

**Regular Council Meeting  
August 18, 2025  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**Regrets**

Councillor, P. McKenna

**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

**Media**

Members of the Gallery

**1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Pelly

Seconded: Deputy Diane Roberts

**Motion:** To approve the Agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**3. Acceptance of the Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – June 16, 2025

3.2 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – July 25, 2025

3.3 Minutes of the Special Council meeting – August 5, 2025

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 16, 2025, and the Special Council Meetings of July 25, 2025, and August 5, 2025, were accepted as presented.

**4. Presentations**

**4.1 Stephen Jewkes – Proposed Changes to the Creighton Lane Parking Lot**

Mr. Jewkes appeared before Council to present concerns regarding proposed changes to the Creighton Lane parking lot behind his business. He expressed opposition to converting existing free parking to paid parking, noting the lot currently functions well with

a mix of free and paid spaces. He circulated photos of the lot and nearby free parking at St. Mary's Street and referenced examples from other communities that adopted free downtown parking to support local businesses. He emphasized that the existing balance supports both turnover and accessibility and requested that the current arrangement be maintained.

During the question-and-answer period, Council discussed the potential impacts of parking changes, including turnover, employee and student use of free spaces, cost implications of kiosks, and possible effects on local businesses compared to the mall, which does not charge for parking. It was noted that parking meters are intended to support turnover rather than generate revenue, and that future growth and densification may increase parking pressures.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Jewkes for his presentation.

## **5. Business from Committee of the Whole**

### **5.1 Beautification Committee – Member Recognition**

Councillor Murray, Chair of the Beautification Committee, brought forward a motion to formally recognize a community member for over 30 years of volunteer contributions to the Town.

Moved: Councillor Murray

Seconded: Councillor MacLellan

**Motion:** That Oona Laundry be formally recognized for her outstanding volunteer contributions with a certificate of appreciation in gratitude for her lasting impact on the Town of Antigonish.

**Motion Carried**

### **5.2 Settlement in Antigonish for Families Everywhere (SAFE) – Funding Request**

At the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 5, 2025, representatives from SAFE (Settlement in Antigonish for Families Everywhere) made a presentation regarding a funding request.

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Murray

**Motion:** That Council approve a one-time donation in the amount of \$6,000 to the Settlement in Antigonish for Families Everywhere (SAFE), to be allocated from Council's discretionary fund.

**Motion Carried**

### **5.3 Creighton Lane Parking**

At 6:30 p.m., the Mayor declared a conflict of interest and left the Chair. The Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair.

The CAO provided context, noting this matter was referred from the Committee of the Whole for Council's decision. Options included:

**Option 1:** All potential parking spaces (~120 total) designated as paid parking once the new kiosk system is installed and operational.

**Option 2:** Only previously metered parking spaces (~59 total) designated as paid parking once the kiosk system is operational.

**Option 3:** Previously metered plus a portion of unmetered spaces (~95 total) designated as paid parking, while maintaining 24–25 free spaces on private property.

**Option 4:** Zero enforcement.

A deferral was also identified as a possible approach.  
Discussions took place.

**Motion 1**

Moved: Councillor Murray

Seconded: Councillor Sullivan

Motion: That the Creighton Lane Parking Lot be not metered and free for all.

**Discussion:**

Council discussed parking enforcement, declining parking revenues, potential impacts on turnover and monitoring, and the need for balance between free and paid parking. It was noted that the Community Development Team is undertaking a broader review and will bring recommendations forward in the fall.

**Motion Defeated**

**Motion 2**

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Pelly

Motion: That Council maintain the status quo for Creighton Lane parking, with the horseshoe area remaining free and the inside lot remaining paid parking, and that a parking study be undertaken.

**Discussion:**

Council highlighted the importance of completing the study before committing to further investment and emphasized clarity around enforcement of the current parking arrangement as status quo.

**Motion Carried**

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

Council recessed at 6:50 p.m.

**5.4 Temporary Borrowing Resolution - Public Works Equipment**

M. Barkhouse provided a correction in her circulated memo, clarifying that the equipment is a Komatsu WA320-8, a four-wheeled, mid-sized wheel loader (not an eight-wheel loader as previously noted).

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Pelly

**Motion:** That Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$425,000.00 for the Public Works Equipment, specifically the front-end Loader.

**Motion Carried**

### **5.5 Resolution for Debenture – Solar Garden**

A memo regarding the Solar Garden debenture was circulated in Council's package. The Mayor provided background, noting that this process differs from usual borrowing, as the Town only accesses debenture funding twice per year. A temporary borrowing has already been approved, and this resolution allows the Town to proceed with the debenture application.

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Second: Councillor Murray

**Motion:** That a "Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate in the amount of \$4,000,000, for the Solar Garden, for a term not to exceed 20 years."

**Motion Carried**

### **5.6 Resolution for Debenture – Public Works Equipment**

CAO provided context, Council approved the temporary borrowing so we can move forward on the purchase. These debentures are for long term borrowing and only available twice a year.

