

**Committee of the Whole
September 2, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor S. Cameron
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor L. MacLellan
Councillor, P. McKenna
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor J. Sullivan

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer
G. Gillis, Manager of Public Works
L. Basinger, Projects Manager
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Media

Members of the Gallery

1. [Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment](#)

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and recognized that we are all treaty people.

2. [Approval of Agenda](#)

Additions to the agenda under Business from the Minutes included:

- Item 5.3 Update on Strategic Plan
- Item 5.4: Update on Water & Sewer
- Item 5.5: Updating Councillor Committee Calendar

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Murray

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. [Acceptance of the Minutes](#)

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on August 5, 2025, were accepted as presented.

4. Presentations

4.1 Micro-Mobility Electric Scooters

Mr. Stephen Gaudon presented to Council on the potential of bringing Hopp e-scooters, a franchise based in Iceland, to the community. Hopp scooters are GPS-equipped and managed through fleet software that allows control over speed limits, designated zones, and parking areas. The presentation was for information only, with no formal request at this time. Background information was included in the Council package, and Mr. Gaudon attended to answer questions.

Council members asked questions regarding sidewalk use, costs, fleet design, and potential locations (e.g., Main Street, STFX campus, local businesses). It was noted that scooters can be geofenced to address sidewalk restrictions and controlled for speed. Hopp also offers bicycles and electric cars under their franchise model.

Deputy Mayor Roberts clarified that the company is not asking for commitments at this stage but would appreciate Council's support if the idea progresses. The CAO confirmed that staff will bring further information back to Council for consideration.

4.2 Antigonish Women's Resource Centre – New Build Update

Anita Stewart along with Brenda MacLean presented to Council on plans for the new Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, which will be located at the former Tim Hortons site on James Street. The Centre has outgrown its current space, and the new facility will allow expansion of services and wrap-around supports to meet increased community demand. The new design emphasizes accessibility and sustainability, aligning with accessibility mandates and eco-friendly building practices.

Ms. Stewart highlighted the role of the developer and architect, Molly Merriman of Passive Design, who is Rick Hansen Foundation–certified and has experience working with the Nova Scotia Public Health Association. Passive Design specializes in Passive House and Net Zero buildings, with a mission to create efficient, sustainable, and accessible spaces.

Council members expressed support for the project, noting the building's design, appeal, and environmental features. Questions were raised about building layout (meeting suites), Centre operations, and the availability of support services. Presenters spoke to the work of women's support workers and the SANE program, noting 16 registered nurses are available on-call 24/7.

Deputy Mayor Roberts asked about project timelines, and presenters indicated that follow-up meetings are underway with the Minister, with hopes to begin construction in the new year. The Mayor and CAO extended thanks to the presenters, with additional appreciation expressed to AWRC for supporting Town crews during recent work preparations.

Councillor Pelly arrived at 6:40 p.m.

4.3 Seniors for Climate Day – September 20, 2025, Proclamation

A proclamation from the Seniors for Climate Day was circulated in council's package. Mayor Cameron noted that on September 20th that Deputy Mayor will be in attendance for this event. Mayor Cameron read the proclamation aloud.

5. Business from Minutes

5.1 Main Street Crosswalks (WSP Report)

CAO, R. Delorey, reviewed the proposed crosswalk changes on Main Street between College St. and Acadia St. The two existing marked crossings will be replaced with a single new crosswalk located in front of Shoppers Drug Mart. The design will include a bump-out to improve pedestrian visibility and will result in the loss of some parking spaces. Traffic will continue to flow during construction.

It was confirmed that flashing beacons will be installed on both sides of the new crossing. Comments from Council included support for the change, concerns that pedestrians may continue to use the old locations, and a reminder that crosswalks at the bottom of Acadia St. and in front of the library remain unpainted. Suggestions were also made for improved signage on St. Ninian St., and for staff to review the need for a crosswalk near Annie's Bluff at the end of the hill onto Hawthorne Street.

The Mayor noted the original report dates back six years and expressed hope that, with new staff in place, the project will be completed sooner than later.

5.2 Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) – Discussion

Mayor Cameron provided an update, noting background information was included in the Council package.

The CAO reviewed proposed amendments for consideration at the upcoming NSFM Fall Conference in November. One proposed change would limit attendance at non-conference NSFM meetings to elected officials only, which would prevent staff (including the CAO) from attending.

Another proposed amendment would remove the AMANS board member position from the NSFM Board.

A further amendment would change the requirement for Executive Committee members to be from the region they represent. Under the proposed wording, regional representation would be considered a preference rather than mandatory.

This item was presented for Council's information in preparation for the fall conference. Mayor Cameron spoke to this; information was included in the council package for this meeting.

5.3 Update on the Strategic Plan

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor MacLellan.

Council discussed progress on the Town's Net Zero initiative. The CAO noted that grant funding has been received to support promotion of the Net Zero mandate, including an

RFP and a second-phase awareness campaign for the Electric Utility. Ms. S. Long confirmed this work is part of the Town's engagement plan. A survey to Council will be circulated first, followed by possible one-on-one sessions with consultants. The engagement funding must be used by the end of December.

