

Council Brief – Monday, December 16, 2024

Attendance

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the Whole attendance for Monday, December 16, 2024, included Mayor Nancy Dicks, Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, Councillors Jim McKenna, Clyde Fraser, Dawn Peters, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer Lisa MacDonald, Deputy Clerk Alison Tait and Town Solicitor Frank DeMont.

The following senior staff members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Audrey Buchanan, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White and Ryan Leil.

Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

Presentations

Auditor Heather Murphy from MacDonald & Murphy Inc, met with the Council to present the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023-2024. Following her presentation of findings, Mayor Dicks spoke on key highlights from the audited financial statements of 2023-2024 on behalf of the Town Council. The report and its findings were approved by the Mayor and Council. A copy of the audited financial statements is available through www.newglasgow.ca.

Mayor's Statement

Thank you, Ms. Murphy, for your report and your comments.

I would like to offer a few key highlights from the audited financial statements of 2023-2024 on behalf of the Town Council.

Fiscal 2024 was another strong year for New Glasgow.

On a consolidated basis, the Town of New Glasgow had a surplus of \$4,048,700 as of March 31, 2024, driven mainly by grant funding received for various capital projects. The consolidated investment in capital infrastructure totaled \$8,314,600. During the fiscal year, new debt was issued in the amount of \$942,900 primarily related to investments in transportation and public works equipment, paving, traffic lighting and town owned building upgrades. Total debt repayment for the fiscal period was \$1,517,600. This spending was necessary in order to ensure we could continue to provide the highest level of service delivery, which residents of the Town of New Glasgow have come to expect and deserve.

On a non-consolidated basis, the general operating fund had a surplus of \$350,800, which will be transferred to the operating reserve. The Town's operating reserve as of March 31, 2024, totaled \$5,524,800. This will support the Town in maintaining high service levels while continuing to save for future operating needs.

During fiscal, 2023-2024, the Town invested \$4.53 million to purchase and improve its' general tangible capital assets-including paving, curbing, purchasing of public works equipment, storm sewer and sewer separation projects, purchasing of protective services equipment, downtown capital development and upgrades to Town owned properties.

The New Glasgow Water Utility's operating fund for 2023-2024 had a deficit of (\$368,500) and a \$3.78 million investment in water capital infrastructure.

Stewardship of our taxpayer dollars has and will continue to be a top priority for the Town. Strong fiscal management by directors over their departmental budgets is evident in the financial results. I would like to express my sincere thanks and that of the Council to our CAO and the senior management team and to all Town employees for their expertise and dedication in these ever-changing times.

That concludes the summary of our key highlights from the financial report for the fiscal year 2024.

Thank you.

Ethan Malech, Active Transportation Planner/Designer from **Cycling Nova Scotia** met with the Council to present on the Core Active Transportation Network Project and recommended the next steps.

Town Council Reports

Committee of the Whole Report

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

- Award of contract for the Town of New Glasgow Library Revitalization Project Construction to the sole bidder, PCL Constructors Canada Inc. The contract will be based on the negotiated Cost Saving Plan, known as "Scenario A," which reduces the cost from the original bid of \$12,320,000.00 to \$10,711,000.00, plus HST
- The 2025 Town of New Glasgow Councillor Appointments to Committees.
- The recommendation to appoint Ward One Councillor Jocelyn Dorrington as Deputy Mayor for the term ending in November 2025.

- The recommendation to appoint Travis Spears to the role of Level II Building Inspector on an ongoing temporary basis.
- It was moved and seconded that Council approve the 2025 Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule as presented.
- It was regularly moved and seconded that the memos containing updates from the following meetings be received and placed on file:
 - Pictou County Partnership, Second Quarter Report
 - Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc., Annual General Meeting Report.

Finance Report

April 1-November 30, Revenue Actuals equated to \$22,329,485 with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 1,915,108

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

Department or Program	Actuals November 2024	Budget 2024/25
Protective Services - NGRP	\$3,352,254	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$1,673,110	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$535,608	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$56,664	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$1,695,717	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$1,824,949	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$418,36	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$462,601	\$670,922

Engineering and Public Works

As of December 10, 2024, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to:

- The Vale Road Realignment is nearing 80% completion, with some paving still to be completed. Restoration and landscape work will continue in Spring 2025.
- The Capital Paving and Curb project is nearing completion, with four streets remaining, Highland Drive, Brother Street Extension, Albion Street (Blair to George) and Riverside Street.
- The Southend Sewer Separation Project is now 90% complete, it is expected that Phase 4 will be completed within this fiscal year, with Phase 5 taking place in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

- HVAC energy upgrades are currently underway at the Town's Fire Hall.
- The demolition of the Tomlik properties (formally known as American House) project is now complete with the exception of erecting fencing and the installation of lighting for safety.
- The 8th Street Sewer project has remained on hold due to an ongoing easement issue; the project is estimated to cost \$980,000.
- The 2024 Asphalt Patching project has been completed.
- The Capital Sidewalk Program is nearing completion, remaining work includes the completion of a sidewalk on Brookside Ave.

Solid Waste

A total of 95.95 tons of organics was collected during the month of November 2024, as compared to 104.80 tons of organics collected for the month of November 2023. 42.96 tons of garbage was collected during the month of November 2024, as compared to 53.43 tons of garbage collected for the month of November 2023, and a total of 36.15 tons of recycling was collected during the month of November 2024, as compared to 34.90 tons of recycling collected for the month of November 2023.