Moved: MacLellan

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Roberts

**Motion:** That a "Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate in the amount of \$425,000, for the front-end Loader (Public Works), for a term not to exceed 5 years."

**Motion Carried**

## **6. Business from the Minutes**

### **6.1 Terry Fox Ride for Hope – July 8 Council Event**

Council hosted a meal for the Terry Fox Ride for Hope event on July 8th. The Mayor provided background, noting that while informal discussions had occurred, no budget had been set in advance.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Roberts

Seconded: Councillor MacLellan

**Motion:** That Council approve the reimbursement of Councillors' expenses up to \$300 associated with preparing the meal for the Terry Fox Riders.

**Motion Carried**

## 7. New Business

### 7.1 Public Works Collective Agreement

Information regarding the proposed agreement was included in Council's package. The CAO provided background on the amendments.

Moved: Councillor Pelly

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Roberts

**Motion:** That Council Approve the proposed amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Antigonish and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1928 (Public Works and Facilities) for the term April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2029.

**Motion Carried**

### 7.2 Committee Nominations

#### (a) Police Advisory Board – 2 Vacancies

At 7:11 p.m., the Mayor stepped down as Chair and the Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair, as the Mayor would have a conflict of interest being the Chair of the Nominations Committee, which provided the recommendations to Council.

**Motion:** That Council appoint Hayden Fougere to the Police Advisory Board effective August 18, 2025, for a term ending October 21, 2028.

**Result:** Acclaimed

**Motion:** That Council reappoint Matthew Whitehead to the Police Advisory Board for a one-year term ending August 31, 2026.

**Result:** Acclaimed

#### (b) Arena Board – 1 Vacancy

**Motion:** That Council appoint Donnie MacInnis to the Arena Board, for three-year term ending April 2028

**Result:** Acclaimed

### 7.3 Sister town/city to Bethlehem

The Mayor circulated an email to Council and provided background on the proposal. David MacGillivray from Wood Gundy, also a Knight of Malta, visited the Holy Land and suggested establishing a sister-town relationship with Bethlehem.

Council discussed the proposal, noting concerns about the size difference between the communities and the potential benefit of partnering with a town within the same province. The Mayor highlighted potential public benefits, including connections through the diocese, the Cathedral, and STFX, and recommended referring the matter to staff for further review.

Council supported staff researching potential advantages and preparing a report for a future Committee of the Whole meeting, to be brought forward to Regular Council. Members expressed interest in exploring the concept further.

### 7.3 Fall Fair - Water shortage restrictions

The Mayor provided an update regarding the ongoing water ban. STFX has closed its pool due to limitations on the Town's water system.

Council was advised that with the upcoming Exhibition, live livestock will require water for washing. This item was presented for information purposes only. The Mayor noted that if a tanker system is used to supply water to the Exhibition, a funding request may be brought forward to Council at a later date. Staff will liaise with the Exhibition Committee to ensure Council is aware of arrangements in advance.

## 8. Correspondence

### 8.1 Knowledge Seekers Summer Scholars Camp – Letter of Support

Council was advised that a letter of support was circulated on July 17, 2025. A donation of \$500.00 was issued to this group.

### 8.2 2025 Nova Scotia 55+ Games - September 20-24, 2025

Council acknowledged the upcoming Games and extended best wishes to participants.

## 9. Staff Reports

The CAO provided updates on operational matters, including sewer and water systems, public works, and community programs:

**Sewer System:** Staff completed the re-circulation system. Odor has partially stabilized, though oxygen levels remain below target. A blower is being refurbished, and an RFP for a front-end piece has been posted, pending geotechnical design.

**Water System:** Residents' conservation efforts have resulted in an approximate 40% reduction in water usage. Reservoir drawdown has been reduced through staff monitoring and collaboration with the Department of Environment. REMO continues to be consulted for worst-case scenario planning.

**Council Discussion & other Updates:** Council raised topics including provincial support for drinking water in emergencies, propane fire pit safety during fire bans, public education on water conservation, and requested daily updates on water levels.

Additional updates included:

Multi-Sport Leaders program positions beginning in September (student positions).

Church Street Roundabout traffic flow improvements.

Antigonish Culture Alive planning a new mural.

Line painting and street maintenance updates, including crosswalk safety at Acadia Street and Main/Library; staff to provide further recommendations.

Suggestions for improved lighting and pedestrian beacons.

Council acknowledged the staff updates and ongoing efforts.

### **Acceptance of Reports:**

Moved: Councillor Murray

Seconded: Councillor MacLellan

**Motion:** To accept the staff reports as presented.

**Motion Carried**

Council recessed at 8:10 p.m. and moved to In-Camera.

**10. In-Camera**

**10.1 Contract Negotiations – MGA Sec. 22(2)(e)**

Council moved to In-Camera to discuss contract negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the Municipal Government Act. (MGA)

Council moved out of In-Camera at 9:25 p.m.

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor Murray

**11. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM



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Mayor Sean Cameron



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Randy Delorey, CAO