



## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2026**

This meeting was held in Town Hall and was livestreamed on YouTube.

#### **(1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Andrew Zebian called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Andrew Zebian  
Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell  
Councillor John Andrew  
Councillor Samantha Hamilton  
Councillor Cate Savage  
Councillor Rob Baker  
Councillor Cathy Maxwell

STAFF: Chris McNeill, Chief Administrative Officer  
Victoria Martin, Deputy Clerk

Mayor Andrew Zebian respectfully acknowledged that Kentville is on the traditional and unceded land of the Mi'kmaq People. The Town honours their deep connection to this land, past, present, and future; and also recognizes and honours the contributions and heritage of African Nova Scotians whose ancestors have shaped and enriched this community for generations.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councillor Samantha Hamilton declared a conflict of interest with item 6.g Policy 108 – Fire Services.

#### **(2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor Cathy Maxwell that the agenda of January 27, 2026, be approved as presented.**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **(3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

#### **(a) December 15, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes**

There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

### **(4) INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### **(a) Valley REN presentation – Emily Boucher, CEO**

##### Presentation Overview

Emily Boucher provided an update on the Valley Regional Enterprise Network (Valley REN) and its role within the broader economic development ecosystem. She emphasized the multi-tiered structure of economic development in Nova Scotia and the unique position of Valley REN as a regional collaborator.

##### Economic Development Ecosystem

Emily Boucher reviewed the four tiers of economic development typically present in Nova Scotia:

1. Local Level – Business associations and business improvement districts, mainly focused on marketing, advocacy, and beautification within targeted local areas.
2. Municipal & First Nation Level – Responsible for planning, land use bylaws, legislation, community development, and efficient service delivery.
3. Regional Level – Valley REN
  - One of seven RENs provincewide.
  - Acts as liaison between all tiers.
  - Leads implementation of regional economic development strategies.
  - Provides business support programs and initiates region-wide projects.
  - Catchment area: West Hants to the Town of Middleton.
  - Operates within a functional economic zone extending from West Hants to Bear River.
4. Provincial Level – Invest Nova Scotia – Focused on investment attraction, typically the first point of contact for companies entering the province.

##### Sector Development Initiatives

Emily Boucher highlighted sector development as a major function of Valley REN, noting that these projects are multi-year initiatives.

##### Tourism Development Project

- The REN has been leading foundational work to establish a Destination Management & Marketing Organization (DMMO).
- Activities included:
  - Securing project funding.

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 2*

- Hiring dedicated staff.
- Establishing an industry-led working committee (meets monthly).
- Delivering market readiness programming.
- Hosting quarterly regional tourism networking events.
- Producing multiple evidence-based reports related to the regional marketing levy and sustainable funding.
- The REN is also responding to NSCC program cuts in tourism and culinary programs—developing an economic impact report and working with NSCC and industry to explore alternative programming models.

#### Business Support Services

Emily Boucher highlighted key programs:

##### BusinessNOW Navigation Service

- Provides multi-session support to entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Last reporting period: 123 one-on-one clients (higher than comparable regions).
- Approximately 50% of clients are early-stage entrepreneurs.

##### Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

- Conducted every 2–3 years.
- Includes one-hour interviews to identify concerns, opportunities, and overall business climate (“red/yellow/green light” system).
- BRE interviews are currently underway across the region.

##### Immigration & Settlement Navigation

- Entering final year of pilot; the most widely used program in the province.
- 263 clients served last year by one staff member.
- 20% of current-year clients are Kentville businesses.
- Supports newcomers (PR, work permits) with employment connections, service navigation, and community integration.

##### Valley REN Connector Program

- Focused on newcomer and graduate retention.
- Recently shifted to emphasize skilled trades.

#### Investment Readiness Tools

- Site Selector Tool: Includes commercial listings, zoning, planning information, GIS-based data, and sector-specific assets.
  - 184 unique visitors in last two quarters.
- Ecosystem Tool (upcoming): A web-based business directory used to understand industry clustering and support investment attraction.

#### Training & Regional Preparedness

- Staff have been trained in Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) through GMIST.
  - Sessions will be offered to municipal partners.
- Valley REN is working with REMO and municipalities on business continuity and disaster response, particularly following regional wildfire impacts.

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 3*

## Financial Leverage

- For every \$1 invested by municipal partners, Valley REN typically leverages \$10 through external funding.
- Example: Connector Program receives \$100,000 in provincial funding without requiring municipal contributions.

Councillor John Andrew asked if the REN has been able to address the program cuts at NSCC (tourism and culinary). Emily Boucher noted that the REN cannot engage in advocacy due to its funding structure. However, it produced an economic impact report outlining challenges and opportunities, and is working with NSCC and industry to explore reimaged programming. Conversations will continue with the incoming NSCC Dean of Business.

Councillor John Andrew asked if the REN's large geographical scope is ideal, or if changes were being considered. Emily Boucher explained that the functional economic zone is data-based and covers a large region similar to Cape Breton. Annapolis County is not currently a member, though discussions are ongoing. Work is underway to improve regional cohesion, including a recent innovation sprint with major employers.

Councillor Rob Baker asked if newcomer support was targeted to a specific market segment or available to all newcomers. Emily Boucher clarified that the program is open to all newcomers, including permanent residents and individuals on work permits. It spans all sectors and involves referrals to appropriate regional supports such as PeopleWorx, VCLA, LSI, and IRCC.

Councillor Cate Savage asked if the Site Selector Tool includes zoning information and municipal planning details. Emily Boucher confirmed that the tool includes zoning data provided by municipal GIS and planning staff, commercial listings, soil and agricultural data, and logistical information such as distance to services.

Councillor Cathy Maxwell asked what other major multi-year projects has the REN completed similar to the current tourism initiative. Emily Boucher referenced the MIT REAP rural entrepreneurship initiative. It secured \$100,000 for concept testing and led to the current Agri-Food Tech incubator initiative ("Agri-Inc"). She noted that these projects require several years to develop and implement.

Councillor Samantha Hamilton asked if business and entrepreneur data is publicly available, or if businesses must request it from the REN. Emily Boucher stated that most data is available in the REN's annual report and quarterly newsletter updates. The REN can assist with additional data needs, including insights from Vicinity Jobs. Updated municipal economic profiles are planned through an upcoming funding application. Councillor Samantha Hamilton asked if businesses can easily find this information online and Emily Boucher responded yes, a business searching for Annapolis Valley economic

information would find the REN website, chambers of commerce, and CBDC Hants-Kings. The Site Selector Tool and regional economic profile are available online.

## **(5) DEPARTEMENT REPORTS**

### **(a) Planning and Development**

#### Planning Review Workplan

- Staff are developing the framework for the upcoming Plan Review.
- Internal staff review will take place first.
- A high-level overview may be ready for presentation at the February Council meeting.

#### Climate Action Coordinator Position

- Interviews are underway.
- Expected start date: early February.
- The position is 70% funded by upper-level government.

#### Development Activity (December)

- 2 development permits issued with a combined value of ~\$370,000.
- 1 subdivision application received:
  - 45 Donald E Hiltz Connector Road (Braveheart First Aid property).
  - Proposal: division into three equally sized commercial lots.

#### Planning Applications & Public Engagement

- Two Public Participation Meetings were held regarding:
  - Potential rezoning of 160 Main Street.
  - Proposed housekeeping amendments to R4 and R5 zones.

#### Ongoing Files & Reports

- A report on early permit issuance will be presented later in the meeting, including updates from legal counsel and building officials.
- Discussions continue with Vida Living regarding their development agreement.
  - A meeting is scheduled for next week to advance the file.

Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell asked to confirm that the Climate Action Coordinator position is 70% externally funded. Director Darren Shupe confirmed.

Councillor Rob Baker asked about the Bell Mobility tower. Director Darren Shupe responded that Bell is currently exploring alternative sites; if unsuccessful, they may return to Council for location suggestions.

Councillor Cate Savage asked about the purpose and scale of the 45 Donald E Hiltz subdivision. Director Darren Shupe responded that it intended to divide the lot into three commercial parcels, likely for sale.

### **(b) Parks and Recreation**

#### Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IDEA) Coordinator

- New IDEA Coordinator hired December 1.
- The Coordinator has been registered for the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification, which will enable the Town to conduct in-house accessibility audits for facilities, parks, and trails.
- This capability will reduce the need for external consultants and support ongoing assessments.

#### Winter Warm-Up Program (February)

- February features a series of pop-up community events promoting physical activity in parks and trails.
- Community members may use the Wellnify app free of charge to:
  - Track activity
  - Participate in challenges
  - Engage friends and family
- Nearby municipalities, including Wolfville, are also using the app to encourage friendly community competition.

#### Recreation Programming Highlights

- Strong participation reported for winter programs:
  - Pickleball: 75% full
  - Other programs: 80% full
  - Active for Life program: 100% full
- Director highlighted the social value of Active for Life, noting that participants benefit from both physical activity and meaningful social connections.
  - One participant emphasized the importance of attending the same session as friends to maintain social routines (e.g., coffee gatherings).

Councillor Cate Savage complimented the Winter Warm-Up program and noted strong engagement on social media.

Councillor Cathy Maxwell appreciated the Celebrate Canada grant applications, especially for Multiculturalism Day and Canada Day. She inquired about the pool and Director Craig Langille confirmed it is operating well, with only paver installation remaining for summer readiness.

Councillor Rob Baker asked for clarification on the app used. Director Craig Langille confirmed it is Wellnify (W-E-L-L-N-I-F-Y) and that information is available on the Town's Facebook page.

#### **(c) Kentville Police Service**

##### Police Commission Membership Update

- Chief Marty Smith expressed appreciation to outgoing Commission Chair Virginia Brooke and former Commissioner Councillor Cate Savage for their service.
- The Police Commission now has a full complement:

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 6*

- Chair: Paula Huntley (DOJ Representative, former Councillor)
- Vice Chair: Councillor Samantha Hamilton
- Members: Kim Clark, Penny Hart, Councillor John Andrew

#### Service Recognition & Awards

Several officers received long-service honours:

- Sgt. Trevor MacNeil – 30-year Police Exemplary Service Bar
- Sgt. David MacDonald – 20-year Police Exemplary Service Medal
- Sgt. Michael Goss – 25-year Provincial Service Bar
- Cst. Nicole Cleaves – 15-year Provincial Medal

MAD Canada Awards for impaired driving enforcement:

- Sgt. Chris Burke
- Cst. Eric Macdonald

Chief noted that most long-serving members have dedicated their entire careers to Kentville.

#### Community Initiatives & Fundraising

- Cram the Cruiser: Nearly \$3,000 raised plus significant food and toy donations for Kings Senior Safety, Kings County Family Resource Centre, and Fundy Food Bank.
- Holliday Brunch – Make-A-Wish Foundation: \$2,600+ raised.

#### Cadet Recruitment Program

- Recruitment program launched following Council's earlier request.
- Strong applicant pool received; testing begins next month.

#### Calls for Service & Patrol Activity

- 39% of December calls occurred in the downtown core, higher than previous months (typically mid-20s to low-30s).
- Chief Marty Smith will explore options for tracking charges vs. calls specifically for downtown incidents if the Board wishes to pursue it.

#### Officer Commendations

- Chief Marty Smith highlighted exemplary work by Cst. Mark Hall and Cst. Ryan Yould, who located a missing individual in life-threatening conditions, likely preventing a fatality.

#### Training

- Over 270 hours of training completed in December.
- Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (IARD) training completed; although mandated every three years, Kentville Police conducts it annually due to its importance for critical incident response.

#### Community Crisis Navigator

- New Crisis Navigator, Emme Manuel, has begun work and is proving highly effective.
- She handles many calls independently, reducing frontline officer workload, but officers must attend when situations involve arrest or safety risks (e.g., IPA apprehensions).

#### Major Investigations

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 7*

- GIS Section completed significant fraud investigations, including one nearing \$100,000, with support from Cst. Heather Campbell.
- Extensive investigative files have been forwarded to court.

#### Downtown Foot Patrol

- Special Constable Wood completed 109 hours of foot patrol in December (despite taking vacation).
- Chief noted his service will be difficult to replace upon retirement.

#### Financial Update

- BackCheck Services program is back on target and exceeding revenue expectations.
- Staffing costs are running lower than projected, contributing positively to results.

Mayor Andrew Zebian asked for clarification that 39% downtown call volume is unusually high. Chief Marty Smith confirmed it normally ranges 25–32%.

Councillor Cathy Maxwell raised citizen concerns about behaviour downtown. Chief Marty Smith responded that:

- Police act when behaviour constitutes grounds for intervention.
- Banks must take steps such as locking doors; police cannot arbitrarily remove individuals from private property without cause.
- Camps/tents on Town property (e.g., Miners Marsh) must be removed and are addressed.
- Ongoing issues are referred to the Crisis Navigator.

Councillor Rob Baker asked about comparable call volumes in neighbouring communities. Chief Marty Smith indicated hubs like Bridgewater, Truro, New Glasgow report similar pressures; RCMP Kings sees lower volume of similar calls.

Councillor Cate Savage asked about the Crisis Navigator's independence. Chief Marty Smith clarified she can manage non-risk clients alone but requires an officer during IPA arrests or safety-sensitive situations.

Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell asked about improved BackCheck revenue. Chief Marty Smith credited efficient, motivated administrative staff and positive workplace culture.

#### **(d) Engineering and Public Works**

##### Kentville Water Commission

- Water Meter Replacement Program (Phase 2)
  - Completed for the year.
  - Approximately 380 meters replaced between November and late December.
  - Project delivered on time and on budget.

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 8*

- Phase 3 will be proposed for the next fiscal year to continue replacing aging meters.
- Retirement Announcement
  - LeRoy Dillman, 21-year Water Operator, will retire at the end of February.
  - Recruitment for his position will begin internally per CUPE requirements, then externally if needed.
- Water Rate Hearing
  - Set for April 7 at 10:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.
  - Advertised for three consecutive weeks in the local paper.
  - Consultants, Director Dave Bell, Director Wanda Matthews, CAO Chris McNeill, and Water Commission members will attend.
  - An evening session (~7:30 p.m.) may occur if there are interveners.

#### Regional Sewer Budget

- First draft of the 2024–25 regional sewer budget presented January 15.
- The draft showed a substantial year-over-year increase, greater than anticipated.
- Staff are preparing revisions to reduce the impact.
- An updated version will be brought to CAC or Council in February for approval.

#### Traffic Authority

- Roundabout/traffic island installation in the downtown area is complete.
- Traffic light upgrades are needed at:
  - Aberdeen & Main
  - Belcher Street
- Belcher Street controller is a high priority due to frequent failures (reverting to 4-way flash).
- Upgrades to solar radar speed signs are also recommended, as some units are no longer operating reliably.

#### Capital Projects & Infrastructure

##### Mitchell Brook Culvert Replacement

- Tender is currently open and closes Thursday.
- Contractor selection must occur by late February to secure availability.
- Construction schedule must follow environmental restrictions (June–September).
- Tender results will inform capital budget recommendations.

##### Hiltz Road Project

- Phase 1 work is largely complete for the season.
- Remaining items will be finished in the spring.
- Phase 2 design is underway, focused primarily on:
  - Water system upgrades
  - Replacement of the business park water tank
- Stormwater components under the ICIP grant are complete; additional eligible work may be added if surplus funds remain.

### Public Works Appreciation

- Director Dave Bell reported that public works crews worked 16-hour shifts during the recent snowstorm.
- Council and the Mayor expressed appreciation for their efforts and high service standard.

Councillor Samantha Hamilton asked about sidewalk priority areas and crosswalk accessibility. Director Dave Bell responded that priority starts with school routes, then downtown.

- Public Works performs a courtesy pass downtown, but business owners are responsible for clearing full-width sidewalks to the gutter.
- Crosswalk openings are hand-shovelled and salted by Town staff.
- Director Dave Bell invited specific feedback if accessibility issues are observed.

Councillor Cate Savage asked whether the regional sewer draft included another significant increase. Director Dave Bell responded that yes, more than anticipated; adjustments are being made. She asked whether additional grants may be available for the Donald E Hiltz connector and Director Dave Bell responded that none were anticipated at this time. Remaining ICIP funds will be used strategically for eligible water and stormwater components.

Mayor Andrew Zebian noted that the courtesy pass downtown has been in place since 2015. He emphasized that due to building overhangs, Public Works cannot clear right up to storefronts; business owners must clear the remaining area for customer access.

### **(e) Finance**

#### Capital Budget Update

- A significant ICIP (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) expenditure of over \$4 million appears in this month's report.
- Adjustments will be made in February, as part of this amount will be transferred to the Water Commission.
- These adjustments align with earlier engineering updates about the ICIP project being slightly under budget at this stage.

#### Cash Flow Pressures

- The Town is experiencing temporary cash flow pressure due to slow reimbursement from the Province for ICIP claims.
- Over \$3 million in ICIP reimbursement remains outstanding.
- The Town continues responding promptly to all provincial inquiries; delays are strictly on processing timelines.
- No concerns about long-term financial health—this is strictly a timing issue.

#### Sewer Rate Communication

- Public communication regarding the recent sewer rate increase resulted in fewer calls than expected.

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 10*

- Residents have generally been understanding once the Town explains the reasoning.
- Residents have been informed that while current rates are high, rates will decrease again next fiscal year according to the approved rate structure.

#### Statement of Operations – Notable Variances

- Assessment Adjustments:
  - Downward tax assessment adjustments total \$42,000 to date (budgeted: \$18,000).
  - Impact is modest relative to overall tax revenue.
- Deed Transfer Tax:
  - December results were strong; total is now \$736,000.
  - Forecast increased to \$750,000 for the year.
- Recreation Revenue Forecast:
  - Updated based on detailed review; revised under-budget forecast reduced from ~\$95,000 to ~\$45,000.
- Engineering & Public Works Forecast:
  - Under budget due to an unfilled manager position (as discussed during budget deliberations).

#### Winter Weather Impacts

- Heavy snowfall in December and January has increased Public Works costs.
- Weekend storms are more expensive due to staffing requirements.
- Finance remains cautiously optimistic that the snow budget will be sufficient.

#### Interest Revenue

- Lower interest rates and temporary cash constraints mean interest revenue will likely be on budget, not significantly above budget as in previous years.

#### Tax Billing & Collections

- 2% of the levy remains outstanding.
- Positive trends this month include:
  - 12% reduction in the number of overdue accounts.
  - 0.9 percentage point decrease in total outstanding amounts (31% decrease month-over-month).

Councillor Cate Savage asked whether cash flow pressures require use of the operating line of credit. Director Wanda Matthews responded that no, the Town's consolidated bank balance remains positive. Lines of credit are only drawn for capital projects covered by temporary borrowing resolutions, and only for the Town's share (e.g., 26.67% on ICIP projects). Councillor Cate Savage followed up and asked about interest rates on the line of credit. Director Wanda Matthews responded that rates are favourable; she will confirm exact current rate, but it is either prime minus 0.75% or prime plus 0.75%, depending on the borrowing tool.

## **(6) RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **(a) Policy G41 – Repeal Anti-Idling Standard Operating Procedure**

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 11*

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor Cate Savage that Council repeal Policy G41 - Anti-Idling Standard Operating Procedure.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(b) Bylaw 300 – Repeal Idling Control (first reading)

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor Cathy Maxwell that Council give first reading to Bylaw 300 - Idling Control Bylaw 77 Repeal.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(c) Policy 107 – Traffic Authority

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor Rob Baker that Council approve Policy 107 - Traffic Authority.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(d) Policy G23 – Repeal Smoke-Free Town-Owned Vehicles

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor John Andrew that Council repeal Policy G23 - Smoke-free Town-Owned Vehicles.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(e) Bylaw 301 Chapter 99 - Repeal Smoke-Free Public Place (first reading)

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor Cate Savage that Council give First Reading to Bylaw 301 - Repeal of Bylaw 99 Respecting Smoke-free Public Place.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(f) Policy 101 – Council Remuneration

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor Cathy Maxwell that Council approve Policy 101- Council Remuneration.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 12*

*Councillor Samantha Hamilton left her seat at 6:24 p.m. and join the audience since she declared a conflict of interest with the next item 6.g.*

**(g) Policy 108 – Fire Services**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor John Andrew that Council approve Policy 108 - Fire Services.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Councillor Samantha Hamilton came back to her seat at 6:25 p.m. after the vote on item 6.g.*

**(h) Policy 109 – Community Investment Program (CIP)**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor Cathy Maxwell that Council approve Policy 109 - Community Investment Program.**

Councillor Cate Savage asked how the proposed modest area rate on all businesses—intended to fund the accessibility grant program at a 70% contribution rate—would affect the current business levy used to support KBC/downtown initiatives. CAO Chris McNeill responded that:

- The Town currently allocates funding to KBC, and part of that allocation supports the façade improvement program.
- Staff believe the façade program has largely run its course, as many businesses have already accessed it multiple times (some up to three times).
- Staff are recommending that those funds now be reallocated to support accessibility improvements, which present a higher community priority.
- Final decisions will be made during budget deliberations.

Councillor Rob Baker asked whether application materials for the new grant program would be available ahead of the March 31 deadline, given that the motion repeals the existing community grant framework. If not, would the deadline need to be extended? CAO Chris McNeill responded that:

- The new application package is effectively ready now and could be released immediately.
- This motion formalizes the new process and allows staff to proceed.
- No deadline extension should be necessary.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(i) 2026 FCM Council Members Attendance**

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 13*

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor John Andrew that Council approve the attendance of Councillor Samantha Hamilton and Councillor Rob Baker at the 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, scheduled for June 4-7, 2026.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(j) Town Hall Accessibility Renovations

**It was moved by Councillor John Andrew, seconded by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell that Council award the RFP respecting Renovations to Existing Town Hall Building to Iron Maple Constructors in conjunction with Teal Architects for the stated price of \$473,183 plus \$450,000 cash allowance; and further that Council give pre-budget capital approval for this to be included within the 2026-2027 capital budget.**

Councillor Cate Savage asked if part of the amount is covered by grants. CAO Chris McNeill responded that none of it is covered by grants at this moment because there isn't a project. Once the project is identified, the project scope and all the criteria will be identified to then apply for grants.

**MOTION CARRIED**

(k) Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Concurrent Construction and Conditional Permitting

**It was moved by Councillor Rob Baker, seconded by Councillor John Andrew that Council give First Reading to the proposed Municipal Planning Strategy, Land Use Bylaw, and Subdivision Bylaw amendments permitting issuance of development permits within subdivisions under a Servicing Agreement, and that Council direct staff to schedule a Public Hearing prior to Second Reading.**

Councillor Cate Savage wanted to make sure that following the many changes, since Council saw it, it was vetted by a solicitor. Director Darren Shupe confirmed it and added that the building officials reviewed it as well.

**MOTION CARRIED**

(l) Nominating Committee Report

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell, seconded by Councillor Cate Savage that Council approve the following appointments to Committees and Water Commission effective January 26, 2026, to December 31, 2027:**

**Finance and Audit Committee:**

**Mike MacLean**

**Gwen Le**

**Investment Committee:**

**Logan Morse**

**Water Commission:**

**Carol Goodwin**

**Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee:**

**Emma Rose Tupper**

**Yiyun Zhou**

Councillor Cate Savage asked the nominating committee if there was any other applicant for the Investment Committee. Mayor Andrew Zebian responded that there was not. Councillor Cate Savage follow up to ask what will happen since seats are not all appointed. CAO Chris McNeill responded that it would be readvertise because there's still one or two other appointments to a couple other committees.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- (m) **Nominating Redesignation & Rezoning Application – 153 Belcher Street (PID 55265250) (second reading)**

Councillor John Andrew being absent from the public hearing must abstain from voting on this item.

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell that Council give second reading to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to redesignate and rezone 153 Belcher Street (PID 55265250) from Residential / One and Two Unit Dwelling (R2) to Commercial / Highway Commercial (C2) to permit the relocation of an existing dental clinic.**

Councillor Cate Savage asked whether the existing building on the property could be converted into multi-unit residential, referencing information shared during the earlier information session. She also asked how many units might be possible. Director Darren

*Council Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2026*

*Approved February 23, 2026*

*Page 15*

Shupe responded that the current request before Council is only to discharge the existing development agreement. Any proposal to convert the property to multi-unit residential would require a separate future application. The number of potential units cannot be estimated at this time, as it would depend on several factors including zoning, servicing capacity, lot configuration, and applicable regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(7) COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Zebian noted that council members' monthly reports were included with the agenda in the meeting documents. He asked if there were any comments or questions on them.

Councillor Samantha Hamilton asked for clarification on:

- Who serves on the Annapolis Valley Homelessness Co-ordinating Committee, and
- Where minutes or updates can be accessed.

Councillor Cathy Maxwell, responded that the committee includes over 15 members, largely representing various government agencies and community organizations.

Confirmed elected representatives include:

- Town of Kentville: Councillor Maxwell and Councillor Andrew
- Municipality of Kings: One councillor
- Town of Berwick: One councillor

The committee was formed following a public meeting where individuals volunteered to participate. For information or access to meeting updates:

- Members of the public may email MLA John Lohr, who chairs the committee.
- There is also a committee email address: [kvhomeless@gmail.com](mailto:kvhomeless@gmail.com)
- Anyone requesting updates can be added to the committee's mailing list.

**(8) ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Councillor Cate Savage, seconded by Councillor John Andrew that the meeting be adjourned at 6:36 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor Zebian

Feb 23 126  
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Approval Date