

Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 8th, 2025  
Council Chambers  
9:30 am

## MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny MacIsaac  
Deputy Warden Lynn Chisholm  
Councillor Claude Poirier  
Councillor John MacLennan  
Councillor Catherine Gillis  
Councillor Blair Phillips

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO  
Erin Gillis, COO  
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO  
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development  
Lauren MacDonnell, Director of Engineering and Planning  
Shannon MacLean, Project Coordinator in Culture & Community Development

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden MacIsaac acknowledged that the land on which we gather is located in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *That the agenda be approved as presented.*  
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier  
MOTION CARRIED

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 3rd 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Nominating Committee meeting minutes of April 24th 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes April 24th 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **5. PROCLAMATION: GAELIC NOVA SCOTIA MONTH, MAY 2025**

The following proclamation was read by Lauren MacDonnell:

***SEACH GUN COMHARRAICH** 2025 an naoidheamh ceann bliadhna air fhichead do Mhìos nan Gàidheal, a tha 'na àm gus cànan, cultur, eachdraidh is àrd-ghnìomhan nan Gàidheal thar na mòr-roinneadh is na chuir iad rithe, a dhlùth-ghabhail, onorachadh is a ghléidheadh; agus*

***SEACH GU BHEIL** canàn is cultur nan Gàidheal 'nan pàirt bhunaiteach do dh'fhéin-aithne na h-Albann Nuaidhe is iad, na Gàidheil té dhe na buidhnean culturail neo-thùsanach na bu tràithe a thuinich ann an tìr nam Mìogmac; agus*

***SEACH GU BHEIL** ginealaich ùra do luchd-ionnsachaidh a' chànain, agus suinn chulturail, a' cumail orra is iad a' leantainn gu dlùth ri dìleab seanchaidhean na h-Albann Nuaidhe; agus*

***SEACH GU BHEIL** an riaghaltas an geall air a bhith a' co-obrachadh le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhealach gus taic a thoirt do leasachadh nan Gàidheal ann an Albainn Nuaidh thro chothroman gus cànan, mothachadh culturail, agus comas 's na coimhearsnachd a' thogail, a' dèanadh cinnteach gum mair cànan agus cultur nan Gàidheal 'nan pàirt bheartach do 'n léirsinn cànanach is culturail a tha beò ann an Albainn Nuaidh;*

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

***WHEREAS** 2025 marks the 29th anniversary of Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to embrace, honour and celebrate the language, culture, history, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province; and*

*WHEREAS* Gaelic language and culture are integral components of the identity of Nova Scotia, and that Gaels represent one of the earliest non-Indigenous cultural groups to settle in Mi'kma'ki; and

*WHEREAS* new generations of language learners and cultural champions continue to build upon the legacy of Gaelic Nova Scotia's tradition bearers; and

*WHEREAS* government commits to collaborating with Gaelic communities to support the growth of Gaelic Nova Scotia through opportunities for language acquisition, cultural awareness and capacity building within communities to ensure Gaelic language and culture remain vibrant elements of the living linguistic and cultural landscape of Nova Scotia;

## **6. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**MOTION:** *That the following three individuals be accepted to serve on the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee:*

- *Elvi Kargoll*
- *Cathy Gillies*
- *Terry MacDonald*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. PROVINCIAL CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS**

### RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL # 1

Following review of the proposed planning initiative and its strategic value to environmental compliance, waste management modernization, and clean energy readiness, the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness moves that the following application be rated and recommended as a priority submission to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the 2025–2026 funding year:

**Priority Project:**

Kenloch Waste Management Facility – Integrated Site Planning, C&D Cell Closure Design, and Solar Feasibility Study

**Project Description:**

The Kenloch Waste Management Facility requires a comprehensive site planning initiative to improve facility safety and efficiency, prepare for closure of the Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris disposal cell in accordance with updated Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) guidelines, and evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of installing a solar photovoltaic array on approximately six acres of capped landfill.

This planning initiative includes:

- A full engineering site plan including upgraded traffic flow design, a new scale house, and improved signage.
- A closure plan for the C&D cell, with detailed design, tender-ready documents, and a post-closure maintenance strategy.
- A solar feasibility study and conceptual design to evaluate renewable energy potential and associated cost-benefit scenarios.
- This investment will:
  - Ensure regulatory compliance with NSECC (July 2023) solid waste guidelines,
  - Support environmental restoration and mitigate potential groundwater impacts,
  - Enhance on-site public safety and traffic management,
  - Explore municipal energy cost reductions and revenue diversification through solar energy,
  - Provide strategic readiness for future capital funding for construction, closure, and renewable energy development.

The Municipality of the County of Inverness has approved its municipal funding contribution and confirms that this project is ready to proceed with clear scope and costing prepared.

**Cost Breakdown:**

**Total Project Cost (Excl. HST):** \$392,437.00

**PCAP Requested Contribution:** \$196,218.50

**Municipal Contribution:** \$196,218.50

The Council respectfully requests that the Province of Nova Scotia consider this application under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program, recognizing its strong alignment with PCAP’s objectives, the Clean Power Plan, and the Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth.

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL # 2

Following review of the proposed project and its significance to the Inverness Water Supply System, the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness moves that the following application be rated and recommended as a priority submission to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the 2025-2026 funding year:

**Priority Project:**

Replacement of Production Well PW1, Inverness

**Project Description:**

Production Well PW1, located within the Inverness Water Supply System, is exhibiting declining yield and deteriorating infrastructure after decades of service. This well is critical to the community’s water system, which serves residential, commercial, and essential institutional users, including a hospital, long-term care facility, and school. The current system is nearing its capacity limits, and PW1’s reduced performance significantly affects

service resiliency and growth potential.

The proposed project involves drilling and establishing a new production well to replace PW1, thereby restoring lost capacity, adding system redundancy, and ensuring reliable water service. The project scope includes drilling, casing, screen installation, pump testing, and decommissioning the existing well, all under the guidance of certified hydrogeologists.

This investment will:

Address a critical infrastructure and capacity issue,  
Support anticipated residential and commercial development,  
Ensure compliance with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change regulatory standards,  
Provide resiliency for essential public services,  
Prepare the community for increasing seasonal demands and climate-related impacts.

The Municipality of the County of Inverness has approved its municipal funding contribution and confirms that the project is shovel-ready with detailed cost estimates and site information prepared.

**Cost Breakdown:**

**Total Project Cost (Excl. HST):** \$283,762.00

**PCAP Requested Contribution:** \$141,881.00

**Municipal Contribution:** \$141,881.00

The Council respectfully requests that the Province of Nova Scotia consider this application under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program, recognizing the urgent need to safeguard public water supply infrastructure and support sustainable growth in the Inverness area.

**8. MUNICIPAL INNOVATION PROGRAM (MIP) RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Inverness and the Town of Port Hawkesbury have identified an opportunity to undertake a joint comprehensive municipal services study of the water and wastewater systems that service the town of Port Hawkesbury and the community of Port Hastings through a collaborative approach;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Innovation Program (MIP) offers funding to support regional collaboration for improved municipal capacity to respond to municipal priorities and effective inter- municipal relations through joint and collaborative activities;

**AND WHEREAS** both the Municipality of the County of Inverness and the Town of Port Hawkesbury have agreed to jointly apply for MIP funding to support regional collaboration that will identify condition and capacity of the water and wastewater systems, providing recommendations to support regional growth;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Inverness Council hereby authorizes the submission of an application for the Municipal Innovation Program to fund the collaborative water

and wastewater services study between the Municipality of the County of Inverness and the Town of Port Hawkesbury;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Inverness Council commits to participating in the project, including providing necessary financial resources and support for implementation, in accordance with the guidelines set out in the MIP;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Municipality of the County of Inverness Council agrees to the formation of a joint working group with the Town of Port Hawkesbury to manage and oversee the planning, procurement, and implementation phases of the project.

#### **9. LETTER OF SUPPORT; LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES**

*Direction to staff to proceed with issuing a letter in support of the municipality's application to the Low Carbon Communities program for the Kenloch Landfill Solar Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design initiative.*

#### **10. COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR SESSION: FESTIVALS**

On April 26<sup>th</sup> a Community Navigator Session was hosted by the municipality at the Inverness County Centre for the Arts. Over 40 people from across the county came together to meet other festival organizers, share helpful information and resources, and learn about how the municipality can better connect and support them. Topic covered included:

- Permits and Regulations
- Funding and Grants
- Music and Entertainment
- Safety and Volunteers
- Food Resources and Vendors

#### **11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notice was provided to Council that during upcoming meetings the following bylaws and policies will be put before Council for consideration and discussion. All relevant information required will be provided in the Council package in advance of the discussions.

Bylaw 46 – Amendment to Service Fees for Payment Cards

Bylaw 14 – Tax on Commencing Business

Bylaw 22 – Improvement Charges

Policy – Interest on Overpaid Taxes

**12. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTION TEAM POLICY**

**MOTION:** *That the municipal Diversity and Inclusion Action Team Policy be accepted as presented in today's Council package.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**13. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTION TEAM TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**MOTION:** *That the municipal Diversity and Inclusion Action Team Terms of Reference be accepted as presented in today's Council package.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**14. CORRESPONDENCE: ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS**

Correspondence was received from the Association of Municipal Administrators regarding clarification of Responsible Beverage Service Training.

**15. NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 22nd, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

**16. IN CAMERA**

**MOTION:** *That Council move to "In Camera" at 11:03 am to discuss contract negotiations.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 11:27 am.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 11:27 am.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**MOTION CARRIED**