



Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Jemseg Fire Hall, Jemseg

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting of Council

Time: 7:00 pm

1) Call to Order

Acting Mayor Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Acting Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Mennier, Councillor Gahan-MaGee, CAO Gilman and Clerk McGarity.

Acting Mayor Sharpe thanked all residents who were in attendance in person and online.

2) Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the agenda as presented.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

Acting Mayor Sharpe invited Council to declare any conflicts of interest with respect to the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

3) Presentation – Let’s Change the Optics

Nova Lea Thorne presented “Let’s Change the Optics, Cambridge-Narrows”.

Acting Mayor Sharpe thanked Nova Lea for her compassionate presentation.

4) Staff Reports

CAO Gilman gave his monthly report.

- Economic Development—numerous applications have been submitted for funding including Aviva Charge for Change, Active Transportation Fund, Gagetown Aerated Sewage Lagoon Project, and the Ignite MERGE program to maximize tourism potential. Once applications are approved, they will come to Council for discussion and approval to move forward.
- Medical Services Committee—infrastructure committee from Horizon Health has completed a tour of the Gagetown medical clinic. Accessibility to stable internet is needed for electronic health records.
- Solid Waste – number of complaints has decreased significantly: January 2025 – 93 complaints, February 2025 – 5 complaints, March 2025 – 6 complaints. Once dates are confirmed for the spring and fall clean up, notification will be sent out to residents.

- Human Resources – a draft Human Resource Manual, Employee Code of Conduct, and Confidentiality Agreement has been completed and will be brought to Council for approval at a Special Council Meeting on March 18, 2025.
- Capital Items – Will be moving forward with repairs to the Cambridge-Narrows boat launch, Cambridge-Narrows wharf, and Mott’s wharf. If funds remain, will look at repairs for Humphrey’s wharf.
- Voyent Alert – Currently have 195 subscribed recipients. Asking residents to share with neighbors and friends to subscribe to receive notifications.

5) Approval of the Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting – February 18, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on February 18, 2025.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

b) Special Council Meeting – February 27, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on February 27, 2025.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

c) Special Council Meeting – March 12, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on March 12, 2025.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

6) Business Arising from The Minutes

a) Trail Initiative

- There will be public meetings scheduled with presentations by Quad NB and Hiking NB, dates to be determined.

b) Arcadia Office Location

- Will be discussed in the Building & Properties Committee report

7) Council Committee Reports

Communication Committee

- Meeting held on March 14th with all members present. Patty Kennedy Chapman has joined as a new member.
- Website update was discussed with committee.
- Emma Vail will be getting new pictures to be included on website.

Public Safety Committee

- There was a meeting on February 24th with Councillor Gordon, Council Thomson, Alexis Trebble, Fire Chiefs and Deputies, Provincial Fire Marshal, and EMO representatives to discuss emergency plan.

- Voyent Alert is active. Contact the office for assistance in signing up using the app or by landline.
- 2025 River Watch has started. Residents are to be mindful of rising waters.
- There is a missing person from Ward 2. If you have any information, contact the non-emergency line for the RCMP.
- Any suspicious activity needs to be reported to the RCMP.

Public Works Committee

- Councillor Mennier held first meeting as Chair today.
- Committee concerned with the condition of the aerators in the Gagetown Sewage Lagoon. A funding request has been submitted to RDC for \$75,000 to cover the cost of a thorough examination of capacity and equipment issues.
- Committee suggested increasing recycling by installing recycling locations within Arcadia.
- Recommendation that Public Works contracts for Cambridge-Narrows be more formalized.

Economic Expansion Committee

- An Agriculture and Woodlot owners breakfast conference will be scheduled, with date and agenda to be determined.
- Councillor Mennier attended the CRSC Economic Expansion Committee meeting. There was a presentation regarding medical professional recruitment at the provincial level for recruiting to both cities and rural areas.

By-laws Committee

- First and second reading of By-law #9 in new business.
- Office is currently working on Sewage By-law and Noise & Nuisance By-law. Will be coming to Council for review and consideration.

Buildings and Properties Committee

- Committee met on March 4th with all members in attendance.
- More information has been requested from firms and ELG regarding proposed feasibility study. There is a program available that will pay 80% of the cost of a feasibility study. This will be considered in future discussions.

Finance Committee

- Auditors are working on the 2024 year-end audit. Committee is awaiting the draft financial statements.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to accept the expenditures for Arcadia General from February 18, 2025 to March 17, 2025, in the amount of \$296,683.35.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to accept the expenditures for Arcadia Sewer from February 18, 2025 to March 17, 2025, in the amount of \$998.14.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

8) Correspondence

- Town of Oromocto- Request for Letter of Support for the Oromocto Regional Wellness and Recreation Centre
 - Staff are directed to write and submit a letter of support to the Town of Oromocto
- Letters of Concern from Residents
 - All have been responded to confirming receipt. Answers have been sent to some, but office is still doing research prior to responding to remainder.
- Letter from DTI
 - In 2025, DTI will complete the work started on Upper Hampstead Road in 2024 and apply the second seal at an estimate cost of \$120,000. This work will be carried out by departmental crews and funded 100% by DTI.

