

PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL

June 19, 2025

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

Absent: Darren Roberts Councillor

Staff: Bill Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Candace Simon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk
Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager

Other: Two attendees in the gallery

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:04pm

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-240 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve the Agenda for June 19, 2025 as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-241 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved that the minutes for June 5, 2025 Public meeting of council be approved.

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No Matters

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accounts Payable

25-242 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve accounts payable for June 19, 2025 in the amount of \$202,294.06

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

Request for Sponsorship-Bay St. George Chamber of Commerce 24th Annual Golf Tournament

25-243 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved that the Town of Stephenville provide sponsorship in the amount of \$100.00 and register two teams in the 24th Bay St. George Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament in the amount of \$720.00.

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

Question was called

Approval to Borrow:

Russell Heights Reconstruction

25-244 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it resolved that the Town Council of Stephenville borrow from the Royal Bank of Canada, St. John's, NL for Project #17-GI-24-00025 Russell Heights Reconstruction, a loan in the amount \$192,934, GST Rebate of \$19,821.41 will be paid out of town funds. Term of three (3) Years with an amortization period of Twenty (20) years. The interest rate of 4.2 % with a monthly payment of \$1,189.81

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

Main Street Reconstruction

25-245 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it resolved that the Town Council of Stephenville borrow from the Royal Bank of Canada, St. John's, NL for Project # 17-GI-23-00069 Main Street Reconstruction, a loan in the amount of \$ 651,841.00, GST Rebate of \$66,968.00 will be paid out of town funds. Term of Three (3) Years with an amortization period of Twenty (20) years. The interest rate of 4.2 % with a monthly payment of \$4,019.78

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

Rose Avenue Reconstruction

25-246 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it resolved that the Town Council of Stephenville borrow from the Royal Bank of Canada, St. John's, NL for Project # 17-GI-24-00091 Rose Avenue Reconstruction, a loan in the amount of \$ 360,075.00, GST Rebate of \$36,993.00 will be paid out of town funds. Term of three (3) Years with an amortization period of Twenty (20) years. The interest rate of 4.2 % with a monthly payment of \$2,220.51

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

Capital Purchase – Vacuum Sweeper Truck

25-247 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it resolved that the Town Council of Stephenville borrow from the Royal Bank of Canada, St. John's, NL for Bucher Model V65T Vacuum Sweeper Truck, a loan in the amount \$475,231.00, GST Rebate of \$48,823.70 will be paid out of town funds. Term of five (5) Years with an amortization period of Seven (7) years. The interest rate of 4.14 % with a monthly payment of \$ 6,527.26

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

Capital Purchase – 2025 Mini Excavator

25-248 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it resolved that the Town Council of Stephenville finance 2025 Mini Excavator, including five-year warranty from Wajax Limited in the amount of \$ 110,000 with 0% interest rate. The HST totaling

\$16,500.00 plus \$850.00 Administration Fee will be paid upfront out of town funds, Term of six (6) years, with a monthly payment of \$1,527.78

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

BY-LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICYS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose

He noted Russell Heights Reconstruction is now completed with second layer of Asphalt and Main Street reconstruction is anticipated to be completed before the tourism season starts with the final layer of asphalt in 2026.

Discussed improving signage to direct tourists travelling from Port Au Port Peninsula to detour to Main Street to boost local commerce instead of travelling via Route 460 Hansen Highway to TCH.

Started line painting, including the addition of bike lanes, are still being completed.

The Stephenville Theatre Festival is opening for its 47th Season with a strong lineup, including the musical "All Shook Up" featuring songs by Elvis Presley and it was noted that Elvis Presley visited Stephenville, and documentation of his visit was sent to the Museum in Graceland as noted by Councillor Hynes.

He addressed public comments made by Mr. Bob Byrnes regarding the towns development and support, and suggested the business community consider replacing Mr. Byrnes as their spokesperson for an individual with diplomacy and positive focus for the town.

Councillor O'Brien

He presented a suggestion from a resident, noting that since the airport is privately owned the town should lobby the provincial government to establish a small landing strip to accommodate air ambulances.

Councillor Aylward

She made comments relating to the ownership of the airport, noting that she believed the airport belongs to the people of Stephenville, not a board or private entity. She suggested an investigation should be conducted to clarify ownership, emphasizing that the airport is a crucial public asset and should not have been sold and she would support a citizen's rally.

She sent condolences to the family of late Clara Samms, who was 104.5 years old.

Deputy Mayor Fowlow

She emphasized the importance of critical thinking when evaluating reports or news. Noting the research can be presented to support different viewpoints depending on the desired outcome. She reminded everyone that stories can be created to reflect the creator's perspective, and council not addressing comments doesn't mean agreement or its right. She encouraged people to consider the source and context of the information before forming opinions, and she highlighted there are always multiple sides to a story to consider.

She addressed residents' requests for speed bumps, stating that the council had discussions with the RCMP and we are looking to mitigate the larger issue of speeding in our community as opposed to just specific streets. Mayor Rose stated the the future roundabout on Minnesota Drive will reduce the traffic within the Georgia Drive areas.

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Hynes

He mentioned that tourism groups have been arriving. Last week, a group of sixty tourists from United States, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan visited the area.

Councillor O'Brien also noted a tour bus with 40 tourists, including international visitors, was a part of a themed tour called "chasing quilts"

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

ADJOURNMENT

25-249 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor White

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm

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