

Council Brief – Monday, November 18, 2024

Attendance

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Monday, November 18, 2024, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Councillors Jocelyn Dorrington, Jim MacKenna, Clyde Fraser, Dawn Peters, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald, Deputy Clerk Alison Tate and Town Solicitor Frank DeMont.

The following Senior Staff Members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White and Ryan Leil.

Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

Order to Appear – Demolition 89 MacKay Street

Pursuant to Section 346(3) of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of New Glasgow Council has approved a demolition order for the property located at **89 MacKay Street**, due to dangerous or unsightly conditions as defined under the Act. The owners are required to demolish the dwelling within 30 days, remove all debris, and fill in any resulting holes.

Order to Appear – Demolition 269 Mitchell Street

Pursuant to Section 346(3) of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of New Glasgow Council has approved a demolition order for the property located at **269 Mitchell Street**, due to dangerous or unsightly conditions as defined under the Act. The owners are required to demolish the dwelling within 30 days, remove all debris, and fill in any resulting holes.

Presentations

Shelley Manning and Courtney Sharp from the Pictou County Food Bank East met with the Council to present on the Pictou County Food Bank East and the importance of support from our community. Town of New Glasgow Staff were pleased to present a donation to the Food Bank following the presentation.

Proclamations

Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2024

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance each year on November 20th, that honours the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence, and a day to publicly mourn and honour the lives of the members of the transgender community who might otherwise be forgotten. The Town is committed to raising public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people and protecting transgender people.

World Pancreatic Cancer Day - November 21, 2024

The Town of New Glasgow recognizes November 21st as World Pancreatic Cancer Day. We encourage residents to educate themselves on the symptoms of this disease through Craig's Cause



Pancreatic Cancer Society, a Canadian charitable society dedicated to both increasing survival and improving the quality of life for every Canadian diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, through awareness, education, support and research.

Municipal Awareness Week - November 22 to 28, 2024

Municipal and village governments across the province provide essential services that enhance the quality of life of Nova Scotians and make the communities in Nova Scotia a destination of choice for immigrants around the world. The Town of New Glasgow recognizes November 22-28, as Municipal Awareness Week and has partnered with the province in ongoing efforts to keep Nova Scotians informed, healthy, and safe.

International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women - November 25, 2024

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most widespread and pervasive human rights violations globally. The Town of New Glasgow is committed to supporting and investing in strong, autonomous women's rights organizations and feminist movements, recognizing that this is essential to ending violence against women and girls. The Town proudly observes November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

National Economic Abuse Awareness Day - November 26, 2024

November is National Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Month. Economic abuse is a pattern of control, exploitation or sabotage of money, finances and economic resources (car, food, education, transportation) which affects an individual's capacity to acquire, use and maintain economic resources and threatens their economic security and self-sufficiency. Economic abuse has severely impacted numerous generations of Canadians and continues to occur regardless of socio-economic status, race, age or other identity factors. We recognize the utmost importance that the government, at all levels, take action to support survivors of financial and economic abuse.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3, 2024

People with disabilities often face barriers to inclusion in society, International Day of Persons with Disabilities promotes awareness and mobilizes support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. The Town of New Glasgow is committed to building an inclusive society and providing accessible environments and recognizes December 3rd as International Persons with Disabilities Day.

International Human Rights Day - December 10, 2024

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 10 as Human Rights Day in 1950. The Town of New Glasgow believes it is important to share the message of the United Nations regarding International Human Rights Day and to communicate our support and commitment to this day.

Town Council Reports

Committee of the Whole Report

Council approved the following recommendations in the Committee of the Whole report:

- The award of contract to Joe Johnson Equipment in the amount of \$678,470.40 [\$707,576.78 Net HST], to provide a new Vactor 2100 Fan Combination Sewer Cleaner for the Town of New Glasgow Water Utility as approved under the 2024/25 Capital Budget.
- The recommendation to appoint Kaila Reid to the role of Development Officer.
- It was regularly moved and seconded that the memos containing updates from the following meetings be received and placed on file:
 - Pictou County Shared Services Authority
 - Mayors and Warden Committee
 - Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc
 - Pictou County Transit Authority
 - Pictou County Partnership Liaison and Oversight Committee

Finance Report

April 1-October 31 Revenue Actuals equated to \$21,275,944, with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 2,968,649.

