

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at Glasgow Square. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Peters, Councillors Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Fraser, Dorrington, and McKenna. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Nick Hirtle, NGP Deputy Chief; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; Frank DeMont, Solicitor (virtually through MS Teams), and Cindy MacKinnon, representing Coastal Nova Scotia. Absent from the meeting were staff members, Ryan Leil, NGP Chief; and Derek Eisan, Director of I.T.

Deputy Mayor Peters 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.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION COASTAL NOVA SCOTIA

A presentation was given by Cindy MacKinnon, representing Coastal Nova Scotia, who provided an overview of the organization's vision that facilitates sustainable and economic tourism growth through destination marketing, communication, education, and partnership with community. Cindy also noted that there are two Facebook pages associated with the organization: Explore PC and Coastal NS as well as four Pictou County visitor centres.

Councillor Fraser inquired whether all applicable businesses remit the tourism marketing levy.

Cindy MacKinnon advised that the larger tourist accommodations currently submit the tourism marketing levy, but there are 15 small operators/Air BNBs not remitting. She noted that a new payment method is being developed and that the matter is also being addressed by AMANS for consistency across the province.

Mayor Dicks thanked Cindy for the presentation and acknowledged the valuable work being done by the organization.

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 July 20, 2026, and proclamations for:

World Humanitarian Day – August 19, 2026

International Day for People of African Descent – August 31, 2026

Arthritis Awareness Month – September 2026

Big Brothers Big Sisters Month – September 2026

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month – September 2026

World Suicide Prevention Day – September 10, 2026

Welcoming Week – September 10 to 19, 2026

International Celiac Disease Awareness Day – September 13, 2026

Culture Days – September 18 to October 4, 2026

National Forest Week – September 20 to 26, 2026

International Day of Peace – September 21, 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 August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Finance Report dated August 17, 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 August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna inquired on the status of the construction of the Ward One Social and Recreation Centre ramp.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that this subject is a contract matter and will be covered under the in-camera portion of the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Peters inquired whether any work is scheduled for the sidewalk on Almont Avenue.

Director of Engineering and Public Works advised that the work would begin within the next two weeks.

Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Solid Waste Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Police Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna asked whether there had been any progress on the installation of speed humps as traffic calming measures ahead of the start of the school year.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that this will be included in the capital projects for next fiscal as it was agreed the current fiscal's capital project list was already too extensive.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Community Development Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Deputy Mayor Peters and Councillor Dorrington commended the Director of Community Development and staff for their work in completing the Climate Health Equity Decision Support Toolkit for Climate Action. Deputy Mayor Peters and Councillor Dorrington also acknowledged and complimented staff on the ongoing beautification and upkeep of the Town.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Business Development Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

FIRE REPORT AND FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Fire Report and Fire Inspection Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna inquired about the 158 hours of staff time spent responding to false fire alarms and questioned whether the Town could do more to address repeat false alarm calls, particularly given the Town's current budget pressures. He suggested that the Town examine whether repeat offenders could eventually face charges or other penalties, similar to policies in place in some other jurisdictions.

Chief White advised that he will review how other municipalities address repeat false alarm calls, including relevant standards and practices, and bring a report back to Council next month. He also

noted that a media release could be considered to help educate the public about false fire alarms, their impacts, and the resources required to respond to them

Deputy Mayor Peters voiced concern regarding the four encampment fires and asked what the cost was to the municipality.

Chief White is working with the Water Utility Forester/GIS Analyst and the Director of Engineering and Public Works to use drone technology to identify encampments and assess areas of concern. The Town is also working in partnership with Nova Scotia Power Inc. to thin vegetation in high-risk areas. Chief White noted that FireSmart principles have been successful in helping to reduce and minimize wildfire risks in New Glasgow.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that this is the fourth year of the FireSmart program. She noted that Fire, Police, By-law and Engineering staff have been working collaboratively along the Pioneer Trail.

Motion carried.

BUILDING REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Building Report dated August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Information Technology report dated August 17, 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 August 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was regularly moved and seconded that the accounts dated August 17, 2026, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IN-CAMERA

LOCAL 281 CUPE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the negotiated CUPE Local 281 Collective Agreement for the period April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor McKenna brought forth a motion to advocate to the Province of Nova Scotia to close the Northstar Shelter and Support Services and do a person-centred residential rehabilitation centre in the right location designed to support unhoused individuals experiencing addiction and related challenges.

WHEREAS, the Town of New Glasgow recognizes the complex and interconnected challenges associated with homelessness, mental health, substance use and addiction, and the significant impact

these issues have on individuals, families, neighbourhoods, and the broader community from a safety perspective;

AND WHEREAS, the Town of New Glasgow recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction require access to appropriate, person-centred health, treatment, rehabilitation, housing, and support services;

AND WHEREAS, the current homeless shelter model and its existing downtown location on Marsh Street are not adequately addressing the underlying health and rehabilitation needs of many individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and addiction;

AND WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that a coordinated, health-focused approach is required to provide individuals with an opportunity to stabilize, receive treatment, pursue rehabilitation, and transition towards sustainable housing and healthier lifestyles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of New Glasgow request that the current homeless shelter at its existing location on Marsh Street cease operations immediately and that the Province of Nova Scotia support a transition plan to be developed to support affected individuals and ensure continuity of essential services;

AND FURTHER THAT, the Town of New Glasgow advocate to the Province of Nova Scotia, community organizations, and other relevant partners for the development of a health-focused, person-centred residential rehabilitation centre designed to support unhoused individuals experiencing addiction and related challenges;

AND FURTHER THAT, consideration be given to a model that integrates residential rehabilitation, addiction treatment, mental health supports, counselling, case management, life-skills development, and pathways to transitional and supportive housing;

AND FURTHER THAT, the proposed approach be developed collaboratively with people with

lived experience, provincial departments, health and social service providers, Pictou Landing First Nation, community organizations, law enforcement and municipal partners, with the objective of creating a sustainable and compassionate continuum of care through a health-focused residential rehabilitation model in Northern Nova Scotia.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the motion to advocate to the Province of Nova Scotia to close the Northstar Shelter and Support Services and do a person-centred residential rehabilitation centre in the right location.

Motion carried as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Mayor Nancy Dicks
Approved September 21, 2026