9) New Business

- a) First Reading by Title Only and in its Entirety – By-law #9 Repeal of Certain By-laws for the Former Village of Gagetown
- Councillor Black read By-Law #9 Repeal of Certain By-Laws for the Former Village of Gagetown by title only and in its entirety.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier that the first reading by title only and in its entirety be given to By-law #9 "A By-law to Repeal Certain By-laws for the Former Village of Gagetown."

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

- b) Second Reading by Title Only – By-law #9 Repeal of Certain By-laws for the Former Village of Gagetown
- Councillor Black read By-Law #9 Repeal of Certain By-Laws for the Former Village of Gagetown by title only.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon that the second reading by title only be given to By-law #9 "A By-law to Repeal Certain By-laws for the Former Village of Gagetown."

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

c) Administrative Assistant Position

- Position has been vacant since January 27, 2025. Former Administrative Assistant Monique LeBlanc has moved to a part-time Economic Development Officer role to focus on applying for funds for various projects Council is working on.
- CAO Gilman requests Council to approve funding for the position for the remainder of this year with a start date of May 1, 2025, a salary maximum of \$38,727.83 for the remainder of this year, which will be paid from the contingency funds in the current year budget.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier that we fill the vacant Administrative Assistant position and use \$38,728 to be paid from contingency in current year budget.

Questions:

- *Councillor Gordon: Will we have the Economic Development Officer position next year?*
 - *If the position is needed after review at the end of this year, the salary will be built into the budget for next year.*

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

d) Final Strategic Plan

Received some feedback from residents. The feedback received was pertaining to how the plan would be implemented. Once the final strategic plan is approved, it is the responsibility of the office to build a tactical plan, which is how the plan is implemented.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black that the final Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 be approved as presented.

Questions:

- *Councillor Mennier: What is the difference between the rural plan and the municipal plan?*
 - *They are the same thing. The wording will be corrected.*
- *Councillor Gordon: Will the opening remarks change where we do not currently have a Mayor?*
 - *The change will be made to reflect our current Council.*

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

e) Arcadia – History of Local Reform

Acting Mayor Sharpe gave a history of how Arcadia came together during the transition. Each Ward came to Arcadia with the responsibility to maintain their own assets and liabilities. The decision was made to designate fiscal responsibility of shared services to each ward such as RCMP, recreation, staff etc. It was recognized that there are 3 wards on each side of the river, and to maintain recreation facilities for all, it was proposed that we maintain the Gagetown Recreation Centre and the Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building as such. Renting a construction trailer for staff and placing it beside the Jemseg Fire Department as it was geographically central to Arcadia with easy access via Exit 339, this was designed to allow Council time to investigate alternatives. Building & Properties Committee was mandated to investigate the feasibility of adding office facilities to an existing building or a clean build. Neither committee nor council have made any commitments to allocate funding. Acting Mayor Sharpe thanked all residents who have submitted concerns. All residents are welcome to reach out to your councillors. We welcome everyone to attend meetings in person and online.

10) Open Floor – Comments from the Public

- Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building Usage – asking support of Council to use Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building for meet & greet events for residents running in municipal elections.
 - Council supports candidates running in municipal elections to be able to use Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building for meet & greet events as this is a recreational building
- Village Property – Would like an update as to why a Fredericton company is able to use a village building in Gagetown?

- Councillor Mennier acknowledges letter received. This concern will be addressed by CAO Gilman.
- Speed of vehicles – Does council have a community safety committee that would pertain to the speed of vehicles and placement of speed signs?
 - Councillor Gordon asked that residents contact non-emergent RCMP to report speeding vehicles.
 - Potholes and speed signs can be reported to DTI
- Lack of Information – Concern with lack of information available for scope of work on feasibility study.
 - The Buildings and Properties Committee is still gathering information for the proposed feasibility study. Once the committee has gathered all information, the proposed feasibility study will be presented to Council for discussion and consideration.
- Tax Rates – understand that there are problems with the SNB property assessments. Understand that Gagetown has a higher tax rate because we own roads. Can Gagetown be unincorporated? Can we give the ownership of the roads back to DTI?
 - Giving back ownership of roads to DTI has not been discussed. This question can be asked.
- Garbage & Recycling – Can we have a recycling location in Arcadia? This would be better then just one day a month pick-up at your home.
- Community decline – Gagetown used to be vibrant; more businesses and stores. Current Council is not to be blamed for past decisions. Would like to see a new building that will connect the communities, but we also must think about the cost. Residents need to attend meetings to be informed. It is incumbent on residents to ask, to work with Council, and to be respectful.
- Acting Mayor Sharpe thanked all residents for their participation.

11) Upcoming Meetings

- April 22, 2025 – Upper Gagetown Fire Hall
- May 20, 2025 – Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building

12) Motion to Adjourn

*It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon to adjourn at 8:37 pm.
With all in favour, the motion was carried.*


Acting Mayor Steven Sharpe


Clerk Jessica McGarity

