

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, June 5th, 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
Brian Luciano, CFO
Erin Gillis, COO
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development
Michelle Coffin, Governance and By-law Researcher

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. PROCLAMATION: PRIDE MONTH

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

WHEREAS, June 2025 is recognized as Pride month, a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of a persons from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and increase the efforts to raise awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act and the Nova Scotia Dismantling Hate and Racism Act prohibits all forms of discrimination, including those on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expressions; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Inverness County is committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive community that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion and where everyone feels safe and respected; and

WHEREAS, Pride month promotes the creation of spaces for persons of diverse sexual and gender identities to come together and flourish; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Inverness County acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, to the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of all Nova Scotians; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Inverness County fosters an equitable society free from all forms of oppression by acknowledging the contributions of Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and other sexual and gender identities (2SLGBTQ+), celebrates diversity, and advances inclusion and acceptance within our community.

THEREFORE I, Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of Inverness County do hereby proclaim June 2025 as “Pride Month” in the Municipality of Inverness County.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of May 8th 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Special Council meeting minutes of May 21st 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Nominating Committee meeting minutes of May 22nd 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes May 22nd 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION: NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH, EASTERN ZONE

Glen Cox, Executive Director, Community and Rural Health
Andrew Heighton, Director of Integrated Rural Health
Heather Gillis; Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital Facility Manager
Johanne Doucette; Sacred Heart Community Health Centre Facility Manager
Lynn Gilbert, Senior Communications Advisor

There are 2 facilities in the Municipality within the catchment area of Nova Scotia Health, Eastern Zone; Sacred Heart Hospital in Cheticamp and Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital (ICMH) in Inverness. Sacred Heart is a 10 bed inpatient hospital with 4 doctors on staff and a number of nursing, physio and lab staff. Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital (ICMH) is a 32 bed inpatient facility with over 200 staff. ICMH is part of the Dalhousie Family Medical Residency program. This program has been successful in retaining residents to practice in Inverness. The CBU medical school is scheduled to open in Sydney in the fall of 2025 with a focus on family and rural medicine.

7. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOTION: *That the following two individuals be accepted to serve on the Municipal Audit Committee:*

- Caspar Young
- Patricia Danberger

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

8. 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

We'koqma'q First Nation School	Friday, June 20th	4:00 pm
Dalbrae Academy	Thursday, June 26th	7:00 pm
CB Highlands Education Centre & Academy	Thursday, June 26th	7:00 pm
Inverness Education Centre & Academy	Thursday, June 26th	7:00 pm
SAERC	Thursday, June 26th	6:00 pm
l'école NDA de Chéticamp	Thursday, June 26th	7:00 pm

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION:

I. Margaree Food Security Program - Margaree Food Security Gift Card program

MOTION: *That Council approve the request of \$2500.00 in whole from District 2 CDC funds.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

10. PUBLIC INPUT – REPEAL OF BYLAW 14, 22 and 46

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of bylaw 14, 22 and 46. None were received.

11. SECOND READING: Repeal of Bylaw # 14 – Tax on Commencing Business

MOTION: *That Bylaw 14 – Tax on Commencing Business passed by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness on July 11, 1994, is repealed.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

12. SECOND READING: Repeal of Bylaw # 22 – Improvement Charges

MOTION: *That Bylaw 22 – Improvement Charges passed by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness on November 15, 1994, is repealed.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

13. SECOND READING: Repeal of Bylaw # 46 – Amendments to the Service Fees for Payment Cards

MOTION: *That Bylaw 46 – Amendments to the Service Fees for Payment Cards passed by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness on December 1, 2014, is repealed.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

14. REPEAL OF POLICY: Interest On Overpaid Taxes

MOTION: *That the Interest on Overpaid Taxes policy passed by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness on July 10, 2006, is repealed.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice was provided to Council that during upcoming meetings the following bylaws and terms of reference 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.

- i. Planning Advisory Committee Policy and Terms of Reference
- ii. Protective Equipment and Responsible Use for Bylaw Enforcement Policy

16. 2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 WATER CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Inverness has prepared a detailed Water Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026, outlining necessary investments in water infrastructure across the municipality; and

WHEREAS the total Water Capital Budget amounts to \$3,111,554.00, with \$292,450.95 to be funded internally through municipal debenture financing, and the remaining \$2,819,103.05 secured through external funding sources, including the Federal Gas Tax Fund and other provincial and federal infrastructure programs; and

WHEREAS the budget reflects the Municipality's ongoing commitment to responsibly manage public funds, invest in essential infrastructure, and leverage available senior government funding to minimize financial impact on ratepayers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness hereby approves and adopts the 2025-2026 Water Capital Budget as presented, in the total amount of \$3,111,554.00, with internal funding of \$292,450.95 to be financed via debenture, and the remainder funded through confirmed external grants and transfers.

MOVED BY: Councillor Catherine Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 GENERAL CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Inverness has prepared and presented a comprehensive General Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026, reflecting priority investments in municipal infrastructure, facilities, and strategic growth initiatives; and

WHEREAS the total General Capital Budget is \$29,310,000.00, comprised of:

- \$720,000.00 from gas tax reserves;
- \$540,000.00 from capital reserves;
- \$540,000.00 from operating reserves;
- \$5,873,740.00 from debenture financing;

And the remaining \$22,176,260.00 funded through confirmed external grants and contributions from provincial and federal sources;

WHEREAS this budget represents a fiscally responsible and strategically aligned investment plan, designed to address Council's priorities, leverage external funding, and strengthen the municipality's core infrastructure;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness hereby approves and adopts the 2025-2026 Water Capital Budget as presented, in the total amount of \$3,111,554.00, with internal funding of \$292,450.95 to be financed via debenture, and the remainder funded through confirmed external grants of \$1,054,103.05 and transfers from gas tax reserve of \$1,765,000.

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

17. CORRESPONDENCE: ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS

Correspondence was received from Dr. Corrine McIsaac. She extended congratulations to the municipality on the success of the recent Health Care Awards ceremony.

18. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 19th, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

19. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:13 am.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED