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Minutes of Council Meeting

February 10, 2026 7:00 PM

Present:	Mayor (Chair)	Krista Freake
	Councillors	Lisa Grimes
		John Mullett
		Perry Pond
		Ken Tucker
		Derek White
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
Regrets:	Deputy Mayor	Betty Clarke

Mayor Freake welcomed fellow Councillors and management and brought greetings to those watching on Facebook.

1. **Call to Order – 7:01 pm**

Mayor Freake brought forward a land acknowledgement.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

26-012 Pond/White

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

3.1 **Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting, January 13, 2026.**

26-013 Tucker/Mullett

Be it resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2026.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

4. Mayor's Update

- Heritage Day/Week Proclamation: The Mayor declared Monday, February 16th as Heritage Day and February 16th – 22nd as Heritage Week for 2026, encouraging celebration of Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage, uniqueness, and responsibility to protect it.
- Wear Red Canada Day Proclamation: The Mayor also declared February 13th as Wear Red Canada Day, recognizing heart disease as the number one killer of women worldwide and elevating awareness efforts led by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre and Alliance.
- The Mayor reported a meeting with regional primary care leads (Dr. Jarrett Butler, Craig Davis, and a family care team representative) focused on recruitment/retention of medical practitioners, advancement of the family care team, and securing a building for operations.
- Updates indicate ongoing difficulty recruiting doctors; council will engage ministers, the public, and potentially reorganize a committee to address local healthcare needs.
- RCMP meeting: Scheduled for the 19th of February to review community satisfaction updates and address regional issues, including a request for additional detachment resources.
- MHA meeting: Scheduled for the February 24th to discuss topics requiring government attention; updates to be shared at the next public council meeting.

5. Recreation/Tourism Committee

- Marketing and Events:
 - Recreation is preparing marketing materials for a new T'railway in time for the Outdoor Adventure Show; materials will accompany a Destination executive.
 - Winter Carnival starts tomorrow with a full schedule; residents are encouraged to participate and create snow sculptures.
- Facility Upgrades:
 - LED lighting installation at the stadium will proceed in spring after ice removal.
- Funding Applications:
 - Completed applications for the Atlantic Lottery Community Grant Program and Green Team through Conservation Corps Newfoundland Labrador.
- Concert Announcement:
 - A Saturday night indoor concert at Mike Austin Arena featuring "Shanneyganock" is proposed with a limited thousand tickets at \$40.00 each; sponsorship package and festival sponsor details expected by end of February.
- Committee Engagement:

- Delegations scheduled for Thursday's meeting; working to secure a meeting with Lewisporte and Area Minor Hockey on related topics.

6. Economic Development

6.1 Occupancy Permit - 26-001C (Commercial) – The Cutting Edge to occupancy 11 Industrial Park.

26-014 Pond/Tucker

I so move to accept the occupancy permit, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

6.2 Occupancy Permit - 26-002HBB (Home Based Business) – Accelerated Business Solutions to occupy 12 Viewmore Terrace.

26-015 Pond/Tucker

I so move to accept the occupancy permit, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

- Dinner Theatre Redevelopment:
 - Phase 1 (building envelope) of the former Roman Catholic Church redevelopment awarded; work to start when weather permits.
 - Phase 2 (interior redevelopment) is under development, with decisions expected shortly; project has been in progress for approximately three years.
- Marina Steering Committee:
 - Ongoing work to integrate the Marina with downtown and configure the site as public space; schematic recognition expected soon, followed by costing and implementation planning.
 - LMAA committee (Town, Yacht Club, Lewisporte & Area Chamber of Commerce) sought at-large members; applications received, and selection to occur in the coming days.
 - Downtown redevelopment will be aligned with Marina planning to avoid duplicated efforts.

7. Lands Committee Report

- Residents intending to purchase or build on land in spring/summer are encouraged to consult Town staff early to understand rules and regulations and avoid delays.

8. Public Works

- Appreciation expressed to outside workers for snow removal efforts amid heavy snowfall since Christmas.
- Equipment:
 - A key snowblower for sidewalks experienced issues but is now repaired and back in service.
- Street Widening:
 - Streets are currently narrow due to significant snow accumulation; crews aim to blow back snow over the next two or three days to improve accessibility.
- Ten-Year Capital Works Program Motion:

26-016 White/Mullett

I am going to make a motion now that we accept the ten-year capital works program from 2026- 2033, and I move.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

- it serves as a prioritized guide based on trouble areas (e.g., leaks) and is subject to change.

9. Protective Services

- ATV-Friendly Streets:
 - Committee is reviewing and updating designated streets to legally allow ATV travel, focusing on those that connect trail systems with minimal impact on pedestrians and traffic.
 - A site review occurred, with recommendations to be brought to the next committee meeting and then to council.
- Fire Protection Agreements:
 - Rates and agreements (including mutual aid and cottage areas) were reviewed; recommendations will be forwarded to council for discussion and potential changes at a future meeting.
- Meetings:
 - Quarterly meeting with fire department executive to be scheduled; awaiting response.
 - Regional RCMP coordination meeting confirmed for February 19th to address shared concerns and resource requests.

- A letter to the Minister of Justice (Minister Ottenheimer) summarized prior discussions and requested additional RCMP members and a meeting; no response received yet.
- A letter sent regarding fire department equipment; no response has been received yet.
- Junior Firefighting Program:
 - Start delayed by weather and exams; now scheduled for next Monday with 22 students in a single group to cover program materials.
 - The Mayor will attend to discuss responsibilities, Town representation, and school coordination.
- Stadium-Area Parking Concerns:
 - Recent events caused heavy on-road parking along Bowater Avenue and adjacent roads with congestion and at least one collision reported.
 - Lack of signage and snow piles reducing lot capacity (including impacts from a new ball field fence) contribute to the issue; Protective Services will discuss signage and other measures at their next meeting.

10. Finance/HR

10.1 Cheque Register – CIBC Operating Account

26-017 Grimes/Mullett

I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, for EFT's 357 to 412, and cheque numbers 39567 to 39578 with the exception of EFT's 359 and 392, and cheque 39572, for a total of \$412,855.60.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Pond is in conflict and left chambers at 7:27:05.

26-018 Grimes/Mullett

I motion to approve EFT 359.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Pond re-entered Chambers at 7:27:25.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left chambers at 7:27:32

26-019 Grimes/Mullett

I motion to approve EFT 392 and cheque number 39572.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:27:55.

10.2 Motion to Adopt Meeting Schedule

26-020 Grimes/Mullett

Whereas section 39 of the Towns and Local Service Districts Act provides that council shall hold regular meetings at such times as council may determine;

And whereas it is desirable to establish a regular meeting schedule for the efficient conduct of council business;

Be it resolved that council hereby adopts the proposed regular meeting schedule in accordance with section 39 of the Towns and Local Service Districts Act, as presented in the February 10, 2026, agenda.

Be it further resolved that other committee meetings shall be held once per month, and that a copy of the meeting schedule be posted on the Town's website, Facebook page, and on the two community bulletin boards for public awareness.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

10.3 Motion to Borrow for Loader

As outlined in the 2026 budget speech, the Town planned to borrow funds for the purchase of a 2025 John Deere loader.

26-021 Grimes/Mullett

Be it resolved that the Town borrow from CIBC the sum of \$358,165.00 for the purchase of a 2025 John Deere loader, with an amortization period of seven (7) years and a fixed term of two (2) years, exclusive of the HST rebate to be received by the Town.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

26-022 White/Pond

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Grimes, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion Carried

Time of adjournment: 7:30 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on March 10, 2026.



Krista Freake, Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk