

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Peters, Councillors, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Fraser, Dorrington, and McKenna (Via MS Teams). Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; 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; Kaila Reid, Planner; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Absent from the meeting was staff member Derek Eisan, Director of I.T.

Deputy Mayor Peters stated that as we gather this evening, we pause to remember that in this province we live and work on lands that are by law the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the land of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people. We also recognize that African Nova Scotians whose culture, heritage, and history have been and remain a key part of our province for more than 400 years.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the consent agenda including the Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of April 20, 2026, and proclamations for:

- i. World Menstrual Health Day – May 28, 2026
- ii. Access Awareness Week – May 31 – June 6, 2026
- iii. Pride Month – June 2026
- iv. Recreation and Parks Month – June 2026
- v. National Indigenous Peoples History Month – June 2026 & National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21, 2026
- vi. National Day Against Gun Violence – June 5, 2026
- vii. International Trails Day – June 6, 2026
- viii. National Health and Fitness Day – June 6, 2026

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

Motion carried.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Engineering and Public Works Report dated

May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna noted that the report indicated the bus shelter had been moved and requested clarification on its new location and the rationale for the move.

The Director of Engineering advised that the bus shelter on Archimedes Street was relocated slightly farther back to improve visibility at the crosswalk. The adjustment was made in response to concerns and complaints regarding crosswalk safety and sightlines.

Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Solid Waste Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Police Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Councillor McKenna commended the work outlined in the police report included visits with businesses conducted by Constable Heighton. He inquired whether any common themes or recurring concerns had emerged from those discussions.

Chief Leil advised that there has been no update regarding any emerging themes at this time. He noted that he speaks with Constable Heighton daily and that any unusual or significant issues are reported to him immediately. Chief Leil indicated that he would follow up with Constable Heighton regarding the feedback received from businesses and would report back to Council should any

common themes or concerns be identified.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald commended the Police Department on the recent "Coffee with a Cop" event, noting its success in fostering positive engagement between police officers and vulnerable residents within the community.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald also inquired whether communication had improved regarding Constable Heighton's access to Viola's Place. She noted that, according to the report, many individuals who utilize the shelter are unaware that Constable Heighton is not permitted on the premises and have expressed a desire for her to visit them inside the facility.

Chief Leil expressed his appreciation to Constable Heighton and Emma Proudfoot for their efforts in organizing the "Coffee with a Cop" event, as well as other activities held during Police Week.

Chief Leil advised that there is no update at this time regarding Constable Heighton being welcomed into the shelter; however, discussions with the Executive Director of the shelter are ongoing. He noted that Constable Heighton continues to maintain regular contact and has worked to strengthen the positive relationships she has established with shelter staff and individuals who access the shelter's services.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Community Development Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Business Development Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

FIRE REPORT AND FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Fire Report and Fire Inspection Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

BUILDING REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Building Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Information Technology reports dated April 20, 2026, March 16, 2026, and February 17, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Human Resources and Corporate Communications Report dated May 19, 2026, be accepted as circulated.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS FOR FISCAL 2025-2026

TAX RATE RESOLUTION/OPERATING BUDGET/CAPITAL BUDGET

Councillor Fraser presented the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the estimated expenditures of the Town of New Glasgow for the period of April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027 be approved, accepted, and adopted in the amount of \$25,340,377 and after making allowance for estimated revenue in the amount of \$5,500,777, the amount of \$19,739,500 is required from the general taxation of the assessed valuation of \$830,174,300.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate for the Town of New Glasgow for the period April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, be set at \$1.88 per \$100 of assessment for Residential and Resource properties and \$4.47 per \$100 of assessment for Commercial property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pollution control rate of \$1.40 per cubic meter of water be applied as the current pollution control charge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a solid waste uniform charge of \$183.00 per residential dwelling unit be applied as a solid waste charge for all dwelling units of four (4) or less.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rate of taxes for the current period may be collected by Warrant and Distress, without further notice if not paid on or before the 31st day of March 2027 together with all costs and expenses of levy and sale of good on all proceeding's incidental thereto, and further if the said taxes are not paid before June 1st, 2026, for the interim tax bill and November 1st, 2026, for the final billing, an added penalty charge will be payable at a rate of 15% per annum on the balance of all outstanding tax accounts.

Councillor Jessica MacDonald requested to abstain from voting and asked that the reasons for her abstention be recorded in the minutes. Councillor Jessica MacDonald then provided the following statement:

Your Worship, before the vote, I wish to place the following remarks on the record.

The budget meeting was scheduled on Tuesday, May 5th for Monday, May 11th as the sole date identified for the budget deliberations. Due to the short notice and existing work commitments, I was unable to attend. In an effort to accommodate participation, I proposed Friday, May 15th as an alternative date; however, that date was declined on the basis that administration wished to finalize the draft budget by May 15th in order for it to proceed to Council on May 19th. The meeting therefore proceeded on May 11th, and no alternate dates were brought forward for Council consideration.

Accordingly, I was not present for the May 11 budget deliberations and did not participate in the discussions or decisions that informed the development of the final draft budget, including the

budgetary decisions that ultimately determine tax rate implications being presented to Council for adoption.

On May 6th, after confirming that I would be unable to attend the meeting, I requested access to the budget materials in advance of the deliberations so I could review the information and provide input as part of Council's decision-making process. I was advised that I would receive the draft budget only after Council had completed its review during the scheduled meeting. In my view, this limited the opportunity for meaningful participation in advance of Council's consideration of the budget.

I was subsequently contacted on May 12th and invited to review the materials on May 15th, after the budget meeting had already taken place and after the draft budget had been finalized.

I also became aware on May 12th that another member of Council had not been available for the May 11th meeting but had been provided an opportunity to review the budget materials with administration prior to the budget meeting. I was not advised of, nor invited to attend that review opportunity.

Further, on the afternoon of May 13th, Council was provided additional information respecting a grants-related portion of the budget and members were asked to advise whether they aligned with administration's recommendation. While I am generally supportive of that recommendation based on the information provided, I remain concerned that Council was being asked to consider elements of the budget in a segmented manner and within compressed timelines.

Council's responsibility under the Municipal Government Act requires that members be provided a reasonable opportunity to review information and participate in deliberations in order to make fully informed decisions on matters of this significance.

And while I did attend the May 15th meeting and appreciated the opportunity to review the materials with administration, that review occurred after the fact. As a result, I did not have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the formation of the draft budget now before Council.

I was not present for the May 11th budget deliberations and did not have the opportunity to participate in the discussions or formulation of the draft budget. As a result, I am not in a position to support a budget developed through a process in which I was not able to meaningfully and equitably participate. Based on the above, I would like to abstain from the vote.

For the record, my abstention is not a comment on the substance of the budget itself, but on the procedural circumstances under which Council is being asked to consider it. My request is based solely on my inability to participate and provide input in the deliberative process and is not a reflection on the work of staff. I acknowledge the significant effort involved in preparing the budget and supporting Council through this process.

However, pursuant to Section 34 of the Council Meeting By-law, I understand that I am required to vote on matters before Council unless Council permits abstention. Accordingly, I am requesting Council's permission to abstain from the vote. In the event that I am not granted permission to abstain, for reasons outline, I will be voting in the negative.

Additionally, I request that these remarks be recorded in the minutes prior to the vote.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Councillor Jessica MacDonald be granted permission to abstain from the vote on the 2026-2027 Operating Budget.

Motion carried.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the 2026-2027 Tax Rate Resolution be approved as presented, a copy of which forms part of these minutes. Councillor Jessica MacDonald abstained from the vote.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the 2026-2027 General Operating Budget be approved as presented, a copy of which forms part of these minutes.

The motion to adopt the 2026-2027 General Operating Budget was carried with Councillor Jessica MacDonald abstaining.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the 2026-2027 Capital Budget be approved as presented, a copy of which forms part of these minutes

The motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Capital Budget was carried with Councillor Jessica MacDonald abstaining.

Mayor Dicks noted that the 2026-2027 budget was shaped by several factors, including rising costs, aging infrastructure, and increasing social challenges related to homelessness and substance use within the community.

Mayor Dicks stated that the approved tax increases were considered necessary to address rising operational expenses, contractual obligations, inflationary pressures, infrastructure requirements, and the growing demand for municipal services and community supports. These measures were intended to ensure the municipality could continue to meet current and future community needs. The Town of New Glasgow remains committed to delivering essential services, investing in community priorities, and fostering a safe, sustainable, and resilient environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.


ACCOUNTS

It was regularly moved and seconded that the accounts dated April 20, 2026, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:28 p.m.



Mayor Nancy Dicks
Approved June 15, 2026



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Town of New Glasgow - General Operations Budget Fiscal 2026-2027

	2026-2027	% of Total
Revenue:		
Tax Revenue	\$ 20,014,300	76.0%
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	157,843	0.6%
Environmental Health	1,926,000	7.3%
Sale of Services	1,058,600	4.0%
Revenue from Own Sources	610,700	2.3%
Unconditional Transfers	1,323,484	5.0%
Conditional Transfers	639,450	2.4%
Other Transfers	610,000	2.4%
Total Revenues	\$ 26,340,377	100.00%
Expenditures:		
General Government & Corporate Services	\$ 3,005,050	11.4%
Information Technology Services	955,400	3.6%
Police Services	6,423,160	24.4%
Fire Protection Services	2,368,017	9.0%
Engineering and Public Works	4,830,125	18.3%
Environmental Health & Refuse Collection/Disposal	2,017,468	7.7%
Planning and Economic Development	150,000	0.6%
Community Development	914,550	3.5%
Recreation	601,258	2.3%
Community Entertainment Service (Glasgow Square)	63,700	0.2%
Regional & Provincial Transfers	3,345,030	12.7%
Fiscal Services	1,666,619	6.3%
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,340,377	100.0%
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	\$ -	



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Town of New Glasgow - General Capital Budget Fiscal 2026-2027

	2026-2027 Total
General Government	
Building Upgrades - Energy Efficiency Program	\$ 1,404,200
Library revitalization	7,993,200
Records management and permitting software and development assistance	420,840
Information technology initiatives	286,000
Total General Government	\$ 10,104,240
Engineering and Public Works	
Little Harbour Road watermain and related infrastructure	\$ 1,892,400
CSO-Flow meters and related study	400,000
Buildings - annual accessibility program	110,000
Street intersection alignment	25,000
Railway crossing improvement	800,000
Trail bridge/realignment	40,000
Town Hall roof upgrades	70,000
Traffic signals	100,000
Fleet-backhoe and 1 ton truck	380,000
Engineering office- access control	20,000
Total Engineering and Public Works	\$ 3,837,400
New Glasgow Police Department	
Patrol vehicle - hybrid	\$ 91,200
Non-patrol vehicle	45,000
Total New Glasgow Police Department	\$ 136,200
New Glasgow Fire Department	
Exhaust extractor	\$ 31,200
Equipment-6 sets turn out gear	44,000
Equipment-4 Self contained breathing apparatus	39,720
Total New Glasgow Fire Department	\$ 114,920
Community Development, Glasgow Square and Special Projects	
Ward 1 accessibility ramp	\$ 147,000
Trail upgrades -Johnny Miles	337,820
Trail upgrades-Samson	61,000
Placemaking project	1,598,675
Dock replacement	78,000
Glasgow Square upgrades	44,120
Total Community Development, Glasgow Square and Special Projects	\$ 2,266,615
GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS TOTAL	\$ 16,459,375