



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

9:00 a.m.

YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Xh7pDv8wVYY?si=nvqlZjIXU3h6nbc4>

Minutes

Present:

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Wanda Carver
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Stewart Jenkins
Councillor Roberta Roy
Councillor Courtney Wentzell

STAFF

Pam Lovelace, Acting CAO / Municipal Clerk
Heather Cook, Acting Recording Secretary

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and opened the meeting by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Public comment section of the agenda be moved to item 3, so the public in attendance can speak and not have to wait.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Public Comment

Ten members of the public spoke during public comment session.

1. **Meghan MacAdams, Brooklyn:** Ms. MacAdams listed the names and years of service for each of the union members who are on strike. She referenced a media article in which she claimed there was inaccurate information presented by municipal staff. She stated she is hopeful the situation can be rectified and feels Council can do better.
2. **James Grant, Milton:** Mr. Grant asked a number of questions. He stated that Council needs to start doing things fairly and level. He suggested that Council meetings be moved to Sundays, after church.
3. **Mabel Zwizneski, Liverpool:** Ms. Zwizneski noted that the people who spoke today spoke well and stated that she was disappointed that the Mayor did not answer their questions. She requested that questions be answered today.
4. **Jim Sponagle, President of IBEW:** Mr. Sponagle stated there are 37 members on strike, noting that they are hard workers who he has represented for 14 years. He stated that the striking workers do not want to be in the street, they want to get back to the table, but it is hard to negotiate when told that they will not get better. He noted that Council can influence things, and that he has sent emails to Council members and received no response.
5. **Debbie Wamboldt, Milton:** Ms. Wamboldt stated that she is no longer proud of where she comes from. She noted that her husband is a 20 year employee of the Municipality. She stated that the Union and Council need to get back to the table, and this is shameful.
6. **Jessie Hatt:** Ms. Hatt noted that her father was a municipal employee. She requested a detailed list of revenue from the landfill, and inventory of

Municipal assets, and asked why local contractors are not being used.

7. **Matt Whynot, former MLA, Upper Sackville, Nova Scotia rep for Canadian Labour Congress:** Mr. Whynot stated that the IBEW 1928 workers give everything to their work, and deserve respect for what they do. He has spoken to workers and they want to get back to work, and back to the table. Council is their employer. The workers want decent wages, and to do the job they were hired to do. There was an election four months ago, and Council members were elected to represent the people. Everyone wants to get back to the negotiating table and back to work.
8. **Nicole Kaiser, Milton:** Ms. Kaiser noted that as soon as the strike started, the Municipality stated there would be no service interruptions. She acknowledged that her boyfriend has worked there for seven years, and worked every second Saturday.
9. **Debbie Wamboldt, Milton:** Mrs. Wamboldt asked how many people knew that the workers were able to strike before Christmas but chose not to and kept the landfill open and the streets cleared as a storm was forecast.
10. **Byron Thorburne, lifelong resident of Queens County:** Mr. Thorburne asked if questions will be answered today.

Mayor Christian responded that they will not be answered today, and that Council appreciates all the comments made today. At 9:36 a.m. Council moved to the next item on the agenda.

4.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no conflicts of Interests declared.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 December 10, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver:

**THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held Tuesday, December 10, 2024 be approved as presented/amended.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Christian noted that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held December 16, 2024, will be on the January 28, 2025, Council meeting for approval.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations or Presentations to come before the Council.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Minister Lohr regarding the Municipal Code of Conduct

The letter was included in the agenda package for information. There was no discussion.

7.2 Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® (NSAR)

The letter was included in the agenda package for information. There was no discussion.

8.0 Committee Reports

Library Committee – Councillor Wentzell advised that the Library Committee has not met yet. Councillor Wentzell, Mayor Christian and Acting CAO Lovelace met with Tom Raddall III who advised that he and his family are happy to have his grandfather's name on the interim library location.

Pool Committee – Councillor Fancy reported that the Pool Committee met, and that it was a very good meeting.

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 J. Gordon Achievement Award

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to fund the J Gordon Achievement Award in the amount of \$500 for Ava Mae Smith.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Jenkins asked if the family of J. Gordon had given Council permission to give the award at its discretion in the future. Mayor Christian stated that the award is to be disbursed as council decides.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Budget Management Policy Development

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report with recommendations to develop a Budget Management Policy, which will include considerations for Capital budget overruns, expenditures from Reserves policy, and Operations and Utility budget development processes.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Hospitality and Expense Policy - Review

It was moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council re-adopt Administrative Policy 7 – Council and Staff Expenses (2021).

MOTION Amended:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver

THAT the correct title be revised from UNSM to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM).

Amendment Carried.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.3 Letter of Support for Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a letter of support for Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.4 Funding Finance Education Sessions, Chair, Audit and Internal Control Committee

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council approve the unbudgeted expense of \$300 for Councillor Jenkins to take part in 3 online courses titled Municipal Finance for Elected Officials delivered by Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

Since our last regular meeting of Council we have experienced significant changes, challenges but have also had some great achievements as a community.

- December 12 – travelled to Caledonia (joined by Councillor Carver) to meet with the Don Kimball and the North Queens Board of Trade – great discussion on opportunities to improve economic activity in the Region and how we can best work alongside the Board of Trade.
- We as a Council December 16th made the decision to replace the Chief Administrative Officer – we came to this decision after careful consideration and determined, as a Council that this decision was best for the organisation and ultimately for the community we serve here in Queens.
- Since that day, Pam Lovelace has stepped in as our Acting CAO – she has done a commendable job Acting in this role. She has supported our Council with our orientation and introduction to our roles as elected officials, built bridges among our staff and within our community, she has worked tirelessly to advance and protect the interests of our Municipality, she's demonstrated her skills and abilities in local government administration. Pam moved mountains to ensure the Mixed Doubles Curling Olympic Trials a Queens place was a successful event. As an organization we have significant work to do to modernize and improve our systems, structures and processes – I am blown away by the progress Pam has made to advance that work in her short tenure with us.

- December 19th – Pam and I had the opportunity to visit staff here at the Administrative offices, as well as QPEC, the Public Works building to pass along holiday greetings and cards to all staff. Councillor Jenkins and I then went to Hillview Acres and the Solid Waste Management Facility to do the same. It was a great opportunity to see our employees working in their element, and the great work they do for our community day-to-day.
- I had the honor to deliver some remarks on behalf of our Municipality at the Mixed Double Curling Olympic Trials. This was a phenomenal event, a huge thanks to our staff at QPEC, all the volunteers and organizers at the Liverpool Championship Host Society for their incredible work in bring this world class event to Liverpool. Feedback from curling Canada was tremendously positive. I've spoken to many small business owners who experienced significant increase in business over the week that the event unfolded. We've captured a variety of lessons learner form the experience to bare in mind and make improvements for the next great event we host at QPEC!
- Over the past month I've had the opportunity to meet with representatives from several community groups and service organizations including South Shore Libraries, National Conservation Council, the ATV association, RCMP, our MLA, potential investors representing the film, forestry, and tourism industries, Mayors from our neighboring Municipalities – and I'm incredibly excited by all the prospects on our horizon!
- Earlier this week we identified a top-notch group of facilitators to support our strategic planning process – I am confident this work will lead us to a future in which we have a strong strategic vision and clear priorities to guide the work of our organisation and support the future of our community.
- And of course, last Thursday we had a Labour Disruption. This is deeply concerning and disappointing for all of Council. We are committed to finding a good deal for our staff while balancing the financial sustainability of our organisation and ensuring we can deliver services to our residents.

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Snow clearing and winter maintenance of Fort Point Lighthouse Park

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report with recommendations and

projected costs of winter maintenance of Fort Point Lighthouse Park.

MOTION CARRIED.

12.2 Notice of Motion:

Councillor Jenkins:

TAKE NOTICE THAT a future meeting of the Region of Queens Municipality Council, I propose to introduce Bylaw No. 26 – A Bylaw Respecting Private Road Maintenance Charges.

13.0 Closed Session

At 10:05 a.m., it was moved by Councilor Roy and seconded by Councillor Amirault that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss items:

13.1 Approval of In-Camera Minutes Dec 10, 2024 & Dec 16, 2024

13.2 Contract Negotiations

13.3 Property Matter

13.4 Personnel

MOTION CARRIED.

At 3:38 p.m., moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Councillor Carver THAT Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver THAT The Region of Queens Municipality Council proceed as discussed in closed session.

MOTION CARRIED.

15.0 Adjournment

Councillor Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Proclamations & Information Items

1/ Alzheimer Awareness Month, January 2025

2/ Transitional Rules Posted for HST Reduction, Province of Nova Scotia

3/ Bylaw Monthly Report, December 2024

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Pam Lovelace, Acting CAO/Municipal Clerk

Heather Cook, Acting Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____