

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2023 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



Present Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Stephen Ernst, Councillors Ed Halverson, Melissa Duggan, Jenni Birtles, Peter Mosher and Susan Sanford

Also present Jamie Doyle, CAO
Lisa Dagley, Director of Finance
Lisa Kendall, Municipal Engineer
Hilary Grant, Director of Community Development
Michael Best, Communications Manager
Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Land acknowledgment It was acknowledged that Lunenburg is located in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Approval of Agenda Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council approve the agenda for the March 26, 2024 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council amend the approved January 23, 2024 minutes to include the following motion, which was accidentally omitted from the minutes:
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.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Public Input and Questions	<p>The Mayor noted that starting at the April 9, 2024 Council meeting, the agenda's public input and questions section will be reserved solely for agenda items rather than being open to all municipal matters.</p> <p>Paula Rennie commented and inquired about the proposed Blockhouse Hill development.</p> <p>Alison Strachan inquired about how the Town intends to proceed with accessibility improvements beyond built-form improvements in accordance with the Accessibility Act.</p>
Attendance update	<p>Councillor Duggan joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.</p>
Lunenburg Electric Harbour – ABCO	<p>Prior to any discussion on this item, Mayor Myra declared a conflict of interest, as one of his family members works for ABCO. Mayor Myra removed himself from the Council table. Deputy Mayor Ernst assumed chairing responsibilities.</p> <p>Michael Huskison, Director of ABCO Industries, spoke to ABCO's request that Council approve, on behalf of the Lunenburg Electric Utility, an application to the NSUARB for regulation amendments to accommodate the company's Electric Harbour Project. Staff indicated that the Electric Utility likely does not have the resources to accommodate this request.</p> <p>Mayor Myra resumed chairing responsibilities.</p>
Alternative Voting By-law – 2 nd reading & public hearing	<p>Staff summarized the intent of the updated Alternative Voting By-law. No written or verbal submissions were received for the public hearing for this by-law.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Duggan, that Council approve the second and final reading of the Alternative Voting By-law as presented.</p>
Budget Increase Request – Fire Hall Roof Repairs	<p>With respect to this request, councillors inquired if the District 1 & 2 Fire Commission would share these costs. Staff confirmed that the Commission had declined an initial cost-sharing request.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council approve a revised 2024/25 Capital Budget amount of \$100,000</p>

Motion carried unanimously

for the Fire Hall Roof Repairs project, with funding from Deed Transfer Taxes.

Motion carried unanimously

Budget Increase
Request and
Tender Award

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council approve a revised 2024/25 Capital Budget amount of \$250,000 for the Townsend Retaining Wall Repairs project, with funding from debt financing.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Duggan, that Council award the Townsend Street Retaining Wall Repair project to J. Mason Contracting Limited for \$170,307 +HST.

Motion carried unanimously

Proposed Joint
Police Advisory
Board for
Lunenburg County

Staff summarized a report on the proposed creation of a Joint Police Advisory Board for Lunenburg County.

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Duggan, that Council support the creation of a Joint Police Advisory Board comprising the Municipality of the District of Chester, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay and the Town of Lunenburg and authorize the mayors/warden to write a joint letter to the provincial Department of Justice requesting Ministerial approval for a joint board.

Motion carried unanimously

2023/24 Budget
Variance (Capital
& Operating)

Council received, for information, the 2023/24 Budget Variance (Capital & Operating) to Jan. 31, 2024.

2024 Provincial
Volunteer Award
Representative

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council designate Donelda Richard as the 2024 Provincial Volunteer Award Representative for the Town of Lunenburg.

Motion carried unanimously

Notice of Motion
& Updates

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council direct staff to seek periodic updates from the South Shore Housing Action Coalition (SSHAC) and the South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA) to be included, for information, in Council agenda packages.

Motion carried unanimously

It was noted that repair work is scheduled to start shortly on the public stairs and walkway between the Grand Banker Bar and Grill and the Admiral Benbow Trading Company on Montague Street, following damage from a car accident last year. Work is expected to be completed in June. Staff indicated it will also identify other areas in the Town that could benefit from additional road safety measures.

It was noted that work on the Tannery Road sidewalk is scheduled to begin in mid to late April.

Mayor Myra presented a notice of motion, directing staff to return to Council with a report on municipal responsibilities and municipal options for short-term housing. This report should consider taxing and zoning options and positive and negative impacts.

Staff noted that a report declaring the lands of Blockhouse Hill surplus was scheduled to be presented to Council at the March 26, 2024 meeting. However, to ensure the Council has sufficient information to make any decisions, staff stated it needed more time to create a more comprehensive report. The next report on Blockhouse Hill, including tax implications associated with each possible design option, is scheduled for the April 9, 2024 Council meeting.

Motion Action List Council received its motion action list.

Adjournment There being no further business, the March 26, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The minutes were read and approved.