

**Special Council Meeting
July 9, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
K. Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering
P. Cameron, Project Communications Coordinator

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:10 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

Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

3. Administration

3.1 July Regular Council Meeting

Motion: That Council reserve the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for July 21, 2026, for presentations from community groups, with only Staff Reports and time sensitive business to be included on the agenda, after presentations conclude.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

During discussion, clarification was provided that the purpose of the meeting is to accommodate presentations from community groups. Council was advised that presentation requests may be submitted to the Municipal Clerk and are reviewed and approved by the Mayor and CAO.

4. Flag Raising Requests

4.1 Pan-African Flag - Antigonish African Heritage Emancipation Committee

Motion: That Council approve the request from the Antigonish African Heritage Emancipation Committee to fly the Pan-African Flag on August 11, 2026, in recognition of Emancipation Day.

Moved by: Councillor Pelly

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

4.2 Indian National Flag - Antigonish Indian Community - Independence Day

Motion: That Council approve the request from the Antigonish Indian Community to fly the Indian National Flag on August 15, 2026, in recognition of India's Independence Day.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Sewer Treatment & Water Update

The CAO provided updates on water conservation, water supply initiatives, and operations at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Council received updates on additional water wells funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), current water levels, public water conservation communications, the Rain Barrel Program, and delays to the splash pad opening.

The CAO advised that staff continue to address odor concerns at the Sewer Treatment Plant through increased aeration measures and ongoing infrastructure improvements, including the Front-End Upgrade Project and installation of additional equipment. Staff also noted operational challenges related to incoming materials, particularly rags and similar debris, as well as higher summer temperatures.

Reference was made to the 2024 CBCL report regarding treatment plant operations. The CAO agreed to circulate the report and provide follow-up information on questions raised by Council.

5.2 Electric Utility Large General Rate Class Flow-Through Application

The CAO advised that, pursuant to the Nova Scotia Energy Board requirements, the Town's Large General Rate Class must be aligned with the corresponding Nova Scotia Power rate. As rate changes implemented by Nova Scotia Power are not automatically applied to the Town's electric utility, a flow-through application is required to update the rate accordingly.

Motion: That Council approve the filing of the large general rate class flow-through application aligning with Nova Scotia Power rate for the same class, as required by the Nova Scotia Energy Board.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

5.3 Funding Applications – Building Water Resilience in Antigonish

The CAO provided an overview of proposed funding applications related to the Building Water Resilience in Antigonish. Staff advised that the applications would support the connection of the new production wells to the municipal water system and that external funding could offset a portion of the project costs.

Council discussed project funding, anticipated growth impacts, and future water system planning.

a) Build Communities Strong Fund

Resolution: "Be it resolved that the Town of Antigonish submit an application to the Federal Government for the Build Communities Strong Fund for the project of Building Water Resilience in Antigonish.

The Town acknowledges that it will be solely responsible for the remainder of the project funding, including cost over-runs."

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

b) Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

Resolution: "Be it resolved that the Town of Antigonish submit an application to the Provincial Government for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund for the project of Building Water Resilience in Antigonish.

The Town acknowledges that it will be solely responsible for the remainder of the project funding, including cost over-runs."

Moved by Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor Pelly

Motion carried.

5.4 Sewer Treatment Plant Front-End Tender Update and Recommendation

The CAO reviewed the Sewer Treatment Plant Front-End Tender Update and recommendation, noting that information had been circulated to Council previously and that discussions had been initiated with the contractor.

Council discussed the proposed upgrades, including the anticipated operational benefits of the new screening system, efforts to address odor concerns at the facility, and ongoing implementation of recommendations contained in the 2024 CBCL report.

Council acknowledged that improvements to the treatment plant are part of a multi-year process and that staff continue to work to mitigate operational challenges.

Motion: That Council approve an additional \$1.5 million to complete the Sewer Treatment Plant Front-End project as designed and tendered.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

5.5 Department of Infrastructure and Engineering Staffing Level – Memo

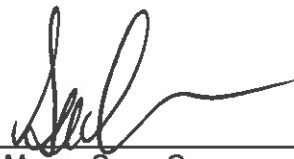
The CAO spoke to a memo that was circulated in council's agenda package regarding staffing levels within the Department of Infrastructure and Engineering and sought Council's feedback on the concept of adding staffing resources in future years, recognizing potential budget implications.

Council discussed staffing, project delivery, resident expectations, and the importance of workforce planning, including human resources and succession planning.

A general consensus was expressed that staffing decisions are an operational matter under the authority of the CAO. Concerns were also noted regarding the potential budget impacts of additional staffing positions.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Deputy Mayor Murray moved for adjournment at 8:07 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO