

## **Region of Queens Municipality Special Council Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cuk7ss5tSec>

### **Minutes**

#### Present:

Mayor Scott Christian

Councillor Roberta Roy, District 1

Deputy Mayor Charlton, District 2

Councillor Courtney Wentzell, District 3

Councillor Vicki Amirault, District 4

Councillor Jack Fancy, District 5

Councillor Stewart Jenkins, District 6

Councillor Wanda Carver, District 7

#### Staff:

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO

Heather Cook, Acting Clerk

Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure

Richard Lane, Project Officer

Mike MacLeod, Director of Land Use

Heidi Mossman, Manager of Finance

Steve Whynacht, Manager of Information Technology

### **1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.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 the Agenda**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault;**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

## **4.0 Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins;**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality appoint Willa Thorpe as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Region of Queens Municipality, effective mid-June, 2025, as per the terms of the employment agreement signed by Mayor Christian and Interim CAO Dan McDougall.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5.0 Volunteer Summit participation**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault;**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality accept the report titled Project Volunteer – Volunteer Summit.

and **THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve up to \$2,600 to support the expenditures associated with hosting of the 2025

Volunteer Summit to be held on November 8, 2025, at the Lunenburg NSCC campus in Bridgewater.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality amend the agenda to move the business item regarding the April 28th information request on sidewalks, in order to receive the sidewalk report in advance of the upcoming budget discussions.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **6.0 Information Requests from April 28, 2025 meeting**

- **Sidewalk Report**

**Moved by Councillor Carver, Seconded by Councillor Jenkins**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report as prepared by Director Grant and circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7.0 Budget Discussion**

Staff requested direction from Council regarding the Low-Income Tax Exemption. Based on historical data, increasing the income threshold in past years has resulted in minimal uptake. To benefit the most residents—particularly those in the lowest income brackets — staff recommended

maintaining the existing income threshold while increasing the rebate amounts by 25%.

Council agreed to this approach which adds \$18,000 to the program budget, in addition to the \$10,000 already allocated.

Council discussed the potential to allocate funds for event planning or events staff at Queens Place Emera Centre.

**Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Amirault**

**THAT** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality allocate an additional \$75,000 to the event attraction line item at Queens Place, for a total of \$100,000, to be funded from the accumulated surplus.

**MOTION DEFEATED**

Council discussed the \$15,000 allocation for low-income assistance to potentially offset costs for low-income residents with upcoming changes to the Water Utility rate. Council expressed support for the initiative.

There was discussion on previous Council direction for the new position of Policy/Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, and responsibilities for that role.

Discussion returned to the possible sidewalk expansion.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault**

**THAT** the Council of Region of Queens Municipality include segment 1 White Point Road: Millard Avenue to Harley Umphrey Drive in the Capital Investment Plan for 2025/2026 at an estimated cost of \$726,000, utilizing the unspent funds from the library renovation, in the CCBF reserve.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Council held a discussion regarding the Mount Pleasant Exchange, Director Grant noted that the work underway to rehabilitate the water and waste water lines from Roy Turner Road to Wolfe Street will make a significant difference in the

Director Veinotte provided the budget motion approvals for Council to go over before the next Council meeting.

## 8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was **moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver at 8:10p.m**

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Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

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Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date Approved:           May 13, 2025