

TOWN OF LUNENBURG  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2024 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



Present	Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Ed Halverson (via Zoom), Councillors Jenni Birtles, Stephen Ernst, Peter Mosher, Melissa Duggan and Susan Sanford
Also present	Jamie Doyle, CAO Lisa Dagley, Director of Finance Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works Hilary Grant, Director of Community Development Michael Best, Communications Manager Kathleen Rafuse, Town Accountant Lisa Kendall, Municipal Engineer/Project Manager Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.
Land acknowledgment	The Mayor recognized Lunenburg’s location on the unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq people.
Approval of Agenda	Moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the January 9, 2024 meeting as presented.  <b>Motion carried unanimously</b>
Approval of Minutes	Moved and seconded that Council approve the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.  <b>Motion carried unanimously</b>
2024/25 Capital Budget Presentation	Staff presented the 2024/25 Town General Capital Budget and the 2024/25 Water Utility Capital Budget.  Councillors asked some clarifying questions.
Public Input and Questions on Proposed Capital Budgets	Gale Fullerton inquired about capital upgrades concerning the Electric Utility and commented on possible new debt.  Robert Young inquired about road reconstruction, storm sewers, and upgrades to Town Hall. It was noted Town Hall upgrades are not being considered at this time, as further assessments may still need to be conducted. Mr. Young also inquired about a new Public Works building and the possibility of using geothermal in facilities.

Cornwallis Street Renaming	<p>Council received three letters concerning the renaming of Cornwallis Street.</p>
Advocacy for province-wide vulnerable persons registry	<p>Per a recommendation from the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, Council made the following motion:</p> <p>Moved and seconded that Council authorize the mayor to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and the Minister responsible for the Office of Emergency Management, advocating for creating a province-wide vulnerable persons registry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Motion carried unanimously</b></p>
Communities in Bloom Invitation	<p>Council received an invitation to take part in Communities in Bloom programs.</p>
2024/25 Town General Capital Budget	<p>Moved and seconded that Council approve the 2024/25 Town General Capital Budget as presented, totalling \$2,986,000.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Motion carried unanimously</b></p>
2024/25 Water Utility Capital Budget	<p>Moved and seconded that Council approve the 2024/25 Water Utility Capital Budget as presented, totalling \$2,099,000.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Motion carried unanimously</b></p>
Reallocation of Funds	<p>Staff presented a report on a request to reallocate funds from the 2023/24 Town Capital Budget.</p> <p>Moved and seconded that Council approve a reallocation of funds within the 2023/24 Town Capital Budget of \$50,000 from the Suction Line Upgrades item to a new Lift Station Communications Upgrades item for improvements at the Effluent and Starr Street Lift Stations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Motion carried unanimously</b></p>
Notices of Motion, Information Requests and Councillor Reports	<p>Councillor Mosher inquired about a motion to reconsider the Deputy Mayor's appointment.</p> <p>The Mayor called a recess from 7:07 p.m. until 7:27 p.m.</p> <p>Staff presented the following motions for Council's consideration:</p> <p>That Council agree to waive the required notice to amend the motion which appointed Councillor Halverson as Deputy Mayor; and</p> <p>That Council amend the motion previously adopted at the Nov. 14, 2023, meeting, which stated that Council appoint Councillor Halverson as Deputy</p>

Mayor until the last meeting of Council before the 2024 municipal election to change the term of the Deputy Mayor appointment to Jan. 9, 2024.

Following some deliberation and inquiries, Council voted on the following motions:

Moved and seconded that Council agree to waive the required notice to amend the motion which appointed Councillor Halverson as Deputy Mayor.

FOR	AGAINST
6 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

**Motion carried**

Moved and seconded that Council amend the motion previously adopted at the Nov. 14, 2023, meeting, which stated that Council appoint Councillor Halverson as Deputy Mayor until the last meeting of Council before the 2024 municipal election to change the term of the Deputy Mayor appointment to Jan. 9, 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
6 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

**Motion carried**

Moved and seconded that Council agree to waive the required notice of motion to select a new Deputy Mayor.

FOR	AGAINST
6 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

**Motion carried**

Following a call for nominations for a new Deputy Mayor, the following motion was moved and seconded:

Moved and seconded that Council nominate Councillor Mosher as the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Mosher declined the nomination, and no vote was held.

Council nominated Councillor Ernst for the role of Deputy Mayor, which Councillor Ernst accepted. Following the acceptance, Council voted on the following motion:

Moved and seconded that Council appoint Councillor Ernst as the Deputy Mayor until the last meeting of Council before the 2024 municipal election.

FOR	AGAINST
6 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

**Motion carried**

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| In camera              | Moved and seconded that Council move in camera at 7:45 p.m. to discuss agenda item 13.1 acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property per Municipal Government Act. |
| Recess                 | Before discussing any in camera items, the Mayor called a brief recess at 7:45 p.m.   |
| Revert to open session | Council reverted to open session at 8:17 p.m. with no items to report.  |
| Adjournment            | There being no further business, the January 9, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.   |

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The minutes were read and approved.