New Glasgow Regional Police

In November, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 545 occurrences, leading to 17 arrests. Notable call drivers included 10 impaired driving incidents, 78 reports of suspicious persons, 53 requests for assistance with properties or vehicles, and 50 calls related to the Motor Vehicle Act. Other significant issues included 34 mental health concerns, 34 property checks, 18 cases of mischief, 23 thefts, and 10 court compliance failures. Additionally, there were 26 calls related to the Protection of Property Act, 13 well-being checks, 8 assaults, 6 family-related incidents, 2 motor vehicle thefts, and 1 sexual assault.

The Mayor and Council extended their gratitude to the civilian staff and patrol members of the New Glasgow Regional Police Department for organizing and coordinating two separate Toy Drives on November 23 and 30. The initiative successfully raised thousands of dollars in toy donations, which have been handed over to the Department of Community Services to support families in need throughout Pictou County this holiday season.

Noteworthy Public Safety Operations

November 17, 2024: An adult male was arrested and charged with counts of pointing a firearm, along with other criminal charges.

November 20, 2024: An adult male was transported to the hospital following an incident on Victoria Street Extension involving an indecent act and causing a disturbance. The matter remains under investigation.



NGRP Training & Development

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

- Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement Annual Conference
- Crime Prevention Symposium
- Mental Wellness Roundtable- The Power of Language & Stigma Related to Substance Use
- Crisis Intervention Training for Officers, which is now at 50 % Capacity and will continue into 2025.

Department of Community Development

Holiday celebrations are in full swing in Downtown and surrounding areas. Public areas throughout the town have been adorned with holiday lights, wreaths, and festive trees compliments of the Community Development Street Scaping Team. The tree lighting ceremony took place on November 29th, featuring entertainment by the Pictou County Brass & Reid Band, hot chocolate, and visits with Santa! The Community Development Department has also introduced a Reindeer Walk & Word Scrabble activity for residents of all ages along the trail throughout November and have updated the Trail Mix playlist to include winter-themed songs.

Following the success of the Fall Guided Hikes, the Town of New Glasgow is collaborating with external partners to offer a Winter Guided Night Walk Series. Confirmed dates will be shared on the Town's social media channels later this month.

Glasgow Square Theatre and the Town of New Glasgow have hosted a variety of events, including shows by Joel Plaskett, Tom Green, Queen Priyanka, Brent Butt, and Joe H. Henry. Upcoming December events include The Summit Music Fundraiser, HCRS Holiday Craft Fair, Tyler Shaw, the NNEC Big Band, and several private events and functions!

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 Shores Local Government Group-Transcoastal Adaptation Center for Nature Based Solutions
- District Energy Project
- Our Climate Quest
- Low Carbon Resiliency Pilot Program
- Canadian Urban Forest Network-Atlantic Region Workshops
- Resilient Home Retrofits Program
- Towards Net Zero Homes Program



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.

Fire and Fire Inspection Reports

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 22 calls during the month of November. Calls were comprised of six alarms, five cardiac arrests, four MVC, two woodfires, two spill/fuel spill, one structure fire, one smell of smoke and one odour smell. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in two training practices last month.

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

The New Glasgow Fire Department is excited to have organized the 2024 Holiday Parade which took place on November 30th. The event featured entries from various local organizations, businesses, and groups. Preparations for the 2025 Holiday Parade are already underway. One of the key improvements for next year will be the enhancement and communication around the sensory-friendly zone, designed to provide a more inclusive and comfortable experience for all attendees.

Recommendation from In-Camera Meeting

Council approved the recommendation to proceed with the land purchase on 8th Street, in support of the 8th Street Sewer Infrastructure Project.

Committee Of the Whole

Recommendation, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Town Council has approved the recommendation to award the contract to the qualified bidder, Atlantic Coastal Equipment, in the amount of \$209,621.08 plus HST [\$218,613.82 Net HST) for the provision of a new Municipal Tractor. The purchase of this equipment had previously been approved in the 2024/25 General Capital Budget.

Stakeholder Letter to Municipality of The County of Pictou for Forbes Lake Watershed Land Use Controls

Council received a memo from the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works requesting that the Town of New Glasgow Town Council, along with the Town of New Glasgow Source Water Protection Committee, formally request in writing the protection and proper management of the Forbes Lake Watershed in the Municipality of the County of



Pictou's new Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Planning Strategy, which serves as the water supply for the Town of New Glasgow and sells water to the Town of Westville and the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

Recommendation, Director of Corporate Services

Town Council has approved the recommendation put forth by the Director of Corporate Services to transfer of the March 31, 2024, General Operations operating surplus of approximately \$350,800 to the General Operating Reserve.

Recommendation, Chief Administrative Officer

Council has approved the recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer to adopt the recently updated Municipal Elected Officials Code of Conduct, as legislated by the Province of Nova Scotia. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for the ethical and interpersonal conduct of Council members.

Municipal Corporation and Committee Reports

Council received memos with updates from the meetings of the Pictou County Shared Service Authority and the Mayors and Warden Committee.

New Business

Mayor Dicks and Council received a letter from the Ship Hector Society, which included a Financial Assistance Request in the amount of \$10,000 to support the Ship Hector transformation. The Council referred to staff for recommendation on the request and budget consideration.

The Council also received a letter from the Town of Westville, requesting that a representative meet with their Town Council to provide further information regarding the removal of fluoride from potable drinking water.