working group. This group shall include councillors, residents, local businesses, shelter representatives, service providers, police representatives, and other stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are heard.
2. Tasks the working group with exploring and identifying potential alternative locations for the shelter that meet operational needs (such as accessibility to transit, healthcare, and support services), comply with zoning requirements, and minimize community impacts – particularly in relation to proximity to schools and child focused areas. The group shall purpose viable options for council’s consideration within nine months, with flexibility to extend if needed for thorough consultation, while prioritizing no disruption to current services. Upon the working group identifying suitable alternative locations and make recommendations to Council, Council shall review these options and, where appropriate, recommend preferred locations to the Province of Nova Scotia for their consideration and potential support.
3. Directs the working group to engage early and transparently with residents and stakeholders in any potential alternative areas to address concerns, build understanding, and foster community support.
4. Urges the Province of Nova Scotia, in collaboration with municipalities, to develop comprehensive provincial guidelines and oversight standards for the operation and management of homeless shelters province-wide, promoting best practices that balance compassionate service delivery with community safety – including appropriate considerations for siting near schools – and consistency across regions.

5. Directs the administration to establish a Fast-Action Community Safety Committee, building on existing partnerships with police and community groups where possible, to meet regularly and propose practical, immediate recommendations (such as enhanced lighting, outreach programs, or enforcement measures) for Council to consider and implement swiftly to improve safety throughout the Town. This committee shall operate as a short-term emergency group and shall conclude its work no later than 12 months after establishment.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald, as a member of the liaison committee with Viola's Place Shelter voiced concerns surrounding public safety. After a violent incident involving a resident of Viola's Place Shelter which was neglected to be reported to the police, reportedly due to the shelter's desire to avoid adding to crime statistics and potential costs to the Town.

Councillor Fraser supported the establishment of a committee to address the issues related to public safety, addition and mental health with an emphasis on securing provincial level support.

Councillor Dorrington questioned the provincial government's project priorities, expressing concern that resident safety if not being adequately prioritized. Also raised issues regarding provincial funding for a shelter without a clearly defined admissions mandate, emphasizing that the provincial partner must assume greater responsibility, enhance it's involvement, and be more responsive to neighbours and constituents.

Deputy Mayor Peters noted that individuals who are blocked or banned from the shelter are left with no option but to live in the downtown area. It was emphasized that housing 20 individuals in a shelter staffed by workers who are not equipped to meet complex health-care needs highlights a serious gap in services. This situation represents a significant health-care crisis and underscores the need for provincial involvement, including publicly funded long-term care for addictions and mental health, as well as supportive housing for individuals in recovery.

Councillor Joe MacDonald referenced research from Simon Fraser University that demonstrates scattered-site housing is more successful than group-based housing models.

Solicitor DeMont advised that Councillor McKenna had provided notice of motion and that, following discussion, it was recommended the notice be waived and a motion made to accept.

Councillor McKenna asked for the opinion of Chief Leil regarding the motion.

Chief Leil confirmed that a significant number of individuals are experiencing addiction, mental health challenges, and homelessness. It is evident that the community is in the midst of a mental health and addictions crisis, which has been accompanied by increased crime rates related to these issues. Police services are adapting through additional training; however, the situation continues to worsen over time. Given changes in the services now provided by the shelter, it is questionable whether the current shelter location remains an appropriate fit for the surrounding environment.

Councillor Joe MacDonald motioned to waive the notice of motion.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the notice of motion be waived.

Motion carried.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the motion for a collaborative review of Viola's Place Homeless Shelter location and Community Safety Enhancements be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**