



## **Council Highlights – Monday, September 16, 2024**

### **Oath of Office**

Ryan Leil has been sworn in as Chief of Police, Leil is a long-service member of the New Glasgow Regional Police, who has held the roles of Deputy Chief, Detective Sergeant in Major Crime, and Constable. The internal search process for the new Deputy Chief of Police will commence in early 2025.

### **Proclamations**

#### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30**

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time to honour the children who never returned home, and the survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. On September 30<sup>th</sup> Mayor Nancy Dicks and Town Council encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and reflections.

#### **Culture Days - September 20 to October 13**

The Town of New Glasgow acknowledges September 20 through to October 13<sup>th</sup> as Culture Days. Residents are encouraged to take part in various activities around the Town of New Glasgow, a complete list can be found on our Town social media pages.

#### **International Day of Peace - September 21**

International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on September 21<sup>st</sup> and was established in 1981. The Town of New Glasgow Celebrates a day for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

#### **National Forest Week - September 22 to September 28**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> through to the 28<sup>th</sup> shall be observed as National Forest Week. Forests play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, clean air, water, and wildlife habitat whilst being an important aspect of climate change and mitigation efforts.

#### **Right to Know Week - September 23 to September 28**

The Town joins all other Canadian jurisdictions and democracies worldwide in acknowledging International Right to Know Week from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>, giving citizens a right of access to information in the custody or under the control of the Town of New Glasgow.



**Town Council Reports**

**Committee of the Whole Report**

The Council approved the following items in the Committee of the Whole report:

- Recommended streets, curbs, and sidewalks to be addressed in the 2024 capital works program. The 2024/25 capital contract streets include parts of George St., and East River Road along and parts of side streets such as Churchill Dr., S. Frederick St., Highland Dr., Grant St. Ext., Beech St., Merigomish Rd., Brother St. Ext., Highland Dr., Orion Ave.
- Fencing around the vaporizer for the propane tank at Glasgow Square.
- The Environment and Sustainability Lead was granted permission to travel out of province to the Livable Cities Forum in Vancouver, BC from October 23 to 25, 2024.
- Black Gala Homecoming Civic Reception for Summer 2025 to be booked at Glasgow Square.
- The Minimum Standards Bylaw to proceed to first reading.

**Finance Report**

April 1 to August 1 Revenue Actuals equated to \$20,059,365, with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of -\$4,185,228.

Expenses for the month of August included but were not limited to:

<b>Department or Program</b>	<b>Actuals August 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024/25</b>
Protective Services - NGRP	\$2,037,136	\$5, 509,482
General Government	\$1,024,990	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$321,714	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$32,053	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$809,703	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$1,142,740	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$255,155	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$283,769	\$670,992

**Engineering and Public Works**

As of September 6, 2024, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to, Wastewater Capacity Study, Street & Sidewalk Capital, Southend Sewer Separation Project, Energy Upgrades, and the Munroe Ave Reservoir Roof Replacement.

The Capital Paving and Curb Tender was awarded in July to Webster Bros. Paving & Concrete Ltd. Streets paved to date include East River Road, George, Beech, Grant Street Ext, and a Scratch coat on the Brother Street Extension.



## **Fire and Fire Inspection Reports**

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 25 calls during the month of August, calls were comprised of three fire & smoke, nine alarms, three motor vehicle collisions, four medical & medic assist, two electrical, two mutual aid, one propane leak and one hazmat. Four calls were ruled to be false alarms. No major fires occurred during this period.

Fire Chief Ross White also informed the Council the rental engine rescue truck is now in service, with the department being back to a fully equipped fleet. It is expected the use of the rental truck will last up to six months as the repairs for the rescue truck and rental were approved in the operational budget for the Fire Department.

A combined total of seven fire inspections and follow-up visits throughout the month of August also occurred.

## **Information Technology**

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- Continued updates and maintenance of network devices and re-establishment of VPN connections following a major system failure.
- Ongoing support for in-car and body-worn cameras, ensuring access to videos for evidence.
- Regular maintenance and two new file servers deployed for downtown camera systems to enhance storage and retention.
- Implementation of Apple Business Management software to better control and secure town-issued iPhones and iPads.
- Setup of computer and telephone systems for the October 2024 municipal election.
- Improved wireless network capacity to enhance connectivity for vendors and the public.

## **Solid Waste**

A total of 103.24 tons of organics was collected during the month of August 2024, as compared to 115.95 tons of organics collected for the month of August 2023. 58.26 tons of garbage was collected during the month of August 2024, as compared to 59.01 tons of garbage collected for the month of August 2023, a total of 39.41 tons of recycling was collected during the month of August 2024, as compared to 42.44 tons of recycling collected for the month of August 2023.

## **New Glasgow Regional Police**

The New Glasgow Regional Police had a total of 702 occurrences last month, leading to 37 arrests. Primary call drivers include: 79 Suspicious person/property/vehicle, 51 Protection of Property Act, 48 Assistance, 43 Theft, 41 Mental Health, 32 Alarms, 28 Liquor Control Act, 27 Wellbeing Checks and 16 assault-related calls.



We are pleased to welcome new full-time hires, Constable Ryan Thibeau, who will serve as the Community Response Officer in our new Downtown Office location.

### **Department of Community Development**

Major August events taking place within the Town of New Glasgow included Riverfront Jubilee, Pictou County Ribfest, Emancipation Day activities, and several other community and private events which our Community Development Team played a key role in the delivery of a new kayak launch was installed and will be fully accessible after adjustments, becoming one of two such launches in Nova Scotia.

We were pleased to host various programs for children, families, and newcomers, including play programs with Kids First and YReach, pop-up play sessions, and art activities.

