



**Regular meeting of Council  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024  
6:30 p.m.**

Council: Robert Lefebvre, Mayor  
Raymond Campbell, Councillor  
André Chamaillard, Councillor  
Jeanne Charlebois, Councillor  
Yves Paquette, Councillor  
Antonios Tsourounakis, Councillor

Motivated Absence: Julie Séguin, Councillor

Staff present: Samuel Cardarelli, Chief Administrative Officer  
Philippe Timbers, Treasurer  
Jonathan Wilson, Director of Public Works and Engineering  
Geneviève Goulet, Director of Recreation and Tourism  
Martin Perron, Environmental Services Superintendent  
Jennifer Ashfield, Chief of staff  
Sonia Girard, Clerk  
Stéphanie Simard, Communications Coordinator  
Annie Rochefort, Deputy Clerk  
Julien Boisvenue, Acting Fire Chief

**1. Opening of the meeting**

La réunion est ouverte à 18 h 35.

R-220-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by André Chamaillard

Be it resolved to open the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Carried

**1.1 Roll Call**

Mayor Robert Lefebvre confirms with the Clerk that there is a quorum.

**1.2 Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Councillor Yves Paquette reads the territorial acknowledgment.

**1.3 Vision**

Mayor Robert Lefebvre reads the Town's vision to replace Councillor Julie Séguin.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

R-221-24

Moved by Raymond Campbell

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

**3. Disclosures of pecuniary interest**

None.

**4. Consent Items**

R-222-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by Jeanne Charlebois

Be it resolved to adopt the following items, as identified under the consent items category on the regular meeting agenda of November 12, 2024:

Carried

**4.1 Adoption of the minutes of the following meetings:**

**4.2 Administrative reports**

This item is withdrawn from the consent items before the adoption of the resolution and will be dealt with under Section 5 at the request of Councillor Yves Paquette.

**4.3 Accounts payable**

**5. Items withdrawn from Section 4. Consent Items**

**5.1 Monthly Reports**

R-223-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by Antonios Tsourounakis

Be it resolved to accept the monthly reports for the month of November 2024.

Carried

**6. Motion to adjourn Regular meeting and form Committee of the Whole**

R-224-24

Moved by André Chamailard

Seconded by Antonios Tsourounakis

Be it resolved to adjourn the Regular meeting to resolve into a Committee of the Whole.

Carried

**6.1 Presentations and Delegations**

**6.1.1 Mr. Jacques Léveillé, ref.: Cameras/Radars**

Mr. Jacques Léveillé from 176 Cécile Blvd. in Hawkesbury addresses Council concerning Cameras/Radars.

**6.1.2 Mr. Yves Charlebois, ref.: Withdrawal of question period**

Mr. Yves Charlebois from 750 Berthiaume Street, Hawkesbury addresses the Council concerning the removal of the Question period from the agenda of regular Council meetings.

**6.2 Council members' items**

**6.2.1 Response from the Ministère de l'Éducation, ref: Changes in school transportation eligibility criteria and distances to bus stop**

For information.

**6.2.2 The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, ref.: Response to the Minister of Finance's 2024 Fall Economic Statement**

For information.

**6.2.3 Ministry of Energy and Electrification, ref.: Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power**

For information.

**6.3 Department heads' items**

**6.3.1 2025 Budget - Second Draft**

Mr. Philippe Timbers, Treasurer presents the second 2025 Budget draft.

Comments are made by Council's members.

**7. Motion to resume Regular meeting**

R-225-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by Raymond Campbell

Be it resolved to return to the Regular meeting.

Carried

**8. Reports from Committee of the Whole**

**8.1 Mr. Yves Charlebois, ref: Withdrawal of question period**

Mr. Yves Charlebois addresses the Council regarding the removal of the "Question Period" from the agendas of Regular meetings and the procedure for requesting a delegation.

R-226-24

Moved by Antonios Tsourounakis

Seconded by André Chamaillard

Be it resolved that the administration reevaluate the Procedural By-law and come back to the Council with a recommendation concerning some possible modifications to the Procedural By-law.

Carried

**8.2 2025 Budget - Second Draft**

R-227-24

Moved by Jeanne Charlebois

Seconded by Antonios Tsourounakis

Be it resolved that the 2025 Budget be revised to increase the tax rate to a maximum of 9.5%.

Carried

**9. Reports of the Mayor and Councillors**

Verbal reports are made.

**10. Matters requiring action**

**10.1 Amendments to the Zoning by-law, ref.: Place de la Station (Devcore)**

R-228-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by André Chamaillard

Whereas the full application for approval of amendment to Zoning By-law N° 20-2018 was received by the Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury on September 9, 2024, and;

Whereas the public meeting required by Section 34 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, was held on October 28, 2024, and;

Whereas the application reflects the intentions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), and;

Whereas the application is consistent with the Official Plan of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell; and;

Whereas the application complies with the intentions of the Official Plan of the Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury and Zoning By-law N° 20-2018.

Be it resolved to approve an amendment to Zoning By-law N° 20-2018 for the subject lands and include an R4-Exception Zone that would reduce the minimum required lot width to 10.06 metres and allow the above-mentioned parcel of land to be recognized as one lot for the purposes of the Town's Zoning By-law to allow the construction of townhouse and apartment dwellings and recommended in the document 2024\_REC\_52.

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Whereas the application reflects the intentions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), and;

Whereas the application is consistent with the Official Plan of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell; and;

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Carried

**10.2 Support for grant application for CSRIF - Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation**

R-229-24

Moved by Jeanne Charlebois

Seconded by Yves Paquette

Whereas the Town of Hawkesbury is eligible to apply for a grant under the CSRIF: Stream 1 - Repair and Rehabilitation, which provides funding to extend the lifespan of existing recreational facilities, and;

Whereas the Town has opted to seek this funding for the renovation of the Robert Hartley Sport Complex roof, which is considered obsolete, at a projected cost of \$1,733,000.00, and;

Whereas, if the grant is approved, the Town will be required to contribute 50% of the total project cost, and;

Whereas the grant application was submitted and received confirmation before the deadline on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Be it resolved that the Council hereby supports the roofing system project at the Robert Hartley Sport Complex, as recommended in document 2024\_REC\_53.

Carried

**10.3 Rehabilitation of Catherine Street - Design**

R-230-24

Moved by Jeanne Charlebois

Seconded by Raymond Campbell

Whereas the rehabilitation of Catherine Street, between Lansdowne and Sinclair, is scheduled for next year (2025); and

Whereas it is necessary to initiate a tender process to award the engineering contract for the detailed design, preparation of plans, and specifications for the construction work; and

Whereas proceeding with the design phase tender now will allow sufficient time to complete the required studies for the 2025 construction, likely resulting in more bids and a more competitive price;

Be it resolved to approve a budget of \$100,000 for the detailed design, preparation of plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of Catherine Street, as recommended in document 2024\_REC\_54.

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Whereas it is necessary to initiate a tender process to award the engineering contract for the detailed design, preparation of plans, and specifications for the construction work; and

Whereas proceeding with the design phase tender now will allow sufficient time to complete the required studies for the 2025 construction, likely resulting in more bids and a more competitive price;

Be it resolved to approve a budget of \$100,000 for the detailed design, preparation of plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of Catherine Street, as recommended in document 2024\_REC\_54.

Carried

#### 10.4 Policing cost 2025

R-231-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by André Chamaillard

Whereas policing costs for the Town of Hawkesbury, for the years from 2021 to 2024, have been stable and consistent with annual reconciliation of actual costs being manageable during the annual budgetary process, and;

Whereas policing costs for the Town of Hawkesbury, during the years from 2021 to 2024, averaged \$2,948,990 including year-end cost reconciliation, and;

Whereas the 2025 Estimated Cost for the Town of Hawkesbury is now at \$3,160,718 plus a 2023 Year-End Adjustment of \$191,848, representing an increase of 13.7% for the year 2025 in comparison to an annual four-year averaging of policing services, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer for the Town of Hawkesbury, during the 2025 budget process, has stated that the amount from the previous year has increased by \$561,769 representing an increase of over 20% from the budgeted cost for the year 2024, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer has indicated that a one (1) percent increase or decrease in taxation is equivalent to \$125,434 thereby representing a direct percentage increase of 4.48% in direct taxation for the year 2025 for policing costs, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer submitted to the Municipal Council the **“Asset Management Plan”** indicating a net **“Annual Capital Infrastructure Deficit”** of \$5.8 million based upon an annual commitment

of \$3.1 million annually towards capital projects or contributions from reserves per year, and;

Whereas Council, based upon the recommendations of the Municipal Treasurer, agreed to an annual increase of 1.5% per year in direct taxation, in addition to the annual contribution towards capital projects, for the sole purpose of reducing the annual capital deficit gap which would take another 19 years, and;

Whereas, with the percentage increase of 4.48% for additional policing costs for the year 2025 plus a capital contribution of 1.5% in taxation for capital projects, the 2025 budget process begins with an increase of 5.98%, and;

Whereas assessment growth for the Town of Hawkesbury, beginning 2021 to 2025, has been 0.34%, 0.32%, 0.79%, 0.97% and 0.35% for the final year which is non-existent to fund any increases for policing costs including a special levy for capital projects to reduce the infrastructure deficit gap, and;

Whereas The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) is the Province's main general assistance grant to municipalities and its primary intention is to support small, northern, and rural municipalities across the Province;

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury, in the 2025 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), only received an additional amount of \$143,000, falling well below the increase in policing costs or recognizing the limited assessment growth, and;

Whereas similar municipalities are experiencing significant increases for the year 2025.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HAWKESBURY HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. THAT policing costs provided by the Ontario Province Police be frozen for the year 2025 based upon 2024 actual policing costs; or, in the alternative.
2. THAT the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, be increased to fund the increase in policing costs for the year 2025 which is the Province's main general assistance grant to municipalities and its primary intention is to support small, northern, and rural municipalities across the province with its objectives being to:
  - recognize the challenges of small, northern, and rural municipalities, while targeting funding to those with more challenging fiscal circumstances;



- support areas with limited property assessment; and to
  - assist municipalities that are adjusting to year-over-year funding changes.
3. THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of the Solicitor General including the Premier of Ontario; and
  4. THAT a copy of this resolution be also forwarded to all local municipalities in the United Counties of Prescott in order that they may pass similar resolutions; and
  5. THAT a copy of this resolution be also sent to our local Member of the Provincial Parliament, Mr. Stephane Sarrazin, for his endorsement.

Carried

#### **10.5 Memorandum of understanding with the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club**

R-232-24

Moved by Antonios Tsourounakis

Seconded by Raymond Campbell

Whereas the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club operates and maintains snowmobile trails within the boundaries of the Town of Hawkesbury; and

Whereas the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club and the Town of Hawkesbury do not have a memorandum of understanding to define the terms and conditions of operation of the trail network.

Be it resolved to authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club and that a by-law be adopted accordingly, as recommended in the document 2024\_REC\_55.

Carried

### **11. Request for support and Proclamation**

#### **11.1 Request for support - Ontario's Big City Mayors OBCM, ref.: Solve the Crisis' campaign**

R-233-24

Moved by Jeanne Charlebois

Seconded by Raymond Campbell

The Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury supports the SolvetheCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario.

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario, and;

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities, and;

Whereas the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province, and;

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone, and;

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs, and;

Whereas there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Therefore, be it resolved to support the SolvetheCrisis.ca Campaign and calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of

unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially, and;

Be it also resolved that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

AND that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis;

AND that the federal government is included in these conversations;

AND that both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

AND that Council calls on the residents of Hawkesbury to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting [SolveTheCrisis.ca](http://SolveTheCrisis.ca) and showing your support;

AND further that a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs and
- Ontario's Big City Mayors

Carried

**11.2 Request for support United Way, ref: Open letter to the Premier on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**

For information.

**12. By-laws**

**12.1 N° 67-2024 change of street name Pilon St to Auger St and Bruneau St to Christophe St.**

1st reading - carried

2nd reading - carried

3rd reading - carried

**12.2 N° 68-2024 Zoning By-law amendment (Place de la Station, Devcore)**

1st reading - carried

2nd reading - carried

3rd reading - carried

**12.3 N° 69-2024 to authorize the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club**

1st reading - carried

2nd reading - carried

3rd reading - carried

**13. Notice of motions**

None.

**14. Motion for Closed meeting**

The Council temporarily adjourns at 8:30 p.m. and starts the meeting in camera at 8:35 p.m.

R-234-24

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by Antonios Tsourounakis

Be it resolved that a closed meeting be held at 8:35 p.m. to discuss items 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3 as per section 239 (2) k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as the discussions concern negotiations.

Members of Council move to the conference room adjacent to the Council Chambers at 8:35 p.m. They all return to the Council Chambers at 8:52 p.m.

Carried

**15. Closed meeting**

**15.1 Adoption of the minutes of in-camera meetings.**

R-235-24

Moved by André Chamaillard

Seconded by Yves Paquette

Be it resolved that the minutes of the closed meeting held on September 23, 2024 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted with the modification is made.

Carried

**15.2 Negotiation - Collective Agreement - mandate**

**15.3 Negotiation - Collective Agreement - Ratification**

**16. Motion to resume Open meeting**

R-236-24

Moved by Antonios Tsourounakis

Seconded by André Chamaillard

Be it resolved to return to the Regular meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Carried

**17. Reports from Closed Session**

**17.1 Collective agreement - Mandate**

R-237-24

Moved by André Chamaillard

Seconded by Jeanne Charlebois

Be it resolved to approve the instructions given in-camera to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Carried

**18. Confirmation By-law**

**18.1 N° 70-2024 to confirm the proceedings of Council**

1st reading - carried

2nd reading - carried

3rd reading - carried

**19. Adjournment**

R-238-24

Moved by Raymond Campbell

Seconded by Yves Paquette

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Carried

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Robert Lefebvre, Mayor

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Sonia Girard, Clerk