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

Department or Program	Actuals October 2024	Budget 2024/25
Protective Services - NGRP	\$2,963,459	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$1,499,060	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$443,931	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$ 49,257	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$1,587,557	\$2,3455,017
Transportation Service	\$1,618,765	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$415,202	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$434,341	\$670,922

Engineering and Public Works

As of November 6, 2024, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to:

- The Capital Paving and Curb projects nearing completion, with only two streets remaining, Highland Drive and the Brother Street Extension.
- HVAC Energy Upgrades are currently underway at the Town Fire Hall.

- Demolition of the Tomlik properties (formally known as American House) project completion is expected by the end of November, including the addition of fencing around the vacant land and lighting to ensure the safety of all residents within the area.
- The 8th Street Sewer Project has remained on hold due to an ongoing easement issue.
- Nearly 98% of the 2024 Asphalt Patching project has been completed. The remaining work will be handled by a contractor, and will involve cutting out the existing asphalt, repairing the gravel base, and applying new asphalt.
- The Library Renovation Project has been placed on hold until the award of the contract, with the selected contractor agreeing to hold their cost estimates until November 30, 2024.

Solid Waste

A total of 106.44 tons of organics was collected during the month of October 2024, as compared to 108.91 tons of organics collected for the month of October 2023. 55.63 tons of garbage was collected during the month of October 2024, as compared to 55.30 tons of garbage collected for the month of October 2023, and a total of 38.35 tons of recycling was collected during the month of October 2024, as compared to 39.64 tons of recycling collected for the month of October 2023.

New Glasgow Regional Police

In October, the New Glasgow Regional Police handled a total of 586 occurrences, resulting in 19 arrests. Key call drivers included 45 requests for assistance, 66 reports of suspicious persons, properties, or vehicles, and 94 calls related to the Motor Vehicle Act. Other significant issues involved mental health concerns (36), property checks (31), mischief (19) thefts (5), and court compliance failures (13). There were also 15 calls related to the Protection of Property Act, 9 well-being checks, 10 assaults, 3 assaults with a weapon, and 1 sexual assault.

Noteworthy Public Safety Operations

October 7, 2024: One adult female was arrested and charged with fraud over \$5,000, theft over \$5,000, forgery, and trafficking a forged document.

October 27, 2024: One adult male operating an off-highway vehicle on East River Road was charged with multiple offences, including:

- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle
- Flight from police
- Operation of motor vehicle while license suspended
- Operating off-highway vehicle without valid insurance policy
- Failing to wear helmet as required

Training & Development

Throughout October, New Glasgow Regional Police officers participated in various training opportunities, including:

- Search and Seizure Course
- Human Trafficking Training

- Crisis Intervention Team "Train the Trainer", which will enable in-house training to be conducted, in addition to positioning the New Glasgow Regional Police to provide Crisis Intervention Training Tactics on a continuous basis.

The official opening of the Firearms Range occurred on October 24, 2024, with Officers currently participating in annual firearms training. Chief Leil stated, *A dedicated law enforcement training facility offers critical benefits for both public and officer safety by providing a secure environment tailored to the unique needs of law enforcement. Such facilities allow for dynamic training exercises, including realistic drills, which are essential for preparing officers to respond effectively to high-stress situations. This type of training enhances decision-making skills, situational awareness, and proficiency with firearms, reducing the risk of unintended harm. Moreover, a dedicated facility increases training accessibility, allowing for more frequent and flexible sessions without the scheduling conflicts common at public ranges. It also removes compliance barriers, as public use ranges often have restrictions and limitations that do not align with law enforcement training needs. With a dedicated space, law enforcement can ensure that all training complies with safety standards and regulatory requirements, ultimately leading to a more prepared and capable police service.*

Department of Community Development

Preparations for Remembrance Day began in October and carried on through to November 11th. The Beautification team replaced summer banners with "Hometown Heroes" banners honoring local veterans. This campaign was considered a success and will return next year on a larger scale. Holiday preparations will begin after November 11th with the installation of lights, wreaths, and festive trees. The tree lighting ceremony is on November 29th at 6 p.m., featuring entertainment, hot chocolate, and letters to Santa.

October events taking place within the Town of New Glasgow included but were not limited to SOS The ABBA Experience Show, Miscellany of Folk Show, Dee Dee Austin Show, Trick or Trail, Bike Summit, and the Town of New Glasgow Workplace Safety Day in Memory of Michael Bonvie. Upcoming November events include a number of private meeting rentals, celebrational functions, Brent Butt Comedy Show and a series of guided hikes!

Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development, in partnership with AMANS, launched a self-assessment with Council and Senior Leadership to kick off the creation of an Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, due by April 2025, this important work being led by Michelle and team will help identify areas for growth in equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Town.

With colder months and weather on the way, members of the department are currently working to winterizing public facilities and completing maintenance work, including removing docks and the kayak launch.

Sustainable actions and efforts continue to play an important role within the Town of New Glasgow with projects, workshops and funding opportunities that include but are not limited to:

- Green & Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Retrofit Project

- GICB New Build Program
- Coastal Protection Action Plan
- Property Assessed Clean Energy Scale-Up Program
- Resilient Home Retrofits Program
- Towards Net Zero Homes Program
- Deep Energy Retrofit Accelerator Event
- Livable Cities Forum 2024

Residents interested in learning more about these opportunities are encouraged to reach out to Rohan Mishra, Environment & Sustainability Lead for the Town of New Glasgow, at rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca.

Business Development

East River Business Park development activities include but are not limited to:

- The draft purchase and sale agreement for Lot 5C has been presented to legal representatives.
- A letter of intent has been received for a ½ acre on Lot 5C, which will remain after the 1-acre subdivision. The developer is proposing a mixed-use office/residential development.
- The draft purchase and sale agreement for Lot A1 is in progress.
- Land purchase is moving ahead with the current business owner on East River Road, concerning the purchase of land parcels from the Town of New Glasgow and NSBDI.

Fire and Fire Inspection Reports

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 15 calls during the month of October, the calls comprised of three fires, one of which occurred in an encampment and was considered to be significant but remained stabilized, no injuries were sustained, five alarms/medical, two motor vehicle collisions, two cardiac arrest, one water rescue, one minor fire and one call due to smoke in the air. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in two training practices last month.

A combined total of four fire inspections and follow-up visits throughout the month of October were also conducted.

The Mayor and Council also took time to acknowledge the loss of Retired Fire Chief Doug Dort and the impact he had on the New Glasgow Fire Department and our community; their thoughts are with his family at this time.

Information Technology

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- Municipal Elections Audit services saw the Director of Information Technology serve as the Lead Electronic Elections Auditor, working to ensure the confidence in the electronic voting platforms during the 2024 Municipal Elections.
- Circulation of election data to municipalities and media for distribution and used to certify official results.
- Work is currently being conducted to improve device and network security by updating firewalls and the RSA authentication system for secure VPN access.
- Plans are currently underway to redesign the network for Pictou County Solid Waste to improve efficiency.

Committee Of the Whole

Recommendation, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Council has approved the contract award of the Town of New Glasgow Library Revitalization Project Construction Contract to the sole bidder, PCL Constructors Canada Inc., of Dartmouth. The contract, however, is to be based on the negotiated Cost Saving Plan, developed by all parties, and known as “Scenario A.” Scenario A reduces the cost from the original bid of \$12,320,000.00 to \$10,711,000.00, plus HST.

Municipal Corporation and Committee Reports

The Council received memos from the following organizations: Pictou County Partnership, Second Quarter Report and the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc. Annual General Meeting Report.

Council Appointments to Committees

The Council has approved the recommended committee appointments for 2025. These appointments include council members of various regional boards, commissions, liaisons, and regional committees. A complete list of the Council Member appointments for 2025 can be found on the Town of New Glasgow's website.

Deputy Mayor Appointment

Council has approved the appointment of Councillor Jocelyn Dorrington as Deputy Mayor for the term ending in November 2025, in accordance with the current policy.



Appointment of Level II Building Official

Council approved the recommendation to appoint Travis Spears to the role Level II Building Official for the Town of New Glasgow, effective immediately on a temporary basis.

Council & Committee of the Whole Meetings for 2025

Council has approved the recommended schedule for the 2025 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. The schedule includes adjustments for meetings that fall on statutory holidays, as well as changes to the meeting schedule during the summer months.