

**Regular Council Meeting
June 16, 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
S. Long, Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer
D. Dunn, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator (HAF)

Media

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:05 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

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: To approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Acceptance of the Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025, and the Special Council meetings of June 3 and June 11, 2025, were accepted as presented.

4. Banner Requests

4.1 Antigonish Highland Society

A request was received from the Antigonish Highland Society to install banners on lamp posts from July 5 to July 14, 2025.

Moved: Councillor McKenna

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: That Council approve the request for Antigonish Highland Society banners to be placed on lamp posts from July 5 to July 14, 2025.

Motion Carried

In discussion, M. Williams noted overlapping requests, with a proposed schedule allowing Highland Society banners from July 5–14 and Festival Antigonish banners from July 14–August 23. Council discussed why installation costs are covered by the Town, the potential use of Town utility trucks, and union agreement limitations. It was noted that funds are budgeted to support community initiatives such as banner installations. Opinions varied on whether community groups should be charged for installation, with some emphasizing the value of in-kind support. It was suggested that future requests include images of the proposed banners, and the idea of formally recognizing installation as an in-kind contribution (valued at approximately \$3,000) was raised.

4.2 Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

A request was submitted for banners to be displayed from July 14 to August 23, 2025, following the Highland Society's banner period.

Moved: Councillor McKenna

Seconded: Councillor Pelly

Motion: That Council approve the request for Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre banners to be placed on lamp posts from July 14 to August 23, 2025, as per the Town's scheduling.

Motion Carried

4.3 PAN African Flag

A request was submitted to raise the Pan-African flag in recognition of Emancipation Month.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Roberts

Seconded: Councillor Murray

Motion: That Council approve the Pan-African Flag to be flown from August 5 to August 31, 2025.

Motion Carried

5. Business from Committee of the Whole

5.1 AREA Committee Appointment

CAO provided Council with some context on the AREA committee appointment, where past Councillor, W. Cormier completed his six-month term which has expired. Mayor Cameron is currently an alternate and currently looking to move into the full voting member.

Deputy Mayor Roberts noted that she has not previously served on the AREA Committee and expressed interest in being nominated as the alternate member. The Chair then calls for nominations.

Moved: Councillor McKenna

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: That Council appoint Mayor Sean Cameron as a full member to the AREA Committee and the Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts as an Alternate member to the AREA Committee.

Motion Carried

6. Business from the Minutes

6.1 PARC Group – Facility Assessment Update

CAO, R. Delorey provided background information, noting that PARC had previously presented to Council and sought feedback regarding the preferred approach for conducting the facility assessment.

Council directed the CAO to advise the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to proceed with the PARC facility assessment, with County staff taking the lead on the project.

6.2 Community Grants 2025-2026 Allocation

Moved: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded: Councillor McKenna

Motion: That Council approve the allocation of the 2025-2026 Community Grant Funding, as per the Community Grants Follow Up memo included with this evening's council package, which amounts to \$157,400.00

Motion Carried

In discussion, questions were raised about the \$2,000 allocation to the Skatepark group, with staff explaining it supports hosting a professional skateboarder during Highland Games week and that funds were returned in 2024 when the event did not occur. Clarification was provided regarding Arts House and Arts Fair requests, with Council agreeing to allocate \$15,000 to the Arts House. The \$8,000 allocation to DEANS was discussed in relation to full membership requirements. Observations were made that while some groups received reduced funding, many received their full requests, with some inconsistencies in the allocations noted.

7. New Business

7.1 Canada Day – Staff

M. Williams provided an overview of Canada Day festivities, including a pancake breakfast, cake cutting with Council participation, and day events hosted by the County at Appleseed Drive. Presentations for Volunteer of the Year will also take place.

7.2 Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Grant's Policy

Denise Dunn presented the draft policy, which includes two streams—Affordable Housing and Density-Focused Development—and proposed two amendments:

1. Footnote Amendment (Page 5): Remove the NS Average Market Rent reference and include it on the final page for review; staff will update annually and check hyperlinks.
2. Definitions Amendment (Page 1): Add language for flexibility "as required by provincial and federal funding" to align with external criteria.

