

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 May 9, 2023 | 6 pm
 Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber



Present	Acting Mayor Peter Mosher, Councillors Stephen Ernst, Ed Halverson, Jenni Birtles, Melissa Duggan and Susan Sanford
Also present	Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk Kathleen Rafuse, Accountant Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works Arthur MacDonald, Director of Community Development Hilary Grant, Senior Planner/Heritage Officer Michael Best, Communications Manager Devin Casario, Economic Development and Funding Manager Thom Barclay, Friends of Blockhouse Hill
Call to Order	The Acting Mayor called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
Land acknowledgment	The Acting Mayor recognized Lunenburg's location on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Approval of Agenda	Moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the May 9, 2023 meeting.
Approval of Minutes	Moved and seconded that Council approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023 meeting as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Friends of Blockhouse Hill Presentation	Council received a presentation from the Friends of Blockhouse Hill, a local volunteer group created in opposition of the potential development of Blockhouse Hill. The presentation requested that Council pause both proposed developments of Blockhouse Hill and upper King Street, citing, among other reasons, that more public consultation be conducted. Councillors asked some clarifying questions.

	<p>Staff indicated they are reviewing the submissions received for the recent Blockhouse Hill development Request for Proposal (RFP). It was also noted that once a vendor is selected the Town will have a better understanding of what is possible for a potential development at Blockhouse Hill. Once some potential designs have been created, the designs will be presented and there will be public engagement opportunities.</p>
Mayor Risser's Official Resignation	<p>Council received Mayor Risser's official resignation. Councillors thanked Mr. Risser for his contributions to the Town and Council.</p>
Electric Utility Options	<p>Council received a letter from the members of AREA, a municipally owned company for Nova Scotia municipal electric utilities. The letter expressed the organization's support for the Town as it pursues a process to realize the maximum value of the Town's Electric Utility.</p>
Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy	<p>Moved and seconded that Council approve the Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Committee Minutes, Reports & Notices of Motion	<p>None.</p>
2023/24 Operating Budget	<p>Council invited input from the public on the proposed budgets. Council heard from eight members of the public, most of whom expressed their opposition to the proposed budget.</p> <p>After hearing input from the public, Council made the following motion:</p> <p>Moved and seconded that Council approve the 2023/24 operating budget as presented in the amount of \$9,902,620.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p> <p>The 2023/24 general operating budget reflects the following tax and sewer rates: Residential Tax Rate of \$1.376/\$100 of assessment; Commercial Tax Rate of \$3.358/\$100 of assessment, Seasonal Tourist Tax Rate of \$2.519/\$100 of assessment; Residential sewer of \$691.20 per dwelling units; Non-residential Sewer of \$0.6605/\$100 of assessment and Church Sewer of \$405.96 per quarter.</p>
Water Utility	<p>Moved and seconded that Council approve the 2023/24 Water Utility</p>

- Operating Budget operating budget as presented in the amount of \$1,718,100.
Motion carried unanimously
- Film Policy Councillors asked some clarifying questions with respect to the proposed fee structure included in the draft policy.
- Moved and seconded that Council give notice that it may repeal and replace Policy #92 Filming Guidelines with the draft Film Policy as presented, and that the draft Film Policy be considered for approval at the May 23, 2023 regular meeting.
Motion carried unanimously
- In camera Moved and seconded that Council move in camera at 7:31 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to section 22 (2), Municipal Government Act.
- Prior to any in camera discussions, the Mayor called a brief recess at 7:31 p.m.
- Revert to open session Council reverted to open session at 8:08 p.m. There were no motions or recommendations following the in camera session.
- Adjournment There being no further business, the May 9, 2023 Council meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes were read and approved.