Council requested clearer communication on the sequencing of upcoming projects, with one suggestion for weekly project updates from the CAO. It was also proposed that a future Committee of the Whole meeting be used to review the Strategic Plan, highlighting completed and outstanding actions. The CAO noted challenges in aligning funding, design, and execution timelines, and emphasized the need to secure design funding in advance to allow projects to proceed to tender.

Additional items raised for consideration in the Strategic Plan included the need for a long-term parking plan (five-year outlook) and the importance of advancing shovel-ready projects before moving to new priorities.

Meeting recessed at 7:37 p.m. and reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

5.4 Update on the Water and Sewer

The CAO provided an update on both water and sewer operations. On the water side, levels at the dam have improved enough to lift the mandatory conservation order. The reservoir is now approximately 2.5 feet below capacity, compared to a low of over 7 feet earlier in the season. A new fitting has arrived, and installation is pending the arrival of the pump, which will help push water into the system. This will provide an additional contingency.

On the sewer side, recirculation continues to be the key factor in improving conditions, particularly by increasing oxygenation and reducing odor. Cell 3 is operating at its highest levels, with improvements moving toward the front end of the system. Blowers and aerators are still in progress.

During discussion, Council noted the need for clearer public messaging regarding the wastewater treatment plant to address resident concerns.

The Mayor requested that the matter of exploring well capacity, previously raised at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, be brought back for further discussion. The CAO advised that while this has not been a top priority, consideration is being given to the use of wells in alignment with long-term planning—potentially as part of a geothermal heat transfer system rather than solely as a water source. The Mayor emphasized that undertaking preliminary work on wells now could be proactive. Councillor Sullivan added that the Infrastructure Committee had also discussed the matter, with questions raised regarding environmental approvals and potential limitations.

Discussions ensued.

5.5 Updating Councillor Committee Calendar

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor MacLellan, who suggested establishing a 12-month schedule for Council committees. Discussions ensued.

6. New Business

6.1 Tax Grants Non-Profits

The CAO spoke to the three tax grant requests for non-profits, Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), HOW Club and the Independent Order of Off Fellows (IOOF Jewel Lodge # 42) noting that such requests currently come through different channels and are handled in varying ways. A policy could help streamline the process and provide a consistent approach.

Council Discussion took place.

Staff will review options and bring this back to Council for further consideration.

6.2 Human Resource Policy Update – Preventing Workplace Harassment Policy

M. Barkhouse presented the updated policy, with background information provided in the Council package.

The CAO noted that the policy aligns closely with the existing Code of Conduct, with overarching updates mandated as of September 1.

7. Councillor Reports

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Deputy Mayor Roberts reported signing cheques, attending a reception hosted by The Doctors Navigator, the Helping Health Care Night at the Mulroney Centre, participating in a flag raising event, and attending four meetings.

Councillor J. Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan, as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, provided his written report and presented it during the meeting. The Committee met on August 28, discussing updates on equipment tenders, sidewalk construction on Greening Drive, and a new crosswalk opposite Shoppers Drug Mart.

In July, the Committee toured the Town's Water and Sewer Treatment Plants and the Public Works building.

Key discussion items from the meeting included water levels, long-term water supply planning, and potential new wells at the Briley Brook Water Treatment Plant. The Sewer Treatment Plant continues to see operational improvements, and residents are reminded to follow proper flushing practices ("three Ps").

Councillor Sullivan also reported that the Town has secured provincial and federal funding for major infrastructure projects, including upgrades along Bay Street, West Street, James Street, and exploration of a Northern Collector route to the hospital.

He also attended the Doctors Navigator reception, the Helping Health Care Night at the Mulroney Centre.

Mayor's Suggestion – Project Tendering

The Mayor noted that, given we are now in September, the Town is missing its optimal construction window and suggested that future tenders be issued in January with construction to follow in the spring to help get back on schedule.

Following discussion, Council agreed to bring this item forward to the next regular Council meeting on September 15 for further consideration.

Points raised included:

- Concerns that delaying tenders could result in projects being set aside by the design and contractor industry.
- The importance of avoiding additional disruption near the roundabout.
- The option of issuing tenders now with defined start dates in the spring to give contractors adequate time to plan.

Mayor Cameron

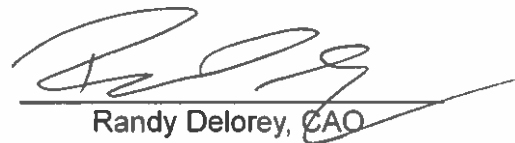
Mayor Cameron reported attending the Highland Games, Cape Breton Highland Games, the 200th anniversary of the Our Lady of Grace Monastery, the Art Fair opening night, the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition, the Football Canadian Eastern Championships, the Helping the Health Care event, a flag raising, and an online meeting with Nova Scotia Policing. He also conducted three CBC interviews and has been networking with the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO