



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council Tuesday, February 24, 2026 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Minutes

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

Staff: Willa Thorpe, Chief Administrative Officer
Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and acknowledged that we have the privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki,

the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people and have responsibilities as treaty people.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 24, 2026 agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 In Camera

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality move to Closed Session to discuss two items:

- 3.1 Personnel
- 3.2 Personnel

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality return to open session.

The meeting recessed at 5:05 p.m. and resumed at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Christian called the Public Session to order at 5:30 p.m. and acknowledged that we have the privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

4.0 Adoption of Minutes

It was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

5.0 Public Comment

1. Andrew Tyler, Port Medway

Mr. Tyler addressed Council regarding the recent decision of the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board to approve the expansion of the open fish farm near Beach Meadows. He encouraged Council to continue opposing the expansion and any future proposals, noting community concerns about potential impacts on tourism and local investment in the Beach Meadows area. Mr. Tyler also expressed the view that aquaculture operations should be land-based and subject to taxation and regulation similar to other businesses.

2. Denaige McDonnell, Liverpool

Dr. McDonnell addressed Council regarding governance, transparency, and administrative clarity. She echoed concerns expressed about the

recent aquaculture decision, then offered several suggestions, including fixing the broken link for Operational Policy 49, consolidating the two existing Codes of Conduct into a single clear document, and strengthening policy development by embedding accountability and performance measures within policies. She also suggested improving alignment between policy, performance management, and strategic objectives, and requested that the Municipality make an up-to-date organizational chart and complete job descriptions publicly available to support transparency and effective governance.

3. David White, South Brookfield

Mr. White, President of the Queens County ATV Association, provided Council with an update on the Association's activities. He advised that a planned event had been postponed due to recent snowfall but shared that a preliminary economic impact forecast estimated approximately \$7,000–\$8,000 in local economic activity for the day, based on anticipated attendance and accommodations booked in Liverpool. He noted the event was also expected to raise funds for local community groups and highlighted the Association's ongoing work related to the Municipal Road Trails Act. He expressed appreciation for the municipality's cooperation and indicated the group looks forward to proceeding with the event once rescheduled.

4. Jill Forest, Caledonia

Ms. Forrest, representing the North Queens Community School Playground Committee, provided Council with an update on the committee's efforts to replace the school's aging playground, which is over 20 years old and currently the only publicly accessible play space for children in the area. She advised that a volunteer committee of parents and community members has been fundraising since May and has raised approximately \$127,000 toward a \$300,000 goal, along with securing \$70,000 in in-kind contributions. She noted that the new playground is intended to be safe, inclusive, and accessible for the school's 99 students and the broader community, and that the committee continues to apply for grants and seek support to help accelerate the project timeline.

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations or Presentations today.

7.0 Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business today.

8.0 Staff Reports

8.1 Flag Request

It was moved by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT Council approve the application from the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Atlantic Branch, to fly a special purpose flag on the Region of Queens Municipality's special purpose flagpole on March 12, 2026, and in March for the subsequent five years, in recognition of World Kidney Day, in accordance with Operational Policy 84 – Flag Flying.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8.2 NSFM Spring Conference Attendance

It was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council approve the attendance of interested members of Council, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer at the 2026 Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring Conference, to be held April 29 to May 1, 2026, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, in accordance with Policy 47 – Council Attendance at Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) opposed.

8.3 Dismantling Discrimination and Hate Committee Renaming Request

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT Council direct that the Advisory Committee of Council currently known as the “Dismantling Discrimination and Hate (EDI) Committee” be renamed the “Inclusion Queens Committee”.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.0 Bylaws and Policies

9.1 Second Reading – Bylaw 14 – Tax Exemptions

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council give second reading and adopt Bylaw No 14 - Tax Exemptions as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.2 Amendment – Administrative Policy 60 – Solid Waste Fees

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Amendment to Administrative Policy No. 60 – Solid Waste Fees” and approve the amended Tipping Fee Schedule for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.3 Policy Numbering Corrections

It was moved by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council approve the correction of the numbering of the following policies: Administrative Policy 57 – Respecting a Development Agreement for a Multiple Unit Dwelling at 6755 Highway 3, Hunts Point, which shall be renumbered as Administrative Policy 61; and Administrative Policy 57 – Respecting a Development Agreement for a Fixed-Roof Overnight Accommodation in South Brookfield, which shall be renumbered as Administrative Policy 62; and Administrative Policy 57 – Respecting a Development Agreement for a 33 Turbine Generator Wind Farm Development, which shall be renumbered as Administrative Policy 63;

AND THAT the corrections be administrative in nature only, with no changes to the content, intent, or effect of the policies.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.0 Correspondence for Action

10.1 Correspondence from Debbie J. Wamboldt

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council refer the correspondence from Debbie J. Wamboldt dated February 18, 2026, respecting market stall use and community food security, to staff for review and a report outlining options, implications, and any resource requirements.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.0 Correspondence for Information

There was no Correspondence for Information today.

12.0 Report from In Camera

There is no Report from In Camera.

13.0 Mayor's Report

Mayor Christian provided an overview of his activities since the previous meeting. He noted the recent decision by the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board to approve Kelly Cove Salmon's boundary expansion at Coffin Island and expressed disappointment with the outcome. The Mayor thanked residents who participated in the review process and acknowledged the efforts of municipal staff and legal counsel in supporting the Region's intervention. He also highlighted the George Fletcher Memorial Hockey Tournament held at Queens Place Emera Centre over the Heritage Day weekend, thanking the organizers and QPEC staff for hosting a successful community event. On February 18, the Mayor attended a provincial engagement session regarding fire services modernization and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with provincial and municipal partners on this evolving issue. On February 20, he met with MLA Masland and representatives from Nova Scotia Public Works to discuss concerns related to the Liverpool Town Bridge and opportunities to work together to address infrastructure improvements.

14.0 Council Business

14.1 Police Advisory Board Recommendation – Councillor Amirault

Councillor Amirault reported on the February 19 meeting of the Police Advisory Board, where members met with Staff Sergeant Frenette to discuss current policing capacity within the Queens District. Staff Sergeant Frenette advised that the addition of two General Investigation Section (GIS) members would strengthen the detachment's ability to undertake more complex and proactive investigations. He noted that Queens District is currently the only district in Southwest Nova District without GIS members, which requires general duty officers to divert from their primary responsibilities to address investigative work. Following the discussion, the Police Advisory Board passed a motion recommending that Council consider directing staff to include funding for two GIS officers in the draft 2026–2027 Operating Budget.

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council consider the addition of two GIS officers at an estimated cost of \$225,000 per officer, for a total of \$450,000, and that staff be directed to incorporate this amount into the Draft 2026–2027 Operating Budget for Council's consideration.

MOTION CARRIED with six (6) in favour and two (2) opposed.

15.0 New Business

There was no New Business to discuss today.

16.0 Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: March 10, 2026