

**Regular Council Meeting
July 21, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator / Recording Secretary
S. Long, Marketing and Communications Officer
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Media

Gallery (In Person and Online)

Absent with Regrets

Councillor J. Pelly
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. 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 the Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- Item 3 Conflict of Interest
- Item 5.1 St. Martha's Day Proclamation
- Item 5.2 Emancipation Day Proclamation
- Item 7.2 Council Chambers

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

3. Conflict of Interest

The following conflicts of interest were declared:

- CAO R. Delorey declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 7.1, Tax Relief Request.
- Mayor Cameron declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 4.2, Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty.

4. Presentations and Delegations

4.1 Office of Gaelic Affairs – Lewis MacKinnon

Lewis MacKinnon, Executive Director of Gaelic Affairs, provided a presentation on the history and cultural significance of Gaelic communities in Nova Scotia. The presentation included information on Gaelic settlement patterns, the impact of historical assimilation and language loss, and current initiatives aimed at preserving and revitalizing Gaelic language, culture, and heritage.

Council discussed the presentation and shared comments and questions regarding the impact of colonization on the Gaelic population and importance of cultural preservation, language revitalization.

The Mayor thanked Mr. MacKinnon for his presentation.

4.2 Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty – Wyanne Sadler

Mayor Cameron declared a conflict of interest and vacated the Chair. Deputy Mayor Murray assumed the Chair.

Wyanne Sadler and Natasha Brubaker, on behalf of the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty, presented to Council on the Coalition's work to address poverty and food insecurity in Antigonish Town and County. The presentation included information on the Coalition's mission, local poverty and food insecurity trends, and advocacy efforts related to poverty reduction and a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income.

Council discussed the presentation, specifically the statistics regarding child poverty in Nova Scotia and related community initiatives.

Mayor Cameron resumed the Chair and thanked both Ms. Sadler and Ms. Brubaker for their presentation.

5. Proclamations

5.1 Sisters of Saint Martha's Day – Proclamation

Mayor Cameron read aloud a proclamation declaring July 29, 2026, as Sisters of Saint Martha's Day in the Town of Antigonish in recognition of the Congregation's 125th Anniversary and its legacy of faith, service, compassion, and community leadership.

5.2 Emancipation Day – Proclamation

Mayor Cameron read aloud a proclamation declaring August 1, 2026 as Emancipation Day in the Town of Antigonish, recognizing the abolition of slavery and acknowledging the contributions, heritage, and history of African Nova Scotians.

6. Infrastructure Updates

6.1 Sewer Plant Update

The CAO provided an update on ongoing efforts to address odor concerns at the Sewer Treatment Plant. Staff continue to implement mitigation measures including regular inspections and assessments and are proceeding with the installation of additional aeration equipment and a rental blower in August to improve oxygen levels and treatment performance. Floaters continue to contribute to the odour issues, and the installation of the new screening equipment will help prevent unwanted materials from entering the lagoon.

Discussion ensued including council's interactions with the public and the communication efforts of staff. Council was advised that temporary odor impacts may occur during installation of the new equipment. Staff will communicate anticipated impacts to the public as the work proceeds.

Council took a recess at 7:58 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

7. New Business

7.1 Tax Relief Request

CAO, R. Delorey declared a conflict of interest and left the Council table.

M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services, presented a report regarding tax relief requests and interest charges related to 2026 property tax payments.

Council discussed the administration of interest charges on electronic payments submitted on the tax due date of June 30th and the impact of bank processing times on receipt of payments by the Town.

Motion: That Council give a grace period for this year only of three days for online payments.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Amendment: That Council approve for this year only a 3-day grace period would be given above the fifty-five days.

Motion defeated.

Amendment: To add to the original motion that the burden of proof would be on the individual to show to staff that the online payment was made by the due date.

Moved: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded: Councillor Roberts

Amendment carried.

Main Motion, as Amended: That Council give a grace period for this year only of three days for online payments, the burden of proof is on the individuals to show staff that they paid it on time.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

7.2 Council Chambers

Council considered a request from the Emancipate Your Mind Community Series to use Council Chambers on August 11, 2026, for a community discussion moderated by Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard.

Motion: That Council approve the Emancipate Your Mind Community Series' use of Council Chambers on August 11, 2026.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion carried.

8. Staff Reports

Council received the Staff Reports as presented.

Council discussed ongoing infrastructure projects, including construction activities on Bay Street, West Street, and East Main Street. Discussion included traffic impacts related to the new entrance of the new development on East Main St before the train tracks. Signage, project timelines, paving, road conditions, landscaping, and contractor performance were also discussed.

Council also discussed communications regarding municipal projects and requested additional information on matters discussed during meetings between Town and County administration.

Mayor recognized two Town employees with service of 15 years, noting Municipal Clerk, Melanie Fougere and Engineering Administrative Assistant, Darlene Halfpenny. Both were not in attendance to accept the recognition.

Motion: That Council move into an In-Camera session at 9:36 p.m. in accordance with Section 22(2)(c) and Section 22(2)(a) of the Municipal Government Act to discuss Personnel Matters and the acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion carried.

9. In-Camera

9.1 MGA Sec 22(2)(c) – Personnel Matters

9.2 MGA Sec 22(2)(a) – Acquisition, sale, lease and security of Municipal property.

Motion: That Council rise from the In-Camera session at 10:35 p.m.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor MacLellan moved for adjournment at 10:35 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron

Randy Delorey, CAO