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Minutes of Council Meeting

April 7, 2026 7:00 PM

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

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

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Mayor Freake brought forward a land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

26-046 Mullett/Clarke

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Clarke, 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 on March 10, 2026, and the Special Meeting of Council on March 26, 2026.

26-047 White/Pond

Be it resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on March 10, 2026, and the Special Meeting of Council on March 26, 2026.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

4. Mayor's Update

- The meeting with the Minister of Health has been postponed for a second time; no new date has been provided despite an indication that an alternative date would be offered.
- Ongoing concerns include doctor recruitment for Lewisporte and public commentary that family care teams are on hold due to staffing shortages, impacting local planning and expectations.
- Over the past nine years, council has met with successive health ministers regarding emergency care delivery at North Haven Manor, but they feel actionable solutions on staffing and operational needs have not been provided.
- The Mayor intends to task the Department of Health or NL Health Services and the Minister to set a meeting date and address objectives independent of the family care team pause.
- A meeting with Minister Petten about wharf infrastructure is scheduled for April 15, with public follow-up to come.
- Community acknowledgements:
 - Congratulations to the Notre Dame Figure Skating Club on a successful ice show.
 - Well wishes to minor hockey teams traveling for Easter tournaments.

5. Recreation/Tourism Committee

- Mike Austin Arena ice removal is scheduled for April 20; ice time remains available next week for final skating before seasonal closure.
- Council and staff expressed disappointment that Lewisporte did not host Easter tournaments this year, noting significant Town subsidies for youth-focused arena operations and the economic benefits tournaments bring to local businesses.
 - Discussion points included uncertainty over the application process and whether/how many tournament applications were submitted by the local executive, and a desire to prevent recurrence next year.
 - A suggestion was made for the Town, to contact the provincial body to express concerns and support the minor hockey association in attracting future tournaments.
 - The Mayor will verify with the association what was applied for to ensure accuracy before outreach.
- Spring preparations: Park bookings for the season have begun (contact camping@lewisporte.ca).
- Funding and applications in progress:
 - Newfoundland Community Grant for LED upgrades at the arena.
 - Crown Land application for training park extension.

- Cultural events funding for Mussel Bed Soiree.
- Community Gardens Support Program.
- Easter community event was well attended, with participation from 17 local businesses; thanks extended to Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue for cooking pancakes and to all participants.
- Community garden program applications are available at the town office.
- Work continues toward a fully accessible playground at the recreation complex; the recreation manager is in conversation with playground equipment suppliers, with anticipated progress in the coming months.
- A councillor noted awareness of “Kal Tire” as a company associated with accessible playgrounds seen in Ontario, featuring rubber flooring; this was mentioned to the recreation manager for potential follow-up.

6. Economic Development

Motions

26-048 Clarke/Pond

Motion to approve occupancy permit - 26-004R (residential) for Blaine Compton to occupy 4 Reid Street.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

26-049 Clarke/Pond

Motion to approve occupancy permit - 26-005C (commercial) for First Choice Vision Centre to occupy 508 Main Street.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

- Former Roman Catholic Church – Dinner Theatre Project:
 - Phase one is progressing well; the committee met with project consultants and dinner theatre representatives.
 - Planning for phase two will focus on interior redevelopment, aiming for a smooth transition with tender preparation and timely award to avoid interruptions.
- Marina Business Plan and Downtown Connectivity:
 - Work continues to enhance the connection between the marina and downtown while making the space functional and inviting.

- A consultant is engaged; early SWOT discussions are underway. Schematic design is anticipated soon to inform detailed costing and an implementation strategy.
- ATV Trail and Rail Bed Maintenance Program:
 - The Town implemented a trail maintenance program supported by the local business community; invoices have been issued for annual contributions.
 - This approach aims to ensure sustainability and quality of the trail system as a recreation and tourism asset.
- New Business Openings:
 - Recent openings are acknowledged as positive momentum for local economic growth.

7. Lands Committee Report

- A meeting is upcoming next week; a subdivision agreement draft is in progress and may be brought forward in the next month.
- This agreement is intended to support future development; land visibility remains limited due to seasonal conditions.

8. Public Works

Motion

After going to tender for the bypass at the water tank, and of those tenders we had five inquiries on the tender process.

26-050 White/Clarke

I want to make a motion, that we award a tender to W. Reid Construction Limited at a price of \$225,059.60, HST included.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

- The project is expected to start early, weather permitting; plan is to drain the water tank without interrupting residents' water supply (pressure may be lower).
- Winter Impacts and Maintenance:
 - It has been a hard winter on equipment and staff; six leaks were repaired around town during January–March.
 - A recent service installation addressed legacy shared service lines; ongoing work continues to move water and sewer lines out of private yards, with many remaining in older areas.
 - Pothole repairs will proceed when warmer weather allows asphalt recycling to bond; spring maintenance program will follow.

9. Protective Services

Motion

The Town drafted an emergency management plan, and it was sent into government for approval, it has been approved by the Director of Emergency Services Division, now the council are required to approve it and adopt that for our purposes.

26-051 Tucker/Grimes

I'll make a motion that the Town adopt the emergency management plan for Town of Lewisporte, as has been presented.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

- A tabletop emergency exercise is planned, likely early in the fall, now that approvals are in place.
- Wildfire Prevention Mitigation Grant:
 - The Town was awarded \$223,000 dollars under the Provincial Community Wildfire Prevention Mitigation Grant.
 - The program includes identifying priority areas for preventative measures (e.g., clear cutting, fire breaks) and education/awareness; the committee and town manager will fine-tune and roll out the plan in coming months.
- Committee Scheduling:
 - Another committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

10. Finance/HR

10.1 Cheque Register – CIBC Operating Account

26-052 Grimes/Mullett

I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, for EFT's 446 to 490, and cheque numbers 39600 to 39630 with the exception of EFT 486, for a total of \$624,358.10.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left chambers at 7:27:06

26-053 Grimes/Mullett

I motion to approve EFT 486.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:27:28.

10.2 Motion to Adopt Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund By-Law

26-054 Grimes/Mullett

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Lewisporte adopt the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund By-Law, enacted pursuant to Section 88(1)(a) of the Towns and Local Service Districts Act, as presented, and further that the said by-law come into force on the date of its adoption.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Motion to Adopt Arrears Sale By-Law

26-055 Grimes/Mullett

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Lewisporte adopt the *Arrears Sale By-Law*, pursuant to the authority conferred under Section 7 of the Towns and Local Service Districts Act, 2025, as presented, and further that the said by-law come into effect on the date of its adoption.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

11. Other Business

Community Advisory Committee and Service Fair

- The Community Advisory Committee is active and seeking two new committee members due to retirements; interested residents can contact for applications via Central Health Center.
- A community service fair will be held at the high school on April 15, 2026, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.
 - Representatives from provincial and federal services, Central Health, and other entities will assist with items such as birth certificates, photo ID, MCP cards, Service Canada benefits, My Service Canada access, CRA accounts, tax filing, Canadian Dental Care Plan inquiries, income support, and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing.
 - Attendees should bring an ID card and use the gymnasium entrance; approximately twenty-two programs will be represented, with additional services (e.g., student loans/student aid) being added as needs arise.

Lewisporte Marina Authority Board

- The new board is in place under the new constitution and bylaws, with two council representatives.
- The second meeting is on Monday night; preparations for the boating season are underway.
- Sheena is back working full-time at the marina office to support marina-related business.

12. Adjournment

26-056 White/Pond

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion Carried

Time of adjournment: 7:33 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on May 5, 2026.

Krista Freake, Mayor

Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk