

PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL

May 15, 2025

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

Staff: Bill Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
 Candace Simon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
 Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk
 Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager
 Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communications Manager
 Mike Ratter, Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager
 Jon Organ, Municipal Enforcement Officer (4:13pm)

Other: four attendees in gallery

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:06pm

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the Town of Stephenville as the ancestral homeland of different populations of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge with respect, the rich histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mayor Rose read the statement

Members of the Public Attending Meeting; as we have more public attending our council meeting, we wish to note that in section 4.2 of the municipal handbook, council are required to hold a public meeting at least once a month. The public may attend and observe council proceeding but cannot participate in discussions. The code generally restricts the public from speaking or distracting the meeting in any way. Often, individual residents with a matter before council take an opportunity to attend the meeting when their matters is being discussed. In this context, it may be acceptable for individual councillors, with the permission of the chairperson, to ask questions and seek points of clarification from the resident. Often the resident asked for an opportunity to speak to council on the matter of interest.

Approval of Agenda

25-112 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve the Agenda for May 15, 2025 as presented.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Approval of Minutes

25-113 Moved by Councillor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved that the minutes for May 1, 2025 Public meeting of council be approved.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No matters

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

The Town of Stephenville proclaim May 4th- 10th, 2025 to be Corrections Week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accounts Payable

25-114 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to approve accounts payable for May 15, 2025 in the amount of \$230,702.45 as presented.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Expense Cheques

25-115 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved to approve expense cheques in the amount of \$382,407.73

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Property Tax

25-116 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to approve Property Tax Write-offs in the amount \$326.42

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Remission of Tax

25-117 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to approve Remission of Tax in the amount of \$850.85

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Community Grant Program

25-118 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve Community Grant to Stephenville Cultural Destination Committee in the amount of \$24,000 to support Stephenville Summer Soiree Events from July 2 to August 28.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

25-119 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to approve Community Grant to Walk-A Ways Parks and Trails in the amount of \$18,000 for continued trail maintenance, signage, and flower gardens in Blanche Brook Park.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Request for Sponsorship - 2025 CFFF Memorial Bike Ride

25-220 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved that the Town of Stephenville provide a sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 to The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Cycling Ride.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 1 Roberts Carried

Approve to Enter into Agreement with College of the North Atlantic**25-221** Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to enter into a partnership agreement with the College of the North Atlantic Innovation Internship Program (IIP) and contribute \$9775.00 to support innovative activities and utilize equipment and materials for 3D modeling, georeferencing and surveying.

Question was called by Councillor Roberts, he reviewed the agreement before the vote was taken.

In Favor:	7	Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed:	0	Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Mayor Rose****Important Notice – Hydrant Flushing Program**

The Town will be conducting a routine fire hydrant flushing program starting Tuesday, May 20, and will ongoing for the next few weeks. Flushing will begin in the Base area and will continue throughout the town. While flushing takes place in specific areas, residents and businesses across the town may still experience temporary water discoloration and reduced water pressure. These effects are normal and should be brief. If water discoloration occurs, we recommend running an outdoor tap such as the one used for a garden hose, until the water runs clear. If you don't have an outdoor tap, run a cold water tap inside your home instead. We appreciate your understanding as we carry out this important maintenance to ensure water quality and system reliability. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Town Podcast

We will soon be launching an online town podcast in order to keep our residents better informed about what's happening in our community. We plan to provide updates on different departments and event at the town level, feature town historians, leaders of community organizations, nonprofit groups, local business owners, and organizers of special events happening around town.

We are also asking for your help! We want to hear your ideas on what to name the podcast and also suggestions on topics you'd like to see featured. Details on how to submit your suggestions will be posted on our social media accounts soon

He attended Grenfell's convention ceremony whereby two residents from our region were recognized. Katarin Roxon received an Honorary degree for her role in sports and Robert Cormier received Honorary degree for his passion and dedication to preserving and promoting the French language; both gave impressionable speeches.

Acknowledged the work of the Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager who has secured federal funding as part of BNZ Cohort partnership. The town is the only community in the province working with sixteen municipalities across the country in partnership to develop building standards for net zero by 2030

Main Street Reconstruction

He inquired if an audit can be completed on the sidewalks to ensure any cracks are repaired.

CAO responded to an inquiry by Councillor Aylward, he noted the contractor bid in the project based on their standard work schedule: ten days of twelve hours work followed by four days off. This approach was factored into the project costs and schedule and adding work into the four days off would be costly in overtime and would increase the project cost overall and travel time is included in these days. The public feedback is appreciated, and efforts are being made to educate them on this standard construction practice. Similar scheduling is expected for Rose Avenue reconstruction.

Recommended the Town host Geology Symposium Summit in September 2026 and invite university students across Canada to view the town's unique 300-million-year-old fossil forest.

He referenced Stephenville is the first Canadian Town to be mentioned on a podcast from Germany for Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The 37 minute podcast is reached globally, and it highlighted Stephenville innovation around green energy and reducing carbon footprint; including the town's Effluent System, Carbon Credits, leak detection scans and solar panels.

Chief Administrative Officer

He discussed a plan to streamline the approval process for change orders related to municipal capital works projects. Management intends to propose a delegation of authority to allow staff to approve certain change orders without returning to the council for approval, as long as they fall within the pre-approval financial limits. This new process aims to address changes in a timely matter.

Councillor Roberts

As council representative he provided an update for the Aquatic Centre, stating financials are stable, but there are concerns about aging pool equipment that will need to be replaced. The pool received a government grant for approximately \$9900 to offer free swims, and this has generated new revenue due to increased participation in swim classes and memberships.

He noted the Town of Stephenville provides a \$160,000 grant to the pool but also pays for the insurance and provides in-kind maintenance. The manager of the pool is expected to provide a presentation to the finance committee in the fall.

Mayor Rose stated he would expect the capital expenditure required for the pool to be supported by the regional group.

Councillor Aylward

She sent congratulations to Jacob Lewis on winning Canada's got Talent.

She sent condolences to the family of the late John Carroll.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

ADJOURNMENT

25-222 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm