

KENTVILLE WATER COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2025

PRESENT

Mayor Andrew Zebian
CAO Chris McNeill
Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell
Councillor John Andrew
Councillor Cathy Maxwell
Director of Engineering and Public Work, Dave Bell
Project Engineer Ahmad Kadri
Recording Secretary Carla MacDonald
No Citizen Member to date

Regrets / Absent:

Kentville Fire Department, Chief Scott Hamilton
Director of Finance Wanda Matthews
Director of Planning and Development Darren Shupe

***Voting members:** The Mayor as chairperson, three (3) councillors, one (1) citizen representative, one (1) representative from the Kentville Volunteer Fire Department, and one (1) representative from the County of Kings (as per Town of Kentville Policy G57 Committee of Council 4.14.1.2).*

***With a voice but no vote,** the CAO, Director of Planning Town of Kentville, Director of Public Works Town of Kentville and representative from the Department of the Environment provide technical expertise (as per Town of Kentville Policy G57 Committee of Council 4.14.1.2).*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Andrew Zebian called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

***Note:** "Points from Discussion" show various comments made by individual members during debate. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, nor do they always reflect accurate information.*

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

That the agenda for Wednesday August 27, 2025 Kentville Water Commission Special meeting be approved, moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell and seconded by Councillor John Andrew.

MOTION CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fluoride Treatment
 - This Kentville Water Commission Special Meeting was scheduled to help better understand the advantages and/or disadvantages if any of fluoridation in municipal water.

- b. Presentation on Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) Evidence & Key Messages by Dr. Rim Zayed MBBCh, DPH, PhD, FRCPC (Public Health), DABPM, ACPM
Regional Medical Officer of Health. Western Zone Public Health
 - Educational information in Dr. Zayed's presentation is as follows; fluoride used for water fluoridation is a natural mineral from apatite, common in the Earth's crust, this is not a drug.
 - Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) is a process of monitoring and adjusting the fluoride level in drinking water for prevention of tooth decay.
 - The reason for Community Water Fluoridation, prevents tooth decay, regardless of age, income or access to dental insurance it improves oral health and cost effective.
 - The difference between fluoride varnish and water fluoridation; fluoride varnish is short-acting (treatment typically provided at dental office), and water fluoridation is continuous.
 - Fluoride long term use is safe at 0.7 mg/L with no proven links cancer, thyroid and has no impact on the natural or aquatic environment.
 - Worker Safety when handling Fluoride, Proper PPE and training, managed in lesser amounts.
 - Municipalities that remove fluoridation in their water should be prepared to see a spike in tooth decay.

Dr. Robert MacGregor and Dr. Elizabeth Jackson both spoke briefly on the importance of fluoridation. Both have dental practices in Kentville and with their years of experience expressed the impact of not fluoridating water. It has been four years since Dr. MacGregor has seen a case of perosis and contributes a part of this to fluoridation in Town water. Dr. Elizabeth Jackson's point of view is that children, families living below the poverty line would be affected greatly because of the affordability along with the large elderly population who would not have the finances or access to proper oral care.

See Dr. Rim Zayed's full presentation provided in pdf form on Town of Kentville's website kentville.ca.

Points from Discussion

- There are extra sources of fluoride that is in our food such as baby food. Does the natural extra sources of fluoride along with fluoridation in the water considered a higher quantity of intake that is recommended? Dr. Rim Zayed pointed out that the .7mg/L is taken into consideration with the other natural sources to make up the 1.5 mg/L. There is no tangible evidence that fluoridation affects the human microbiome.
- Without fluoridation and should a bacterial infection develop, this infection can enter into the blood, joints, affect mental health, heart disease and affect a chronic disease.
- Fluoridation helps to form a protective layer around the gums and cavities which is beneficial to all ages especially the elderly to help prevent dentures.

Mayor Andrew Zebian expressed that the decision to not continue fluoridation in Town of Kentville's water was not made by anyone in particular and was prior to new council coming to office.


**Motion to reinstate the fluoridation of Town of Kentville's water supply, moved by Deputy Mayor Debra Crowell and seconded by Councillor Cathy Maxwell.
MOTION CARRIED.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

X


Meeting minutes approved by chair Mayor Andrew Zebian