

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 26, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M
EASTPORT TOWN HALL

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Kimberly Powell

Deputy Mayor: Monica Bull (virtual attendance)

Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown

Staff: Denise Hickey – Interim Town Clerk/Manager, Chelsea Harris - Admin Assistant.

Gallery: Linda Babstock – in attendance from 7:00 pm – 7:20 pm. Amanda Hancock – in attendance from 7:05 pm to 8:15 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Kim Powell.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION:	039-25
Proposed by:	Ben Patey
Seconded by:	Barry Brown
Resolved that the agenda be adopted with the following addition: Hearing Commissioner for public meeting for rezoning application (75B Main Street).	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

3. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL

MOTION:	040-25
Proposed by:	David Decker
Seconded by:	Ben Patey
Resolved that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 12, 2025, be adopted as presented.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

4. DELEGATE – LYNDABABSTOCK

Lynda Babstock was in attendance to discuss the increase in property taxes and waste disposal fees. Mayor Kim Powell explained that the municipal tax rate (mil rate) hasn't increased since 2019. Ideally, Council would prefer not to raise taxes but that's not possible due to the steady

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increase of expenses. To achieve additional revenue, some taxes were increased, two of which were vacant land property tax and vacant land water tax. Waste disposal fees increased in 2025 due to higher tipping fees and fuel prices. Another change in 2025 was the decision to have a contractor collect the garbage, instead of the Town's public works employees. After completing a cost analysis, it was determined there would be an approximate savings of \$3000 by making this change. During this conversation, Mayor Kim Powell had to ask the person in the gallery that they had not given notice to address the council and therefore should remain silent.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Break-in at Town Hall

There was a break-in at the Town Hall early hours of Saturday, March 15th. An estimated cost of theft/damage is \$6,600. Items stolen include a debit machine, security cameras, and a laptop computer. Damage was done to the safe and interior door/lock. Putting a claim through insurance, the Town would pay a \$1,000 deductible and lose the 10% claims free benefit for the next three years.

MOTION:	041-25
Proposed by:	Ben Patey
Seconded by:	Barry Brown
Resolved that a claim be made through insurance to cover the theft and damage costs.	
In favour – 2. Councillors: Ben Patey, Barry Brown. Opposed – 5. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Art Crisby, David Decker. Defeated.	

MOTION:	042-25
Proposed by:	Art Crisby
Seconded by:	David Decker
Resolved that Council will cover the damage/theft cost of \$6,600; therefore, retaining the 10% claims free benefit with insurance.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

MOTION:	043-25
Proposed by:	Art Crisby
Seconded by:	Barry Brown
Resolved to contact a locksmith and get quotes to supply and install new locks on the front and back doors of the Town Hall. Quotes to be reviewed at the next regular council meeting.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

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b) Fire Protection Vehicle & Equipment Funding Applications

MOTION:	044-25
Proposed by:	Ben Patey
Seconded by:	Barry Brown
Resolved to submit the Firefighting Equipment Program Application (request for fill station), and the Fire Protection Vehicle Funding Application (request for rescue vehicle). Funding for these programs is on a cost-shared basis between the Municipality and the Provincial Government.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

c) Hearing Commissioner for formal public hearing for rezoning application

Mayor Kim Powell will contact Kathy Hodder to see if she is willing to be the Hearing Commissioner for the formal public hearing required for the rezoning application of 75B Main Street.

6. FINANCE REPORT

MOTION:	045-25
Proposed by:	Ben Patey
Seconded by:	David Decker
Resolved that the following invoices be approved for payment as presented and report tabled:	
<u>February 2024</u> Cheque Register, General Account – \$155,013.42 Cheque Register, Fire Protection – \$10,843.25	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

MOTION:	046-25
Proposed by:	Ben Patey
Seconded by:	Art Crisby
Resolved that aged receivables from 2018 and prior – total of \$24,025.90, be written off, as they are deemed uncollectible.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

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7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Committee

- The woodchipper has arrived.
- The security system is up and running in the Town Depot.

8. TOWN CLERK REPORT

Interviews for the Town Clerk/Manager position will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Eastport Peninsula Firefighter Friends - letter informing Council of the ongoing kitchen renovations at the Fire Hall. Renovation costs are being covered by the fundraising efforts of the group.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	047-25
Proposed by:	Art Crisby
Seconded by:	Barry Brown
Resolved that the meeting adjourn at 8:15 p.m. and the next Regular Council meeting would be scheduled for April 9, 2025, at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.	
In favour – 7. Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councillors: Shannon Powell, Ben Patey, Art Crisby, David Decker, Barry Brown. Opposed – 0. Carried.	

Kim Powell – Mayor

Denise Hickey – Interim Town Clerk/Manager