

**Public Meeting of Council
April 3, 2025**

Present: Tom Rose Mayor, Chairperson
Susan Fowlow Deputy Mayor
Laura Aylward Councillor
Tom O'Brien Councillor
Darren Roberts Councillor
Myra White Councillor

Regrets: Maurice Hynes Councillor

Staff: Bill Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Candace Simon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk
Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communication Officer
Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager
Mike Ratter, Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager

Call to Order

The Meeting was called by Mayor Rose at 4:09 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-71 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Aylward
Be it Resolved to approve the agenda for April 3, 2025 as presented.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-72 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow
Be it Resolved that the minutes of the March 20, 2025 Public meeting be approved.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

25-73 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward
Be it Resolved that the Privileged Meeting of Council Minutes, March 18th, 2025 be approved

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No matters arising from the March 20, 2025 Minutes

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Autism Acceptance Month

The mayor recognized the Month of April as Autism Acceptance Month. He commended the principal and staff of Stephenville Primary School for their support and dedication.

April 24, 2025, Human Value Day

The mayor recognized April 24, 2025 has Human Value Day. To honor the importance of universal values like truth, right conduct, peace, love, and nonviolence. These values contribute to a more harmonious and sustainable society.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accounts Payable

25-74 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to approve accounts payable for April 3, 2025 in the amount of \$127,700.41 as presented.

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| In Favor: | 6 | Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White |
| Opposed: | 0 | Carried |

Expense Cheques

25-75 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to approve expense cheques for the Month of March 2025 in the amount of \$259,576.48

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| In Favor: | 6 | Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White |
| Opposed: | 0 | Carried |

Approval to Purchase – 2025 Mini Excavator

25-76 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it resolved to approve to purchase a 2025 Mini Excavator with attachments (24" digging bucket and 40" ditching bucket) as per public procurement requirements.

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| In Favor: | 6 | Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White |
| Opposed: | 0 | Carried |

Approval to Purchase – 2025 Tripple Axle Trailer

25-77 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it resolved to approve to purchase a 2025 Tripple Axle Trailer with underneath ramps as per public procurement requirements.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

CAO stated estimated costs to purchase the excavator and trailer is \$125,000, the town will receive quotes from Canoe procurement suppliers.

Approval to Purchase – 2025 Lawn Tractor

25-78 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to approve to purchase 2025 Lawn Tractor.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Approval to Tender, Supply and Delivery of Class A

25-79 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it resolved to tender for the supply and delivery of 1000 tonnes of Class A as per public procurement requirements.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Approval to Tender, Supply and Delivery of Winter Sand

25-80 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to tender for the supply and delivery of 1000 tonnes winter sand as per public procurement requirements.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Approval to Tender, Supply and Delivery of Topsoil

25-81 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved to approve to tender for the supply and delivery of 500 tonnes of Topsoil

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Request for Grant - Stephenville Theatre Festival

25-82 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved that the Town of Stephenville approve a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to Stephenville Theatre Festival 47th Season

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Accept Funding Agreement - The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on French Language Services

25-83 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to match funding contributions in the amount of \$2500.00 for the French Language Services Grant to support French Themed Street Art.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Outline Planning Permission – 74 Main Street

25-84 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved to approve outlining planning permission to operate a restaurant on the property located at 74 Main Street subject to adequate parking, and compliance with all town regulations and approvals of Service NL.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Disposal of Property

25-85 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Fowlow

The Town of Stephenville advertised the intent to dispose of five parcels of land to MOWI Canada East Inc. for the purpose of economic development, no objections were received.

Be it Resolved that the Town of Stephenville approve to dispose five parcels of land to MOWI Canada East Inc. for the purpose of economic development. The parcels include:

- Area No. 37A (40 Connecticut Drive)
- Area No. 37B (40A Connecticut Drive)
- 40B Connecticut Drive
- 26 Connecticut Drive Bypass
- 20 Connecticut Drive Bypass

MOWI Canada East Inc. will be responsible for all related costs.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

BY-LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICYS

None

CODE OF CONDUCT – Conflict of Interest

25-86 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Mayor Rose declared conflict of Interest and left the council table. Deputy Mayor Fowlow assumed the role as chair.

