

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2024 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



Present Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Stephen Ernst, Councillors Ed Halverson, Jenni Birtles, 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
Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk
Miranda Bailey, MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects
Brian MacKay-Lyons, MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects
Julian Smith, Heritage Consultant (via Teams)

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 23, 2024 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes Following comments questioning the clarity of the motions from the January 9, 2024, meeting to end Councillor Halverson’s term as Deputy Mayor and appoint Councillor Ernst to the role, Council opted to confirm these motions and voted on them again as follows:

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

FOR
6 Councillors

AGAINST
1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Birtles, 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

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Birtles, 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

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Duggan, that Council approve the January 9, 2024 meeting minutes with the following amendment:

- That the term of Deputy Mayor Ernst's appointment is noted as "until the last meeting of Council before the 2024 municipal election."

Motion carried unanimously

Public Input and Questions

Paula Rennie, on behalf of Friends of Blockhouse Hill, asked various questions regarding the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, including questions about Parks Canada communications.

Tom McFall expressed concerns with the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, noting a possible impact on the Folk Harbour Festival.

Rachel Martin asked various questions regarding the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, including questions about costs incurred on account of the project.

Heather Langille expressed concerns with the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, noting that Council should consider a plebiscite on the matter.

Alison Strachan expressed concerns with the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, citing a need for Indigenous consultation.

Towny Anderson (via Zoom) expressed concerns with the proposed development of Blockhouse Hill, citing a need for confirmation that the World Heritage Site designation will remain.

REMO 2023/24 Budget Variance Update

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council approve an additional \$1,030 for the Lunenburg County Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) 2023/24 budget in support of the REMO Advisory Committee's motion to approve an additional \$20,200 for the 2023/24 Lunenburg County REMO budget.

Motion carried unanimously

LCAAC members

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council support the Lunenburg County Accessibility Nominating Committee's recommendation and appoint Gregory Novak and Louise Hopper to the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee, each for a term of three years.

Motion carried unanimously

Friends of Blockhouse Hill Letter

Council received a letter from the Friends of Blockhouse Hill, which expressed the group's opinions on the What We Heard report by MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Ltd.

Motion Amendment

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council amend the motion previously adopted at the January 24, 2023, meeting, which stated that Council approve the development of an economic impact study/analysis; and that Council approve including \$50,000 in the 2023/24 Draft Operating Budget for the economic impact study/analysis; and that the study not proceed until at least \$50,000 worth of matching funds are provided by non-Town sources with at least \$10,000 coming from every partner of the study to remove the requirement that \$10,000 must be provided from each partner of the study.

The amended motion reads as follows: That Council approve the development of an economic impact study/analysis; and that Council approve including \$50,000 in the 2023/24 Draft Operating Budget for the economic impact study/analysis; and that the study not proceed until at least \$50,000 worth of matching funds are provided by non-Town sources.

Motion carried unanimously

Recess

Mayor Myra called a recess from 6:31 p.m. to 6:36 p.m.

Blockhouse Hill
Visioning Report
and Design
Options

Staff summarized a report on recommendations to draft development rules and declare the lands of Blockhouse Hill as surplus. Staff from MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects presented the four design options.

Councillors asked clarifying questions, which, among other topics, focused on combining design options, adding additional streets to design options, dividing the land and selling it to multiple developers, phasing the project, costs associated with the required upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment systems, and tax implications associated with any development.

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council direct staff to work with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Ltd. to draft development rules based on the Design Option 1 street design.

Mayor Myra called a recess from 7:43 p.m. to 7:52 p.m.

With no objection from Council, Councillor Mosher withdrew the moved motion.

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council direct staff to work with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Ltd. on drafting development rules based on Design Option 1: Town Square with possible road connection of Creighton Street and Sawpit Road.

Motion approved unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council defer making a decision on the motion that Council declare the land identified in Attachment A surplus and no longer required for Town purposes until the Spring.

With no objection from Council, Councillor Sanford withdrew the moved motion.

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council defer making a decision on declaring the land identified in Attachment A surplus and no longer required for Town purposes and that this decision return for Council's consideration at Council's March 26, 2024 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council direct staff to return with all tax implications associated with the development options presented by MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Ltd. at the January 23, 2024 Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

Notices Of
Motion,
Information
Requests and
Councillor Reports

Councillor Halverson inquired when the Cornwallis Renaming discussion would return to Council. Mayor Myra indicated he has been in touch with some Indigenous partners and is waiting for a response.

Councillor Halverson presented a notice of motion requesting that staff return to Council with an information report detailing the practices and policies of other municipalities regarding the criteria, remedial steps, and the method for dismissing a councillor from appointed roles, including committee memberships.

Councillor Mosher inquired about creating a process to capture questions during the public input portion of the meeting to ensure the public gets answers to their questions. Staff confirmed that while staff is often in touch with members regarding their questions, this process could be formalized.

Councillor Birtles noted her rationale for voting to end Councillor Halverson's term as Deputy Mayor, noting that bullying had occurred.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the January 23, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The minutes were read and approved.