



**TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS TOWN HALL
MARCH 02, 2026
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Bartlett, Chair
Deputy Mayor Paul Saulnier
Councillor Rick Foote
Councillor William McCormick
Councillor Shane Weir

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Karen Morrell, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLLCALL

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. CELL PHONE USE DURING MEETINGS

D. AGENDA

D.1 Additions/Deletions

D.2 Approval

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote, that the agenda for March 02, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried

E. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

F. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

G. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

G.1 February 02, 2026

Council accepted the minutes as Presented. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

G.2 Special Council Meeting February 23, 2026

Council accepted the minutes as Presented. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

I. REPORT OF CAO

CAO Ossinger presented a report including updates on:

- Director of Finance recruitment (57 applications received; interviews scheduled)
- Provincial 2026–2027 budget and impacts on municipal programs
- Potential cancellation of several municipal funding programs after 2027–2028
- Fire Protection Services Act proposed by the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Legal matters regarding **159 Queen Street**
- Supreme Court action regarding removal of a shed from the town right-of-way

Council discussed potential impacts of provincial funding reductions, library and museum funding concerns, and infrastructure funding programs.

J. REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Bartlett presented a report including updates on:

- Attendance at a ‘Building Community of Peace’ seminar at JACBA.
- Transit feasibility study public meeting
- Gathered information for a possible Food hub in Digby. The Mayor looks forward to that presentation.
- Waste Check updates and green cart replacements
- Joint council meeting
- Water Commission report (testing results satisfactory)
- Fire facility planning meeting, items discussed were the possible locations to build this facility.
- Tourism Industry Association meeting
- Regional and provincial meetings regarding fire service reform and municipal budgets

K. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

K.1 Committee of the Whole Report

A. Affordable Housing Grant Policy

Housing Initiative Coordinator Marshall presented the Affordable Housing Grant Policy funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Program highlights:

- \$7,500 grant per eligible housing unit
- Applies to affordable housing and “affordable missing middle” housing
- Includes duplexes, multi-unit buildings, and secondary suites
- Open to developers and individual property owners
- First-come, first-served until funds are exhausted

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that Council approve Administrative Policy 2026-02 – Affordable Housing Grant Policy.

Motion carried

B. Digby Home & Lifestyle Expo+

Council discussed participating in the upcoming expo with a municipal booth. Cost: \$295

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that the Town of Digby participate in the Digby Home & Lifestyle Expo and secure a booth.

Motion carried

C. Digby & Area Charitable Health Foundation Funding Commitment

Council discussed a request from the Charitable Health Foundation for a **three-year funding commitment**.

Discussion included:

- Municipal accountability for public funds
- Requirement for quarterly financial statements
- Progress reporting
- Potential quarterly payments

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Weir that the Town of Digby commit to a three-year funding agreement with the Charitable Health Foundation as follows:

- ***\$36,415 for 2026–2027,***
- ***adjusted annually based on cost-of-living increases for the following two years,***
- ***payments to be made quarterly, and***
- ***subject to financial reporting and accountability requirements.***

Motion carried

K.2 Digby County REMO-Councillor Foote A report was presented regarding the **Digby County Regional Emergency Measures Organization (REMO)** meeting.

Key topics included:

- Regional Emergency Readiness Grant
- REMO staff training
- Drought emergency water voucher programs
- Water pickup point safety issues
- Emergency alert systems
- Regional evacuation planning
- Inter-municipal aid agreement
- Regional emergency exercises

The next meeting will take place for the Digby County REMO- **April 16, 2026 at Digby Town Hall.**

L. CORRESPONDENCE

L.1 RCMP Retroactive Pay Liability

Council reviewed correspondence indicating the Province do not expect municipalities to cover retroactive RCMP pay costs and will not pursue cost recovery from municipalities.

M. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

N. NEW BUSINESS

None

O. IN-CAMERA -Legal & Personnel

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier to go into In Camera for Legal & Personnel matters.

Motion carried

Motion:

Moved by a Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier to go out of In Camera for Legal & Personnel matters.

Motion carried

P. BUSINESS FROM IN-CAMERA

P.1 Appointment of CAO

It is with great pleasure that the Council reports that they have awarded the position of CAO to Leslie Brinton. Ms. Brinton will act as the new CAO in full capacity after CAO Ossinger has retired in September. Congratulations to CAO Brinton.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

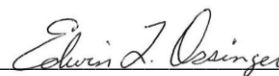
Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that there being no further business the meeting shall be adjourned at 8:30PM.

Motion carried



Mayor



Clerk