The Go Play Fund reopened, receiving 10 applications since August 23. The online application is available [here](#).

Upcoming September events include a magic show, comedy nights, and various meetings. A list of events happening in and around New Glasgow can be found on our Town of New Glasgow social media channels.

Environment & Sustainability efforts and actions last month included but were not limited to, the Climate Risk Assessment Report, District Energy Project, and the Green & Inclusive Community Buildings Fund.

The Town of New Glasgow was informed by Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC) that their proposal for 'Oqwaskuk Flourish – Charting Sustainable Development Goals through 17 Rooms' did not receive funding.

### **Building Permits**

Throughout the Month of August, the Town received requests for 15 Building Permits. Permit requests included residential repairs and renovations, commercial repairs & renovations, and institutional construction. Permits issued throughout the month of August equate to an estimated value of \$1,287,590 in local building and renovation costs. Accumulated permits from January 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024, equate to &12,958,389.

### **Motions and Notice for Motions**

The first reading of the Property Minimum Standards Bylaw for the Town of New Glasgow was presented. It was moved that this proposed bylaw should proceed to a second reading in accordance with the procedures set out in the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia on October 15, 2024. The Bylaw can be found [here](#).



## **Land-Use Bylaw Developments**

Council presented the first reading for two development agreements and one Land-Use Bylaw Map Amendment, which proposed the following:

The purpose of the development application by P.Q. Properties (PID 001006485) is to request the construction of 12 residential units comprised of three (3), four (4) unit, two-level buildings. It was moved that the Council hold a Public Participation Meeting & Hearing on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

MacDonald & Murphy Inc. has requested to rezone lot 51, 635 East River Road (PID 00931071) from a Residential Two Unit (R2) to a Highway Commercial (C3) zone. Council moved to hold a Public Participation Meeting and Public Hearing with respect to this Land-Use Bylaw Map Amendment on October 15, 2024.

The Housing Trust of Nova Scotia wishes to amend the Development Agreement for Washington Street, PIDs 65216764 & 65216772 to allow for the site to exceed the previously approved number of dwelling units, two multiunit dwellings (nine) (9) in total, as well as having an additional second level. The Council moved to hold a public participation meeting and Public Hearing with respect to the Development Agreement Amendment on October 15, 2024.

## **Lease for 90 Provost Street**

The Town of New Glasgow Council approved a two-year lease with Team Five Enterprises LTD, which will house the New Glasgow Regional Police Community Response Officer, as well as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, at 90 Provost Street.

## **Committee Of the Whole Meeting**

### **Recommendation - Director of Engineer & Public Works - South End Sewer Separation**

Regarding the South End Sewer Separation – Phase III and IV, project: The project involves separating stormwater from the combined sewer system in the south end, critical for reducing combined sewer overflows and improving environmental quality.

The project is part of a multi-year initiative with a total funding of \$3,780,000.00 secured for Phases II, III, and IV. With the following funding in place

Federal: \$1,512,000.00

Provincial: \$1,260,000.00

Municipal: \$1,008,000.00

Council approved the Contract Award go to SW Weeks Construction, Ltd., New Glasgow based on their tendered price of \$2,148,566.00.



### **Memo - Active Living Manager - Skatepark Engagement Session**

The Active Living Manager and Active Living & Recreation Assistant hosted a pop-up placemaking engagement session on August 15 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in partnership with local student Aiden MacInnis. A free BBQ was provided to participants. There were approximately 32 people of all ages in attendance who provided feedback on the skatepark space, why they skate, what they want to see in a park and how the Town could help support this vision. It is the intention of coming back to Council with a recommendation of short-term and long-term investments for the skatepark to address the feedback received through this engagement process. Council was excited to learn about the engagement with local youth and look forward to hearing from the group in person on their recommendations for the potential development.

### **Recommendation - Housing Accelerator Fund - RFP for Implementation of Cityworks**

Council Approved the contract award to ESRI Canada in the amount of \$626,272 as the successful proponent of the RFP process to provide professional services and licensing services to the Cityworks project. The recommended proponent's fee of \$536,328 aligns with the funding allocated under the Housing Accelerator Fund budget.

In year four, licensing costs will be \$89,944 per year and be assigned to the General Operating Budget. The platform will provide a customer interface and in addition, the opportunity to increase service levels to a higher standard, in line with the Town's established levels-of-service, creating efficiency in interactions and improving transparency and accountability.

### **Recommendation - Director of Corporate Services – Fall Debenture Issue**

A recommendation was approved by Council to authorize that borrowing is not to exceed \$1,050,000 and terms not to exceed 20 years for general capital expenditures at an interest rate not to exceed 6.5%.

Council approved payment of all accounts as put forward by the Director of Corporate Services.

### **Recommendation - Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works - Water Treatment Plant-Fluoride**

Council approved the New Glasgow Water Utility to stop adding fluoride to the potable drinking water supply. This measure aims to prevent fluoride levels from exceeding acceptable guidelines due to combined exposure from various sources like food, drinks, supplements, and toothpaste. Fluoride addition will resume only if mandated by Provincial or Federal regulations.

It should be noted there are no legal requirements to add fluoride into potable drinking water and currently only two other municipalities in Nova Scotia choose to add fluoride to their water.



### **Recommendation - Director of Engineering & Public Works – HVAC Energy Upgrades**

Council approved the award of the HVAC installation contract to the sole bidder of Bird Mechanical Ltd. The cost of the \$1,856,939.00 project will be covered in part by the Green Municipal Funds agreement.

### **Appointments**

The appointment of the Unsightly Administrator was approved by Council, with Sean O'Connor being named as the Town's new Bylaw Enforcement Officer.