Council discussed program costs (no cost to the Town for the first three years), uptake (primarily targeted to non-profits), and ensuring flexibility so parameters are not too restrictive. Concerns were raised about affordability verification over time, advocacy against fixed-term rentals, and the need to prioritize densification. The CAO noted annual policy reviews and provided examples of affordability impact.

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Roberts

Motion: To adopt the Town Services and Affordable Housing Grant Policy with the two proposed amendments.

Motion Carried

7.3 CHIF Funding for West St.

Council approved the following resolution:

Moved: Councillor Murray

Seconded: Councillor P. McKenna

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Town of Antigonish submit an application to the province for the Canadian Housing Infrastructure Fund for the project of Infrastructure Upgrades to West St. and James St. in the Town of Antigonish. The Town acknowledges that the CHIF funding has Federal and Provincial funding partners, and seeks support for this critical project.

Motion Carried

The amount requested for the funding is as follows:

Total Project Cost: \$4,117,000

Federal Contribution: \$1,646,800

Provincial Contribution: \$1,372,196

Municipal Contribution: \$1,098,004

The Town acknowledges that it will be solely responsible for any project cost over-runs.

In discussion, staff noted that CHIF funding has not yet officially opened but early access to the application process is available, with the goal of submitting early to expedite a response. Councillor McKenna asked about the timing of work on West Street and was advised that patching will be done for safety, with paving expected in the fall. Councillor MacLellan stressed that the delay will not impact the approved budget and that the public should be informed of the fall timeline. Discussion ensued.

7.4 Summer Council Meetings – P. McKenna

Council discussed the summer meeting schedule and agreed to cancel both the July 1 Committee of the Whole meeting and the July 21 Regular Town Council meeting, resuming with a Committee of the Whole meeting in August to maintain the regular schedule.

7.5 Community Events, Tickets and Tables for Council (STFX President's Dinner June 21)

Council discussed purchasing tickets for members wishing to attend the STFX President's Dinner on June 21. The Deputy Clerk will arrange ticket purchases as needed.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Festival Antigonish – Letter to Mayor and Council

Council received correspondence from Festival Antigonish Artistic Director Andrea Boyd, expressing appreciation for the Town's longstanding support and outlining concerns about the absence of arts and culture in the recently released Strategic Plan. The CAO noted that while the Strategic Plan will not be amended, it allows flexibility for initiatives outside its stated priorities.

Mayor Cameron added that the Town's grant allocations greatly support arts and culture. Discussion took place; no motions were made.

8.2 Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia – Letter to the Mayor

Correspondence circulated to Council and included in the meeting package for information.

8.3 Antigonish Women's Resource – AGM Invitation June 17th

Open invitation circulated to Council as correspondence for information.

8.4 NS Physicians warn about uranium exploration and mining

Councillor McKenna requested clarification on the intent of the correspondence, suggesting a need for increased awareness.

Councillor MacLellan noted that the issue falls outside the jurisdiction of Town Council and that the information is preliminary.

Discussion took place; no motions were made.

8.5 Terry Fox National Riders – Ride for Hope July 8th (Antigonish)

Mayor provided an update on the upcoming event, noting that Council will host a home-cooked meal for the riders at the John Paul Centre on July 8th. Further details will be discussed at a later date, and the County Council will be invited to participate. No motions were made.

9. Staff Reports

Deputy Mayor Roberts inquired about the status of line painting. Staff responded that the machine is ready, but work is pending due to staffing availability. Line painting is scheduled to commence on Thursday.

Deputy Mayor inquired about the street sweeping and sidewalk maintenance, staff reported that a broom attachment for the sidewalk plow is available and will be utilized to complete the work.

The CAO noted that the version of his staff report included in the Council package was incorrect and provided an updated report, which included updates on ongoing labour negotiations and the continued progress of RK development, highlighting the recent sod-turning as a significant milestone. Discussion took place.

The meeting recessed at 8:22 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:41 PM.

In Camera Session

Moved: Deputy Mayor Roberts

Seconded: Councillor McKenna

Motion: To move in camera at 8:42 PM.

Motion Carried

10. In-Camera

10.1 Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege; (MGA Section 22(2)(g))

10.2 Personnel Matters (MGA Section 22(2)(c))

Regular Council meeting reconvened at 9:00 PM

11. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO