

**Regular Council Meeting
December 16, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Regrets

Councillor J. Sullivan

Media

Gallery (In person and online)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:08 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

2.1 Additions/Amendments

Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

3. Conflict of Interest

No Conflicts declared.

4. Acceptance of Minutes

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – November 17, 2025

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 17, 2025, were accepted as presented.

4.2 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – December 8, 2025

The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 8, 2025, were accepted as presented.

5. Recognitions

5.1 Recognition – 2025 Engineers Nova Scotia Award Recipients

Councillor L. MacLellan provided background on Victor Belliveau, recipient of the 2025 F.H. Sexton Gold Medal, the highest honor for an engineer in Nova Scotia. Councillor MacLellan noted Mr. Belliveau's 50 years of engineering practice in Antigonish, his leadership in mechanical design for hospitals across the province, contributions to university infrastructure, mentorship of emerging engineers, involvement with ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, a global professional organization dedicated to advancing building systems, energy efficiency, and indoor air quality), volunteer work with the Lions Club, and lasting impact on the community.

Council congratulated Mr. Belliveau and presented him with a certificate of recognition and took a photograph with him and his family.

6. Business from Committee of the Whole

6.1 First Reading - Amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw – HAF (Housing Accelerator Fund) Densification

The CAO provided a brief update following the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 2, 2025, regarding proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw related to the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) densification project. Key points included:

- Proposed building height increased from 5 to 6 storeys.
- Definitions for Hard Surface and Height were removed.
- Placement of manufactured homes clarified, with modular homes including accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Councillors requested clarification on manufactured homes, stick-built homes, tiny homes, and C-Can homes; CAO confirmed the definitions. Discussion included potential impacts on development aesthetics, building code considerations, and preferred zoning locations for four-plexes.

Motion: To adopt the first reading as presented.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Discussion: Mayor emphasized support for development but expressed concern regarding poor-quality development.

Vote:

- In favour: All Councillors except the Mayor
- Against: Mayor

Motion carried.

6.2 First Reading – Parking By-Law

Mayor Cameron introduced Jonathan Wright, the newly hired By-Law Enforcement Officer, who started on December 16, 2025.

The Parking By-Law had been circulated to Council in advance for review. Councillor Roberts requested clarification on Section 15 regarding Continuation of Offence; the CAO provided context.

Motion: To Adopt the First Reading of the Parking By-Law.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

6.3 Snow & Ice Control Policy

Councillor Sullivan read the recommended motion regarding the Snow & Ice Control Policy on behalf of the Infrastructure Committee and as Chair.

Motion: That the Town of Antigonish adopt the draft policy of the Snow & Ice Control Policy.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Discussion – Councillor McKenna noted that the policy was reviewed by the Accessibility and Infrastructure Committees and highlighted it as a positive initiative.

Motion carried.

6.4 FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) Grant Resolution

Be it resolved that the Town of Antigonish directs staff to apply for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation fund and Climate-Ready Plans & Processes program for "A Climate Risk Assessment and Prioritized Adaptation Plan for the Town of Antigonish".

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

6.5 Tax Account Write-Off

Motion: "That Town Council approve to write off a total of 2,578.83 in taxes; this amount is carried over two accounts. Tax roll account 02635887 in the amount of \$2,535.46 and Tax roll account 10951593 in the amount of \$40.37."

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

6.6 R.K MacDonald Nursing Home Foundation 2025 "Lights of Love" Campaign

The following item was included in Council's package as part of correspondence.

Motion: That Town Council approve \$1,000.00 from Councils Discretionary Funds to support R.K MacDonald Nursing Home Foundations 2025 Lights of Love Campaign.

Moved by: Councillor Pelly

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

6.7 Knights of Columbus Toy Drive

The following item was included in Council's package as part of correspondence.

Motion: That Town Council approve \$1,000.00 to the Knights of Columbus Toy Drive from Council's Discretionary Funds.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

Councillor McKenna acknowledged the contributions of Clarence DeYoung for his work with the Knights.

6.8 Chamber of Commerce – Support for local Businesses

The Town contributed \$1,000.00 from Sponsorships to support local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor McKenna inquired whether gift cards had been purchased; the CAO confirmed. The CAO clarified that this campaign supports Downtown merchants specifically, while the passport program included all merchants.

7. Business from the Minutes

7.1 Water & Sewer Update

The CAO provided an update on the Source Wells, noting that test results from the source test wells are pending and are expected to be available in the New Year.

Regarding the sewer system, the front-end equipment is expected to arrive shortly. Sewer relining work has commenced on James Street. Construction on West Street is paused for the winter, and work will resume in the New year to reduce traffic disruption.

8. New Business

8.1 JJ Carroll Awards

The following item was included in Council's package.

The CAO declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion.

Motion:

Town Council approves the 2025 proposed allotment of the \$6,000 JJ Carroll Grant go to the StFX Track and Field Club (\$3,000), Antigonish Community Swim Program (\$1,000), the Town's Multi-Sport Program (\$1,000), and the PHAST Antigonish Swim Team (\$1,000).

Moved by: Councillor Pelly

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

Mayor Cameron clarified that the StFX Track funding is intended for youth participants, not directly to the university.

The CAO returned to the table.

8.2 Youth Health Centre at Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School –Letter

The following item was included in Council's package.

Motion: That Town Council approve a \$1,000.00 donation to the Youth Health Centre at Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School from Council's Discretionary Fund.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

8.3 Santa for Seniors – Letter

The following item was included in Council's package.

Mayor spoke to the request from the Santa for Seniors group for a donation of \$1,000 to purchase 10 gift cards (\$100 each).

Motion: That Council approve \$1000.00 towards the Santa for Seniors, from Council's Discretionary Fund.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

8.4 Regular Council Meeting Schedule 2026

Council will continue to hold regular meetings on the third Monday of each month. If a holiday falls on a Monday, the meeting will be held the following day (Tuesday).

Councillor McKenna suggested it would be beneficial to have a schedule for all committees. The Mayor noted that a comprehensive package will be distributed to Council in the New Year.

9. Correspondence

9.1 African Nova Scotian Pilgrimage - Cultural Heritage Trip to Ghana - Funding Request

The following item was included in Council's package.

Motion: That Town Council approve \$500.00 be donated to African Nova Scotia Pilgrimage.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

9.2 Raising the Villages Cooperative Ltd - Regional Well-Being Conference – Funding Request

The following item was included in Council's package.

Motion: That Town Council approve \$1000.00 to the Regional Well-Being Conference

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

9.3 ACALA (Antigonish County Adult Learning Association) – Letter

The letter circulated in Councillors' packages was received for information. Councillor McKenna, who sits on the PARL, spoke to the letter, noting that several similar letters have been sent to the Province to emphasize the importance of libraries to our communities. Councillor McKenna highlighted some of the many services provided by the libraries.

Councillor MacLellan echoed and supported Councillor McKenna's remarks.

10. Staff Reports

Good Neighbour Report: Councillor Roberts questioned a reference in the report indicating it was presented to Council on December 10th. The CAO clarified this was a typographical error and that the report had been presented to the Good Neighbour group. The report will be presented to the Police and License Committee in January.

Greening Drive Sidewalk: Councillor McKenna inquired about the anticipated completion date. The CAO advised that work is expected to be completed this week, weather permitting, with remaining work to be completed in the spring.

Bus Stop Proposal – Beaver Brook: The Mayor expressed concern regarding the proposed location and suggested it be reconsidered for safety reasons.

Cellular Expansion Meeting: The CAO advised Council that Provincial representatives will be in Town on January 5th. Council members interested in discussing cellular expansion can meet with the representatives at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The CAO will coordinate the meeting.

Communications Student Recognition: The Mayor advised that Communications student Noah D'Entremont will be concluding his co-op term on December 19th and expressed appreciation for his contributions.

Emergency Meeting Debrief: The Mayor advised that a debrief of the Emergency Meeting will be held in the New Year.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, Deputy Mayor Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO