

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Glasgow Square. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Peters, Councillors Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Fraser, Dorrington, and McKenna. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Ryan Leil, NGP Chief; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; Kaila Reid, Development Officer; and Frank DeMont, Solicitor (virtually through MS Teams). Absent from the meeting were staff members, Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services and Derek Eisan, Director of I.T.

AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

MEMOS FOR INFORMATION – NEW GLASGOW POLICE CHIEF

Council reviewed the following memo's submitted by the New Glasgow Police Chief Leil:

- i. Atlantic Chiefs Conference
- ii. Atlantic Hate Crime Network
- iii. Bill C-14: Bail and Sentencing Reform Act
- iv. Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act

- v. Bill C-16: Protecting Victims Act
- vi. Health Canada National Wastewater Drug Surveillance
- vii. Nova Scotia Drug Toxicity Trends

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION – NEW GLASGOW POLICE CHIEF – MUNICIPAL POLICY NON-ENFORCEABLE TRAFFIC SIGNS

Council reviewed a recommendation from the New Glasgow Police Chief that Council approve a policy direction that the Town not install, maintain or approve non-enforceable traffic signs that are not recognized within the Transportation Association of Canada Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada, Provincial Traffic Standards, or authorized under the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act.

And further that, Council direct that request for non-standard, non-enforceable traffic signs, including but not limited to “Children Playing”, “Disabled Child”, “Autistic Child”, “Deaf Child”, “Slow Children”, and similar advisory signage, not be subject to formal review by the Traffic Authority;

And further that, concerns giving rise to such requests continue to be evaluated through established road safety complaint processes with the New Glasgow Police, traffic engineering, enforcement, education, and traffic calming processes where appropriate.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the policy be approved as presented.

Councillor McKenna asked whether adopting the policy could create the perception that the Town is not adequately addressing the needs and concerns of residents.

New Glasgow Police Chief Leil advised that installing these signs does not reduce traffic speeds and that there is no evidence demonstrating their effectiveness. He noted that public

education and traffic calming measures are recognized as more effective approaches to reducing vehicle speeds.

Councillor Fraser inquired if school signs are admissible.

New Glasgow Police Chief Leil advised that school signs are recognized as enforceable signs under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Councillor Fraser asked whether "Autistic Child in Area" signs would be subject to the policy.

New Glasgow Police Chief Leil stated that there are alternative ways to raise community awareness. He noted that an excessive number of roadside signs could have the opposite effect by reducing the likelihood that motorists will read them.

New Glasgow Police Chief Leil referred to the proposed policy, noting that there are no provincial standards or guidance in the TAC Manual authorizing these signs. As a result, decisions regarding applications would be subjective, which could lead to inconsistencies and perceptions of unfairness. He explained that, because these are not regulated signs, there is no established process or standard to guide the approval or denial of applications.

Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS – NEW
MODEL 19500 GVWR (5500/550 SERIES) 4 WD REGULAR CAB WITH DUMP BOX AND LIFT
GATE**

Council reviewed a recommendation from the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works that Council approve the award for the purchase of a new Model 19500 GVWR (5500/550 Series) 4 WD Regular Cab with Dump Box and Lift Gate in the amount of \$129,269.70 [\$134,259 Net HST] to Highland Ford Sales using funds from the Town of New Glasgow approved 2026/27 General Capital Budget.

It was regularly moved and seconded that tender for the purchase of the new Model 19,500 GVWR (5500/550 series) 4 WD Regular Cab with Dump Box and Lift Gate be awarded to Highland Ford Sales.

Motion carried.

MEMO FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM PLAN UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development highlighting the development of a workplan as a key deliverable of the Town's Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, outlining actions, activities, timelines, expected outcomes and key performance indicators.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PC FIRE FIT CHAMPIONSHIPS UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the request from the Pictou County Firefighters Association seeking municipal support for the scheduled Atlantic Canda FireFit Championships on August 29 and 30, 2026. In recognition of the Town's support for this event, the Town will be acknowledged as a Fire Chief Level Sponsor.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file as sponsors for the Atlantic Canada FireFit Championships.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO – PICTOU COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services regarding the regular monthly meeting update which took place on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

MEMO – PICTOU COUNTY SHARED SERVICES AUTHORITY UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the regular board meeting update which took place on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

MEMO – MAYORS AND WARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the regular committee meeting update which took place on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the memo be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

CHESTNUT STREET/PARKVIEW DRIVE/ABERCROMBIE ROAD – COUNCILLOR JESSICA MACDONALD

Councillor Jessica MacDonald sent an email and requested a traffic study be conducted on Chestnut Street.

NGP Chief Leil advised that a traffic data collection device was installed on Chestnut Street on July 15th and will remain in place for 14 days. The results, including traffic volumes and average speeds, will be presented at the next Council meeting. If the data identifies speeding concerns, enforcement and public education measures will be considered.

Police records for the past 30 months show two motor vehicle incidents in the area, both of which were not speed related. The available data does not indicate a pattern of collisions requiring engineering or roadway design changes.

Traffic volume data will also be used to assess the intersection in accordance with the TAC Manual to determine whether additional traffic control measures, including stop signs, are warranted.

Chief Leil advised that a previous review of the request for a crosswalk between Parkview Street and Abercrombie Road determined that it could not be recommended, as there is no connecting sidewalk, creating a safety concern for pedestrians and you would end up on someone's lawn.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works noted that a sidewalk would be required to provide a safe pedestrian connection. Should a future request be made for both a sidewalk and a crosswalk, the project would be subject to a risk assessment and prioritization process using the warrant system and budget considerations. He noted the evaluation would consider the classification of street and pedestrian accessibility. He noted there are other higher priority areas such as Westville Road sidewalks.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER FROM THE TOWN OF STELLARTON – MINISTER MACLEOD

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Stellarton to Minister MacLeod regarding the proposed Fast-Acting Natural Gas Power Plants planned for Marshdale and Saltsprings, in the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the letter be received and placed on file.

Motion carried.

LETTER FROM THE RIVERFRONT JUBILEE SOCIETY – REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO THE SMOKING BYLAW

Council reviewed a letter from the Riverfront Jubilee Society requesting a temporary exemption from the Smoking Bylaw for the duration of the 2026 Riverfront Jubilee, taking place July 31 to August 2, 2026, based on the site plan for liquor licensing requirements.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the exemption be approved for the 2026 Riverfront Jubilee weekend of July 31 – August 2, 2026, as per their liquor licensing requirements and site plan for the event.

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE – DOWNTOWN NIGHT MARKET IN AUGUST

Council reviewed the request for a street closure and the memo from the CAO regarding the request for a temporary closure of Provost Street for the August 15, 2026, Night Market and authorize the expected budget overage for the estimated Public Works costs for the closure.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the street closure for the August 15th Night Market be approved and the costs for the closure to be absorbed by the Town.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald noted that the event is scheduled for the same weekend as the returning Festival of the Tartans and asked whether the Town has sufficient resources to support both events.

Councillor McKenna stated that the Town should support the downtown business community and accommodate the request.

CAO Lisa MacDonald clarified that the Festival of the Tartan does not require a street closure, only traffic flow to facilitate access to Glasgow Square for their concert on the same night.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works confirmed that devices are available for street closures.

Motion carried.

MEMO – SEPTEMBER COUNCIL DATE CHANGE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO requesting to change the September date for the Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings to Monday, September 21, 2026.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the September Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be held on Monday, September 21, 2026.

Motion carried.

MODERNIZING GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

Council reviewed a report released by the Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management capturing the perspectives on pressures within the current system and identifying areas where participants indicated that change, collaboration, or investment would improve the effectiveness and sustainability of Ground Search and Rescue in Nova Scotia.

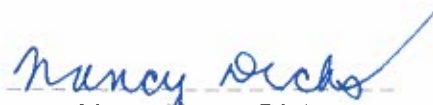
It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be received and placed on file.

Motion carried

IN-CAMERA

The meeting was concluded at 6:34 p.m. at which time Council moved to an in-camera session.

ADJOURNMENT



Mayor Nancy Dicks
Approved August 17, 2026