

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Peters, Councillors, Joe MacDonald, McKenna, Jessica MacDonald, Fraser and Dorrington. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Ryan Leil, NGP Chief; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services, Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; John Lewis; Manager of Revenue, and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Absent from the meeting was staff member Derek Eisan, Director of I.T.

Mayor Dicks stated that as we gather this evening, we pause to remember that in this province we live and work on lands that are by law the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the land of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people. We also recognize that African Nova Scotians whose culture, heritage, and history have been and remain a key part of our province for more than 400 years.

Mayor Dicks welcomed John Lewis to his first meeting.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the consent agenda including the Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 23, 2026, and proclamations for:

- i. Earth Day – April 22, 2026
- ii. Human Values Day – April 24, 2026
- iii. Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month – May 2026
- iv. Gaelic Nova Scotia Month – May 2026
- v. Lyme Disease Awareness Month – May 2026
- vi. Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month – May 2026
- vii. National Physicians' Day – May 1, 2026
- viii. Emergency Preparedness Week – May 3-9, 2026
- ix. Make Your Move Day – May 9, 2026
- x. World Lupus Day – May 10, 2026
- xi. National Police Week – May 10-16, 2026
- xii. Fibromyalgia Awareness Day – May 12, 2026
- xiii. National Denim Day – May 13, 2026
- xiv. International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia – May 17, 2026
- xv. VON Week – May 17-23, 2026

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

Motion carried.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Finance Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Engineering and Public Works Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald commended the Engineering and Public Works Department expressing appreciation for the removal of coal ash that had accumulated on a resident's property from the Town snow ploughing during the winter months.

Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Solid Waste Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Police Report dated April 20, 2026 be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna inquired whether, following the transition of Trenton's policing services from the New Glasgow Police Department to the RCMP, a formula has been established to address court related costs.

Chief Leil responded that the department has developed an estimate of anticipated costs, including expenses related to officer's court appearances for necessary files and hardware required for evidence disclosures.

The Council commended Constable Heighton's efforts within the downtown and the work at the shelter.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald expressed disappointment regarding the discontinuation of drop-in visits to Viola's Place Society by the Community Response Officer, noting that this decision was made by Viola's Place Society. She also inquired whether there has been a decline in occurrences reported to police, and if so, whether police have any concerns about this trend.

Chief Leil advised there was no specific information available to explain the decline in calls for service. There have been procedural changes at the shelter which may have affected the call volume going into the police.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald inquired about the potential installation of a three way stop sign at the intersection of Munroe Avenue and 8th Street, noting that it is similar in configuration to the intersection of Mayflower Drive and Willow Avenue. She also questioned the reasoning behind the

installation of the three way stop at Mayflower Drive and Willow Avenue and requested information on what the traffic analysis data indicates following it's implementation.

Chief Leil stated he will review the recommendation for the three way stop signs at Mayflower Drive and Willow Avenue. He also stated that one of the contributing factors was environmental design with the line of sight in terms of the grade.

Deputy Mayor Peters commended the Community Response Officer and all officers for their work within the Town. Stated that she is disappointed about the shelter not welcoming Cst. Heighton and asked whether Chief Leil foresees any strategies or further discussions to bridge the gap in communication between Viola's Place Society and the department.

Chief Leil confirmed he has expressed concerns and that discussions on the issue are ongoing with the Executive Director and Chairperson and that it will be addressed at the next liaison committee meeting.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Community Development Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Business Development Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

FIRE REPORT AND FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Fire Report and Fire Inspection Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna commended the fire department on its recent efforts in responding to the downtown fire on Provost Street.

Councillor Joe MacDonald offered positive feedback regarding the new cadet program scheduled to launch in the fall as part of the school curriculum.

Fire Chief White explained that this program had been offered previously and has now been redesigned as a Level One firefighting training program focused on basic firefighting skills. Students who complete the program will receive a course credit.

Fire Chief White advised that 20 applications had been distributed, but it is not yet known who intends to apply. Meetings involving parents, youth, and the department will be held, and additional information is expected following those discussions.

Councillor Dorrington asked if any female students had expressed interest in the program.

Councillor Dorrington also noted that there is a summer training camp of a week long in the HRM for females pursuing non-traditional occupations, which may be beneficial for prospective cadets.

Motion carried.

BUILDING REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Building Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Human Resources and Corporate Communications Report dated April 20, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY – TAX EXEMPTION

It was regularly moved and seconded pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, that a property tax exemption is the amount of \$414 for the taxation year 2026-2027 be granted to a person whose property is assessed as taxable property in the Town of New Glasgow and is occupied by that person as his/her principal residence and whose total income for the calendar year 2025 from all sources, including the income of a spouse or partner and other family members residing at the same property but excluding an allowance or pension paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act, is equal or less than \$24,855.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was regularly moved and seconded that the accounts dated April 20, 2026, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Dicks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mayor Nancy Dicks
Approved May 19, 2026