With respect to a complaint of a conflict of interest against Mayor Tom Rose made pursuant to the *Municipal Conduct Act*, SNL 2021, c M-20.01

WHEREAS:

- A. The Town of Stephenville received a formal complaint from a member of the public (the "Complaint") alleging that Mayor Tom Rose had engaged in actions while in a conflict of interest, in violation of the *Municipal Conduct Act*;
- B. Council engaged an external investigator to investigate the Complaint;
- C. The external investigator prepared an Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025. The Investigation Report clarified the scope of the Complaint as being in respect of an alleged conflict of interest in violation of section 6 of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.
- D. The Investigation Report was considered by Council at a closed meeting held on March 18, 2025;
- E. The Respondent, Mayor Tom Rose, was heard before Council in response to the Investigation Report on March 18, 2025;
- F. Mayor Tom Rose has requested that his written response, which was provided to Council in response to the Investigation Report, should be tabled at a public meeting of Council;

COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED THAT:

- 1. The Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025, including the recommendations of the Investigator, is accepted by Council.
- 2. The Town Council finds that Mayor Tom Rose acted in a conflict of interest with respect to the matters described in the Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025, pursuant to section 8(10)(b) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.
- 3. The Town Council finds that the Mayor has acted in a conflict of interest through inadvertence or a genuine error in judgment within the meaning of section 9(2) of the Act. Mayor Rose's seat on Council is therefore not vacated.
- 4. Council has discretion to determine the appropriate sanction within the meaning of section 9(2) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*. Council has determined that no sanction against Mayor Rose will be imposed in connection with the Complaint.
- 5. The Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025 is hereby tabled at a public meeting in keeping with section 8(11) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.

Now on this 3rd day of April 2025, Be it Resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Stephenville hereby dismisses the complaint of a conflict of interest against Mayor Rose; declines to vacate his seat on Council and imposes no sanction against him.

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| In Favor: | 5 | Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, O'Brien, White |
| Opposed: | 0 | Carried |

Question was called – council sought clarification with statement made in No. 1 – “The Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025, including the recommendations of the Investigator, is accepted by Council”, and motion brought forward to dismiss the compliant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose

He noted the town has received complaints from residents regarding vehicle parking on Main Street, particularly in restricted areas, creating visibility and safety concerns for drivers entering or exiting Main Street. It was suggested that increased diligence from the municipal enforcement officer may be necessary to address the issue.

He noted the impact of new U.S. auto tariffs on Canada, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, with potential retaliatory measures expected. This may encourage more Canadians to purchase domestically made vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Clean-Up

The period of May 5 – May 9, has been designated as curbside Spring Clean- Up in the Town of Stephenville. This year the program will be different, Town Trucks will pick up debris and refuse on the same day as residents regular scheduled garbage day, there will be no return trips for missed items. Weekly regular household garbage and recyclables must be separated from the other debris.

Drop Off - Residents of Stephenville can also dispose of clean up materials from April 28th – May 2 at the Town of Stephenville Public Works Depot located at 56 Wisconsin Drive from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

A full guide to clean up week will be available on social media and will also be mailed to residents in the coming weeks.

Councillor Aylward

A complaint was received from an elderly resident regarding a neighbor repeatedly disposing of garbage on her property. Councillor O'Brien confirmed receiving a similar complaint, noting that garbage also appears to be falling over a nearby bank. The CAO advised that while staff can review the situation for potential illegal dumping, the matter may ultimately be civil in nature.

Chief Administrative Officer

He stated in conversation with the Director of Municipal Government, there may be changes in the provincial government budget that will help municipalities address issues related to codes and legislation. Also, the department is drafting the required documents under the new act for municipalities to use, which will alleviate financial costs.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

ADJOURNMENT

25-87 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm

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| In Favor: | 6 | Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White |
| Opposed: | 0 | Carried |