



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

Council Members Present: Warden Nicole Albright, Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier, Councillor Malcolm Madden, Councillor Gordon Boudreau, Councillor Greg Foster, Councillor Darryl LeBlanc, Councillor Kathy Bourque, Councillor Glenn Diggdon, and Councillor Racheal Surette

Absent with Regrets:

Staff Present: Executive Assistant Chantalle Newell, Director of Protection Services René Jeddry, Director of Operational Services Kyle Boudreau, and Solicitor Colin Fraser

1. Call Meeting to Order

Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Invitation to Stand and Move

Deputy Warden Ted Saulnier reminded Council that they are permitted to stand and move as they need to during the meeting. This is an initiative by Argyle Recreation which normalizes movement in meetings.

3. Approval of Agenda

It is MOVED by Councillor Malcolm Madden and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor LeBlanc noted a conflict of interest with respect to item 9F – Banking Agreement Renewal and will not participate in the discussion or decision on that item.

Councillor Surette also noted a conflict of interest with respect to item 9F – Banking Agreement Renewal and will not participate in the discussion or decision on that item.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. June 12, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes

By consensus, the June 12, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Staff Reports

a. Department Head Report

The Department Head Report is included in the agenda package. There were recommendations to restructure it by categorizing items by year and indicating their completion status.

The Clerk's Report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

c. Building Permit Report

The building permit report is attached to the agenda. There were no questions on the report.

6. 7-day Notice

a. Article P44 – Salary Administration Policy

Council received the required 7-day notice for the proposed Salary Administration Policy. Director of Operational Services Kyle Boudreau informed Council that additional clarification regarding the classification of positions is expected in the final draft

7. Presentation Follow up – We've Got your Backpacks, Evangel Free Store, and Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

Over the past few months, Council has received three separate presentations from organizations highlighting food insecurity and requesting financial support. Currently, Council allocates \$4,000 annually to Social Aids across the municipality. However, the growing number of requests suggests this amount may no longer be sufficient. While the MGA permits additional funding, establishing a policy would provide a more structured and consistent approach. There was discussion around adding to the current grants to organizations policy rather than creating a new policy.

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Warden Nicole Albright to have staff create a policy to expand funding options in support of food insecurity for our residents.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Old Business

a. Safety Concerns – Chemin Tour des Buttes – Councillor Greg Foster

Following a motion by Councillor Greg Foster, a letter was sent to the Department of Public Works requesting brush cutting along Chemin Tour des Buttes. However, the work has yet to be completed. In response, Director of Operational Services Kyle Boudreau contacted the department to reiterate the urgency of the issue. Council also noted that brush cutting is a broader concern across the municipality. A meeting with the department is set for July 8.

9. For Decision and Discussion

a. Article C21 – Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy Amendments

It is MOVED by Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc to approve Article C21 – Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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b. By-Law Officer/Development Officer Appointment

It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon to appoint Alex Ogden as Development Officer and By-Law Officer for the Municipality of the District of Argyle for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. First Reading – Land Use By-Law Housekeeping Amendments

It is MOVED by Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to:

- *Give first reading to consider approval of the proposed amendments to the Land Use By-Law as contained in the planners report dated June 5, 2025;*
- *Proceed to a public hearing without a second meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee unless substantial comments are received from the public; and*
- *Authorize staff to schedule a public hearing.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. First Reading – Development Agreement Application – 5964 Highway 3, Glenwood

It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Warden Nicole Albright to

- *Give first reading to consider the proposed development agreement, as set out in Attachment A of the planners report dated May 9, 2025, to allow the existing building on site to be used for heavy equipment storage, maintenance, and repair at 5964 Highway 3 (PID 90327230); and*
- *Authorize staff to schedule a public hearing for the application.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Summer Meetings

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to proceed with the Executive Meeting for July 31, 2025, to accommodate planning matters requiring public hearings, and that council recess regular Council meetings for the remainder of the summer, with special meetings to be called if necessary.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Banking Agreement Renewal

Councillor Darryl LeBlanc, Councillor Racheal Surette, and Councillor Malcolm Madden declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion or vote on this item.

It is MOVED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon and SECONDED by Councillor Gordon Boudreau to approve the 5-year banking agreement renewal with Coastal Financial Credit Union.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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g. First Reading By-Law 43 – Outdoor Illumination and Light Pollution

The Outdoor Illumination and Light Pollution By-Law is being introduced to support and protect the municipality's investment in achieving Dark Sky certification. The by-law's primary focus in the initial phase will be public education, with enforcement set to begin on January 1, 2027

Over the next two years, municipal staff will conduct outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about the importance of preserving dark skies. The by-law will be complaint-based, meaning enforcement will only occur in response to reported issues rather than proactive inspections. The central aim is to foster community understanding of light pollution and its impact, particularly in relation to maintaining the Dark Sky designation.

It is MOVED by Councillor Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Malcolm Madden to approve first reading of By-Law 43 Outdoor Illumination and Light Pollution.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. Boat Launch near Tusket Area

Councillor Madden brought forward a request from a kayaker seeking access to the Tusket River, which led to a broader discussion about the need for a public boat launch in the area. While temporary access was arranged through a private landowner, Councillor Madden recalled that during his previous Council term, land in the industrial park may have been set aside for this purpose.

Director of Operational Services, Kyle Boudreau, confirmed that the property is still available, with approximately 25 feet of access down to the river and a wider opening at the water's edge. However, he noted that development may be challenging due to the slope of the land, and the cost is currently unknown. Council may wish to explore the feasibility of this site further.

i. Exit 33 Brush Cutting

Councillor Foster raised concerns regarding overgrown vegetation affecting visibility at Exit 33, particularly near the Tusket Ford intersection. It was noted that this is a recurring issue experienced daily by residents, especially those traveling to and from the Belleville area. He emphasized the safety risks posed by tall grass, alders, and other vegetation obstructing the view.

Council members acknowledged that similar visibility issues exist throughout the municipality. Councillors Surette, Boudreau, Bourque, and Warden Albright shared examples from other districts, highlighting that this is a widespread concern. There was a shared understanding that addressing only one location might give the impression that other areas are not affected.

Members agreed that the upcoming July 8th meeting with the Department of Public Works presents an opportunity to discuss a broader and more coordinated approach to brush cutting and vegetation control across the municipality. Council expressed a desire to better understand how Public Works prioritizes such work and what strategies can lead to more consistent maintenance.



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It is MOVED by Councillor Greg Foster and SECONDED by Councillor Malcolm Madden to write a letter to the Department of Public Works requesting them to cut the brush around Highway 308.

MOTION DEFEATED (2 in favour, 7 against)

j. Black Bears Near Local Homes

Councillor Foster brought forward concerns about increasing black bear sightings in residential areas. A recent photo showed a large bear comfortable near homes, highlighting that bears are becoming more common in neighborhoods. Council discussed the potential safety risks to residents, particularly children and pets, as well as property damage.

It is MOVED by Councillor Greg Foster and SECONDED by Councillor Glenn Diggdon that Council write to the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to express concern about nuisance bears in residential areas, to request advice for residents, and to recommend the consideration of a spring bear hunting season due to the growing bear population, with a cc to MLA Colton LeBlanc and to make a post on the Municipality of Argyle's Facebook page regarding bear safety.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. For Correspondence and Information

a. Letter from East Hants to Dept. of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage re: Library Funding

It is MOVED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc and SECONDED by Councillor Greg Foster to write a letter to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage in support of East Hants letter.

Councillor LeBlanc rescinded his motion.

b. Flyer Box in Amirault's Hill

Council discussed ongoing efforts to have the deteriorated flyer box in Amiraults Hill replaced. The box, owned and maintained by the Chronicle Herald's distribution network, has been in a state of disrepair, with residents using makeshift covers to protect the flyers. Despite three calls made to the company since early April, no replacement has yet been provided.

The flyer box is especially important to local seniors, who rely on the weekly flyers for planning grocery purchases and staying connected with community deals, which is vital for those on fixed incomes. Council agreed to wait longer for the company to replace the box, with staff continuing to follow up on the matter.

11. Financial Requests

a. Council Community Grant Request District 5 – Club des Audacieux de Quinan

It is MOVED by Warden Nicole Albright and SECONDED by Councillor Kathy Bourque to approve a Council Community Grant in the amount of \$700 for le Club des Audacieux de Quinan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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12. Agenda Topics for the next meeting/Notice of Motion by Councillors
13. Question Period – None.
14. In-Camera

It is MOVED by Kathy Bourque and SECONDED by Councillor Darryl LeBlanc to move to the In-Camera session at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

a. Section 22:2 (da): Alleged Breaches of the Municipality's Code of Conduct

Consensus to come out in-camera session at 9:04 p.m.

The in-camera session did not result in any motions.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

July 31, 2025

Date Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Bourque", written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. LeBlanc", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk/Recorder