

**TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS TOWN HALL
JUNE 01, 2026
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Paul Saulnier
Councillor Rick Foote
Councillor William McCormick

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

REGRETS: Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Mayor Mike Bartlett, Chair
Councillor Shane Weir

A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLLCALL

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. CELL PHONE USE DURING MEETINGS

D. AGENDA

D.1 Additions/Deletions
Addition: O.1 Legal In Camera

D.2 Approval

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote, that the agenda for June 01, 2026 be accepted as amended.

Motion Carried

E. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

F. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

G.1 May 04, 2026

G.2 Special Council Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the minutes of May 04, 2026 and minutes of May 19, 2026 be approved as presented

Motion carried

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H.1 Letter to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)

CAO response letter requesting that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities advocate for free municipal access to the Nova Scotia Joint Registry of Stocks. The request highlights that municipalities rely on accurate corporate and non-profit information for due diligence, and current access barriers hinder effective decision-making.

I. REPORT OF CAO

The CAO reported attending **25 meetings** in May and taking **2 personal days**.

- NSP Easement – 7 Birch Street: Easement fully executed.
- Community Video Project: Craig Baird confirmed minimal staff involvement, full municipal usage rights, and ability to highlight historic sites.
- Operating Budgets: Draft Town Operating Budget to be presented June 9; DWC budget under review.
- Transport Canada Lease: Awaiting response on \$3,000 a year harbour-bottom lease; interest expressed in future ownership.
- Former VIC – 237 Shore Road: Drafted 6-month lease sent to DATA; awaiting reply.
- 10 Carleton Street: Demolition completed.

J. REPORT OF MAYOR

The Mayor reported on activities and meetings attended throughout May. Highlights included participation in McHappy Day in support of RMHC, meetings with MP Chris d'Entremont, the Transit Committee, Executive Committee, and Committee of the Whole. The Mayor also conducted a site walk at the Wharf parking lot to discuss improvement concepts, attended the MPS Open House, Banner Committee, Emancipation Day planning meeting, and several community events including Tideview Terrace daycare opening activities, Seniors Games Banquet, the Home Show, and the Pet Valu Dog Walk. Updates were also provided on Water Commission activities, including hydrant numbering, flushing, and water testing, all of which returned clear results.

K. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

K.1 Ad Hoc Transit Committee-Councillor R Foote

Councillor Foote reported that the Ad Hoc Transit Committee met to review the DalTRAC Transportation Feasibility Study. The study showed nearly equal participation from Town and Municipality residents and provided useful data for determining next steps. Estimated costs for a stand-alone transit system were noted as **\$137,415 annually** with **\$200,000 startup**.

Councillor Foote also consulted with Hope Dial-A-Ride in Yarmouth; however, a similar model is unlikely to suit Digby due to existing Transport de Clare service. Additional information sources were identified, including the Rural Transportation Association of Nova Scotia.

Councillor Foote will contact the Rural Transportation Association and the Town of Yarmouth to explore further options. The next committee meeting will be scheduled once more information is gathered.

K.2 Wastechek Meeting May 11, 2026- Councillor R Foote

Councillor Foote reported on the Wastechek AGM and regular meeting held May 5, 2026.

AGM Highlights:

Officers elected: Chair – Linda Gregory; Vice Chair – Mike Bartlett; Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Kingston; Digby County Executive – Joan Ross; Yarmouth County Executive – Gil Dares.

- The Audit, HR, Policy Committees confirmed.
- Concern raised about high audit costs; suggestion made to consider an annual review instead.

Regular Meeting Highlights:

- Policy updates accepted.
- Ongoing issues with sharps disposal; municipalities encouraged to raise concerns with MLAs and NSFM. Wastechek will provide a template letter.
- EPR program functioning well; bi-monthly updates to be shared with municipal units.
- Discussion on employee salaries in relation to minimum wage increases.
- Virtual meeting limit of three per year referred to Policy Committee for review.
- Computer loan program discontinued due to lack of use.

Next meeting: **September 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**

K.3 Committee of the Whole Report May 19, 2026

The Committee of the Whole recommended the following for Council approval:

1. **HR Policy #2014-13 – Overtime/Standby/Call-Out Policy**, as amended.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that HR Policy #2014-13 – Overtime/Standby/Call-Out Policy, be approved as amended.

Motion carried

2. **Administrative Policy #2025-05 – Council Meeting and Proceedings Policy**, as amended.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that Council approve the Administrative Policy #2025-05 – Council Meeting and Proceedings Policy, as amended.

Motion carried

3. **Purchase of a “Remember Them” Memorial Display for Digby Station at a cost of \$122.00 plus tax.**

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor McCormick approve the Purchase of a “Remember Them” Memorial Display for Digby Station at a cost of \$122.00 plus tax.

Motion carried

K.4 Digby Beautification & Festive Decorations Advisory Committee Report May 27, 2026

The Digby Beautification & Festive Decorations Advisory Committee met to discuss the establishment and future direction of the Committee, including beautification priorities, seasonal decorations, and banner programming throughout the Town.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that the Digby Beautification & Festive Decorations Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be accepted.

Motion carried

L. CORRESPONDENCE

L.1 Digby Cancer Help Fund Association

Letter thanking the Council for the \$750 Grant awarded for the year 2026-27.

L.2 Digby Area Tourism Association

Correspondence was received from DATA expressing disappointment with the Town's decision not to provide grant funding for 2026. DATA advised that municipal funding is important to supporting its tourism promotion activities and noted concerns that accommodation levy revenues may be viewed as a replacement for municipal funding, despite previous assurances to the contrary. DATA has requested an explanation as to what the Town's rationale was to not provide DATA with funding this year.

Discussion followed regarding the implementation of the Tourism Marketing Levy, previous tourism funding arrangements, and current municipal financial constraints. Members noted that no long-term funding commitment had previously been guaranteed.

Administration was directed to prepare a response to the Association outlining Council's discussion and current position.

M. NOTICE OF MOTION

M.1 None

N. NEW BUSINESS

N.1 Blooming Digby-Deputy Mayor Saulnier

The *Bloomin' Digby* initiative, presented by Deputy Mayor Saulnier, is a community beautification project designed to enhance Digby's public spaces through floral displays and greenery. This partnered effort involves the Town of Digby, local organizations, and residents working collaboratively to foster civic pride and strengthen Digby's appeal as a welcoming destination.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor McCormick that Council formally adopt and endorse the *Bloomin' Digby* initiative as presented.

Motion carried

O. IN-CAMERA -LEGAL

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that we move into IN CAMERA Legal.

Motion carried

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote that we move out of IN CAMERA Legal.

Motion carried

P. BUSINESS FROM IN-CAMERA

P.1 None

Q. ADJOURNMENT

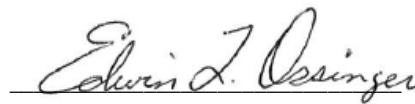
Motion:

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor McCormick that there be no further business that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Motion carried



Mayor



Clerk