

**Regular Council Meeting
August 18, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor Sean Cameron
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray
Councillor Leon MacLellan
Councillor Patrick McKenna
Councillor Diane Roberts
Councillor Juanita Pelly
Councillor Jack Sullivan

Also in Attendance

Randy Delorey, CAO
Melanie Fougere, Municipal Clerk
Shannon Long, Marketing and Communications Officer
Kyle Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering
Kate MacInnis, Director of Community Development
Meaghan Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Media

Gallery (in person and online)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 5:09 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 Agenda

2.1 Additions/Amendments

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 9.7 Alternative Appointment for EDPC
- 9.8 Hillcrest Re-Zoning – Councillor McKenna
- 9.9 Guaranteed Basic Income – Councillor McKenna

Motion: That the Agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by: Councillor Pelly

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

Motion: That Council move into In-Camera at 5:12 p.m.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion carried.

3. In-Camera

Council entered an In Camera session to discuss the following matters:

3.1 Contract Negotiations MGA Sec 22(2)(e)

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

Council rose from the In Camera session at 6:14 p.m.

4. Conflict of Interest

Mayor Cameron declared a conflict of interest regarding Item 9.9.

Councillor Roberts declared a conflict of interest regarding Item 10.8.

5. Acceptance of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – June 16, 2026

5.2 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – June 15, 2026

5.3 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – July 9, 2026

5.4 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – July 21, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 19, 2026, and the Special Council Meetings held May 20, May 25, June 2, and June 8, 2026, were accepted as presented.

6. Consent Agenda Items

No Consent Agenda items.

7. Presentations

7.1 2026-27 Electric Utility Budget

Ms. M. Barkhouse presented the proposed 2026-2027 Electric Utility Budget. She noted that the budget had not been approved alongside the Water Utility Budget and provided an overview of the proposed spending plan.

The presentation highlighted that the budget remains balanced after accounting for debt payments and the transfer to General Operating. Ms. Barkhouse reviewed the utility's primary revenue sources, including residential and commercial customers, and noted that purchased power costs account for approximately 82% of operating expenses.

Council was advised that the net purchased power budget is projected at \$12.76 million compared to \$12.90 million in 2025. While costs from Nova Scotia Power are expected to decrease and costs associated with AREA are anticipated to increase, the net impact results in an overall reduction in purchased power costs.

Discussion followed regarding the utility surplus, dividend payment, ratepayer impacts, purchased power costs, and budget assumptions. Council members asked questions and received clarification from Ms. Barkhouse.

Motion: That Council approve the 2026-2027 Electric Utility Budget as presented.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

8. Business from the Minutes

8.1 Low Income Property Tax Exemption Memo

Informational. No further discussion.

9. New Business

9.1 Helping Health Care Antigonish - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

CAO, R. Delorey advised Council that the organization's name change had previously been approved by the Board and that the Memorandum of Understanding required updating to reflect the change.

Motion: That Town Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Helping Healthcare Antigonish.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

9.2 Noise By-Law Exemption Request – St. Francis Xavier University Students' Union

Council reviewed an application from the St. Francis Xavier University Students' Union requesting an exemption to the Town's Noise By-Law for an event to be held from 8:00 p.m. on September 4 to 12:00 a.m. on September 5.

Motion: That Town Council approve the Noise By-Law Exemption Request submitted by the St. Francis Xavier University Students' Union.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

9.3 Cellphone Usage During Council Meetings

Mayor Cameron introduced the item and raised concerns regarding cellphone usage during Council meetings.

Council discussed the matter and expressed varying perspectives regarding cellphone use at the Council table. Discussion included concerns about potential distractions during meetings, the importance of setting an example for meeting conduct, and the appropriateness of personal device usage while Council is in session.

Council suggested that the CAO review policies and practices from other municipalities regarding cellphone usage during Council meetings and consider whether a formal policy would be appropriate for the Town.

9.4 Communications – Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan questioned the application of the Town's Media, Communications and Information Policy as it relates to responding to media inquiries. The CAO provided clarification on the policy and outlined the process followed in responding to media inquiries.

Council discussed the roles of elected officials and administration in communicating municipal information, as well as the importance of adherence to established policy.

9.5 Communities in Bloom National Symposium (Montreal, QC Oct 15-17,2026) - Deputy Mayor Murray

Deputy Mayor Murray advised Council of his interest in attending the Communities in Bloom National Symposium in Montreal, Quebec, from October 15 to 17, 2026.

Council directed staff to review available budget funding and report back.

9.6 E-Scooters

Councillor Roberts raised concerns regarding the operation of e-scooters within the Town, including reports of riders not wearing helmets and the use of e-scooters on sidewalks.

The CAO provided an overview of the applicable Motor Vehicle Act requirements, enforcement challenges, public education efforts, and existing arrangements with the e-scooter provider, including geofencing capabilities intended to restrict sidewalk use. Council discussed concerns relating to rider safety, helmet availability, compliance with operating requirements, enforcement measures, and the performance of the current service provider. Council also discussed potential age restrictions and the need for greater compliance with established operating standards.

The CAO advised that staff would investigate available options and bring the matter back to Council at a future meeting for further consideration.

9.7 Alternative Appointment for Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC)

Reasons for quorum if a current representative is not available. Councillor McKenna and Deputy Mayor Murray were nominated for appointment as alternate representatives to the EDPC.

Motion: That Council appoint Councillor McKenna and Deputy Mayor Murray to be appointed as alternates representing the Town of Antigonish to join the Eastern District Planning Commission.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

Motion Carried.

9.8 Hillcrest Re-Zoning

Councillor McKenna requested clarification as to whether the zoning maps have been updated to reflect the recent rezoning changes affecting the Hillcrest area. The CAO advised that clarification would be sought from EDPC, and staff will provide an update to Council.

9.9 Guaranteed Basic Income

Mayor Cameron declared a conflict of interest with respect to this item and recused himself. Deputy Mayor Murray assumed the Chair for consideration of the matter.

Councillor McKenna introduced a resolution requesting that correspondence be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, relevant federal ministers, and the Premier of Nova Scotia advocating for the implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income.

Resolution Text:

That Antigonish Town Council request a letter from the Deputy Mayor to the Prime Minister, Ministers, and Premier of Nova Scotia calling on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, ensuring that everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would contribute to the eradication of poverty and homelessness, relieving pressure on municipalities to use limited resources to fill in the gaps of a failing social safety net.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded: Councillor MacLellan

Council discussed the proposed resolution, including the role of municipalities in advocating on social issues, the potential scope and impact of a guaranteed livable basic income, and the intent of the resolution as an advocacy measure.

Motion Carried.

Following consideration of the item, Mayor Cameron resumed the Chair.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Minister MacDonald's Letter re: Active Transportation Trail

Council discussed correspondence from Minister MacDonald regarding the Active Transportation Trail and related correspondence submitted on behalf of the Town.

Mayor Cameron provided clarification regarding the preparation and submission of the letter.

10.2 Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) – Thank you letter

The correspondence was received for information.

10.3 Municipal Success Stories - NSFM Conference November 5, 2026

Councillor McKenna nominated Councillor Roberts to present the Town's Municipal Success Story at the upcoming NSFM Conference taking place in Halifax. Council agreed to forward Councillor Roberts' name to NSFM as the Town's representative.

10.4 Town Hall Lights – Request for Donation or Purchase of Surplus Equipment

Mayor Cameron advised Council of a request regarding unused Town Hall lighting fixtures. Council reviewed information provided by the Director of Community Development regarding the fixtures and their potential disposition.

10.5 Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition (ENSE) Rebuilding Project – Sponsorship Request

Council considered a sponsorship request from the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition (ENSE) in support of its Barn Rebuilding Capital Project.

Motion: That Council approve the platinum sponsorship for the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition Barn Rebuilding Capital Project request in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion Carried.

10.6 4-H Rooted Gala Event 2026

Deputy Mayor Murray expressed interest in attending the 4-H Rooted Gala Event. The item was received for information.

10.7 Alan Syliboy and the Thundermakers - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation– Funding Request

Council considered a funding request in support of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities. It was noted that the request would be considered through the Town's sponsorship process.

Council discussed the request and referred the matter to staff for further consideration and determination of an appropriate sponsorship amount.

10.8 St. Ninian C.A.R.E. – Funding Request

Councillor Roberts declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from consideration of the item.

Council considered a funding request from St. Ninian C.A.R.E. It was noted that the request would be considered through the Town's sponsorship process.

11. Staff Reports

Council received the staff reports and discussed a number of operational matters, including road maintenance and pothole repairs, sidewalk improvements, municipal infrastructure projects, patching contracts, and project funding and tender timelines.

Staff provided updates regarding planned road repairs, ongoing design work for the James Street project, and anticipated timelines for patching and maintenance activities. Council also discussed contractor performance and operational meetings between municipal administrations.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Deputy Mayor Murray moved for adjournment at 8:55 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO