

**TOWN OF GANDER
PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 19, 2025, 4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers

Council Present: Percy Farwell, Mayor
Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor
Sheldon Handcock, Councillor
Marcie White, Councillor
Pat Woodford, Councillor
Tara Pollett, Councillor
Wilson Hoffe, Councillor

Staff Present: Brad Hefford, CAO, Director of Governance & Legislative Services/Town Clerk
James Blackwood, Director, Planning and Public Works
Jerry Knee, Director, Community Services
Addison Quilty, Director, Public Safety & Protective Services (A)
Kelly Hiscock, Director, Corporate Services
Kayla White, Communications, Branding & Partnership Lead
Alexa Oldford, Governance & Legislative Services Lead

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Percy Farwell, Mayor at 4:00 P.M.

Councillor Hoffe arrived in Council Chambers at 4:02 P.M.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Farwell delivered the land acknowledgement.

3. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

2025 Scout Week

Mayor Farwell proclaimed February 16th – 22nd, 2025 as Scout-Guide Week.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are more than 5,000 Scouting and Guiding members serve as committed youth, leaders, group members and commissioners. It's an opportunity to celebrate the birth of the founders and share goals and achievements with all members of the community.

Special Olympics Ambassador Program

Councillor Woodford announced as part of the Town's Ambassador Program, that Johnny Philpott and Michael Harris have been selected to represent Team Canada at the 2025 World Winter Games in Turin, Italy. This prestigious event marks an incredible opportunity for these dedicated athletes as they showcase their talents on a global stage in the sport of snowshoeing.

Each athlete will receive financial support to help them participate in this important national event. This initiative highlights our commitment to fostering local talent and ensuring our athletes have the resources they need to succeed on their journey.

Johnny Philpott, affectionately known as the "senior statesman" of Special Olympics in Newfoundland and Labrador, brings over 30 years of experience to the team. With a reputation for sportsmanship, encouragement of junior athletes, and formidable athletic ability, Johnny will be competing in the 400 m, 800 m, and 4 x 100 m relay events. This will be Johnny's inaugural appearance at the world level, and his dedication extends beyond snowshoeing; he is an accomplished multisport athlete participating in athletics, bocce, bowling, curling, and golf.

Michael Harris, who has been involved in Special Olympics for over 15 years, is also set to leave a mark at the Games. Having previously competed in athletics in Athens, Greece, in 2011, Michael will be participating in the 100 m, 200 m, and 4 x 100 m relay events. His multifaceted athletic talents include participation in athletics, bocce, curling, and golf.

Both athletes have dedicated the past two years to intensive training, demonstrating resilience and commitment in their pursuit of excellence. They will depart Gander on March 3rd to represent not only our town but also the province and the entire country with pride.

Congratulations to Johnny and Michael on your extraordinary accomplishments. We wish you the best of luck in Turin.

National 211 Day

Mayor Farwell proclaimed that on February 11th United Way and 211's across Canada Celebrated National 211 Day.

211 Day is a public awareness initiative for the 211 service that helps guide individuals and families through the complex network of human services by phone, online, live-chat and email.

Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador can contact 211 for information and referral to:

- Health Services & Mental Health Supports
- Income Support & Financial Assistance
- Food Banks, Meal Programs & Grocery Delivery
- Housing Help & Emergency Shelter
- Support Services for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities
- And more

Heritage NL Day/Week 2025

Mayor Farwell proclaimed that Monday, February 17th as Heritage Day and February 17th – 23rd as Heritage Week, calling upon all citizens to celebrate the richness of our past and the promise of our future.

Heritage Day and Heritage Week is a time to reflect on the achievements of past generations and to accept responsibility for protecting our heritage. It is a time to celebrate Newfoundland and Labrador's uniqueness and to rejoice in our heritage.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 25-020

Moved by Pat Woodford, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

To adopt the agenda for the Wednesday, February 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried 7 - 0

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

Resolution No. 25-021

Moved by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

To adopt the minutes from the Wednesday, January 22, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried 7 - 0

6. STANDING COUNCIL BUSINESS

Correspondence and Action Plans

The Correspondence and Action Plans report was presented by Marcie White, Councillor.

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) 2025 Central Regional Meeting

The MNL Central Regional meeting is scheduled for April 4-5, 2025, in Twillingate, NL. This event provides an opportunity for municipal council members and staff to engage in roundtable discussions and network with colleagues facing similar challenges. Council has requested to view the event agenda before finalizing who will attend. Members were encouraged to consider participation based on the relevance of topics to municipal priorities.

Update on Housing-Related Matters

The Committee acknowledged receipt of Minister Abbott's email regarding housing matters. The Minister confirmed \$36 million for social housing, ongoing site planning in Gander, and efforts to address staffing discrepancies. The Committee emphasized the need for adequate staffing as part of the housing solution.

Gander Policing

The Committee reviewed an email from a resident commending Municipal Enforcement for their excellent work. The resident noted that excessive noise and speeding had been an issue for years but has significantly improved in recent months due to increased presence.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the residents' feedback and recognized the positive impact of increased enforcement efforts in addressing community concerns.

Targa 2025

The Committee reviewed Targa Newfoundland's request for Council approval of the 2025 running stage, along with proposed improvements to the event. As part of the discussion, the Committee highlighted the importance of a comprehensive safety plan and clear communication protocols. It was noted that further consideration of safety measures will be required prior to final approval by the Town.

CUPW Correspondence

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) requesting Council's support for various resolutions related to the ongoing review of Canada Post's operations and mandate.

The Committee acknowledged that this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government. As such, the Town of Gander is not in a position to comment or take a formal stance on this issue.

Internal Operations

The Internal Operations report was presented by Wilson Hoffe, Councillor.

Building Stats

The Committee reviewed the Building Statistics report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. The report provided a comparison of permits issued and their associated values across residential, commercial, industrial, government/institutional, hotel, and apartment building categories. While the total number of permits issued in 2024 was slightly lower than in 2023, the overall value of permits increased.

The Committee noted the importance of continued monitoring to assess development patterns and potential impacts on municipal planning.

2024 Fall Clean up Event Report

The Committee reviewed the Fall Clean-Up Report, noting the event incurred an overall cost increase of \$9,663 compared to 2023. The Committee recognized this increase was due to a \$30 per ton increase in tipping fees for sorted materials and a \$5 per ton increase for mixed materials, contributing to an additional \$8,143 in tipping fees as the total tonnage collected rose by 40 tons. Additionally, the Garbage Truck Rental costs increased by \$1,000 per week. The total cost of the event was \$108,276.00.

The committee noted that the clean-up brochure continues to effectively raise awareness through its distribution on the Town of Gander's social media platforms and website.

Councillor White left the Council Chambers at 4:26 p.m.

Notable Dates – Public Works

The upcoming Waste Transfer Station dates are scheduled for March 8th, 2025, and April 12th, 2025, with operating hours set from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to arrive early to ensure sufficient time for drop-off before closing. As per past practice, there is no Waste Transfer Station scheduled for the month of February.

Residents are reminded that the winter parking ban remains in effect until April 30, 2025. During this season, street parking is not permitted between 12 a.m. and 8 a.m., or at any time of day that would impair snow removal.

Councillor White returned to Council Chambers at 4:28 p.m.

Planning Department Report

The Committee reviewed the Planning Report for the period of January 10 to January 28, 2025. During this time, the department received six applications, issued seven building permits, issued two occupancy permits, and provided 14 compliance letters across both residential and non-residential categories.

Public Works Report

The Committee reviewed the Public Works Departmental Report for January 10–28, 2025. Highlights from the report include 24 snow and salt operations, 28 pothole repairs, 1 tonne of asphalt laid, and 10 lawn repairs. Water and Sewer addressed 38 service calls and completed three repairs. Infrastructure projects noted include hydrant marker replacements, fill placement at Cobb’s Pond, and painting.

Regulatory Affairs and Policy

The Regulatory Affairs and Policy report was presented by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor.

59 Elizabeth – Discretionary Use

The Committee reviewed the application to develop and occupy the building at 59 Elizabeth Drive for safe and affordable housing with client wraparound services. It was determined that the proposed use aligns with the discretionary use classification for the zone.

The Committee confirmed that the Notice of Application process was carried out in accordance with regulatory requirements, including providing a ten-day response period. One objection was received, citing concerns about property values, neighborhood safety, and community character. The Committee is recommending to proceed with approval of the application, subject to required conditions.

Resolution No. 25-022

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Resolved to approve the 59 Elizabeth Drive Discretionary Use Application, subject to:

- 1) Architectural plan review and approval, Fire and Life Safety, Building Accessibility**
- 2) Servicing plan and permits**
- 3) Identification and approval of outside common / congregation spaces**

- 4) Landscape / parking plan approval
- 5) All Town of Gander Regulations and By-Law adherence

Carried 7 - 0

280 Baird Place Extension

The Committee reviewed a request from WKN Holdings for a six-month extension to complete site work and landscaping at 280 Baird Place, citing weather delays. After considering the developer's efforts and the impact of ongoing adverse conditions, the Committee recommends approving the extension to allow sufficient time for completion.

Resolution No. 25-023

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander approve a six-month extension for WKN Holdings to complete the site work and landscaping at 280 Baird Place, as requested.

Carried 7 - 0

Council Submission Form

The Committee reviewed a Council Submission Form designed as a structured method for councillors to introduce new topics during meetings. The form aims to enhance accountability by requiring Council endorsement of introduced items and tracking follow-up actions while assigning responsibility for execution.

The Committee recognized the benefits of the form and recommends its approval, including "Introduction of New Items" as a standing item on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

Resolution No. 25-024

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Marcie White, Councillor

Resolved to approve of the Council Submission Form and the inclusion of "Introduction of New Items" as a standing item on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

Carried 7 - 0

Gander Health Advisory Task Force

The Committee discussed a proposal to establish a Health Advisory Task Force to address

community healthcare concerns and provide recommendations on related issues. The task force would focus on advocating for improved services, gathering community input, and supporting collaborative solutions to local health challenges.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of addressing healthcare concerns and recommends exploring the formation of the task force, including developing terms of reference.

50 Wiley Post – Discretionary Use

The Committee reviewed an application for a proposed development situated at 50 Wiley Post, in a Commercial General zone within the Town of Gander Municipal Plan. The application proposes the use of the building as a warehouse, categorized under the "Light Industry" classification per Appendix A of the Town of Gander Development Regulations. It was noted that "Light Industry" is a Discretionary Use in the Commercial General zone.

Public notification has been carried out with no objections received by the deadline. The proposal aligns with the intent of the Gander Municipal Plan and Development Regulations and was deemed suitable for approval, contingent on adherence to all applicable provisions.

Resolution No. 25-025

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved that the application for the proposed development at 50 Wiley Post be approved, contingent on adherence to traffic, turnaround space for large trucks, subdivision required, and any other applicable provisions outlined in the approval.

Carried 7 - 0

Commercial Land Application

Council reviewed a request from the owner of 24 Carr Crescent to purchase a 0.34-acre strip of industrial-zoned land located to the rear of their property to facilitate the addition of a new loading bay for their food distribution warehouse. The parcel, bordered by Open Space zoning, is considered land-locked and accessible only through 24 Carr Crescent or the railway bed, making it a logical extension of the existing industrial property.

Resolution No. 25-026

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander approve the sale of the 0.34-acre strip of industrial-zoned land located to the rear of 24 Carr Crescent at the market value to be based on the pro-rated assessed value of the existing property.

Carried 7 - 0

Municipal Plan Amendments

The Town of Gander wishes to amend the Gander Municipal Plan and Development Regulations to accommodate more diverse housing types in a number of zones within the planning area boundary.

Resolution No. 25-027

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Pat Woodford, Councillor

Resolved that the Planning and Public Works Department proceed with an amendment/review process of our Municipal Plan and our Development Regulations to develop a more inclusive, diverse housing type. The changes are generally, but not limited to, the following:

- **Create and add a use, definition and standards for “multi-unit housing - 4 units or less” to be inserted as a “Permitted Use” in all residential zones. Associated changes required to residential policies of the Municipal Plan document.**
- **Reduce all development standards by 10% in the RMD, RHD-1 and RHD-2 zones, subject to code minimums.**
- **Create and add a use, definition and standards for “Accessory Dwelling Units” to be inserted as a “Permitted Use” in all residential zones. Associated changes required to residential policies of the Municipal Plan document.**
- **Reduce minimum required parking for all dwelling units from 1.5 spaces/unit to 1 space per unit.**
- **Eliminate restriction which states apartment buildings and row dwellings shall not comprise more than 50% of total dwelling units on an individual street in the RMD zone. Associated changes required to residential medium density policy of the Municipal Plan document.**
- **Reduce minimum floor area for single dwelling in a residential medium density from 80m² to 50 m²**
- **Allow some commercial uses within apartment type buildings in residential zones.**
- **Creation of standards for Studio Apartment.**

Carried 7 - 0

B. Hefford and J. Blackwood left Council Chambers at 4:46 p.m. due to potential conflict of interest.

Discretionary Notice – Complaint

The Committee reviewed a complaint regarding procedural fairness in the approval process of discretionary notices. It was determined that the matter does not fall under the Town’s Code of Conduct policy. Council confirmed that such concerns should be addressed through the Regional Appeal Adjudication Process.

Resolution No. 25-028

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Resolved that Council endorse the decision that concerns regarding procedural fairness in discretionary notices do not constitute a Code of Conduct matter and confirm that the appropriate avenue for addressing such concerns is through the Regional Appeal Adjudication Process.

Carried 7 - 0

J. Blackwood returned to Council Chambers at 4:48 p.m.

Councillor Woodford left Council Chambers at 4:48 p.m. due to potential conflict of interest.

Code of Conduct

The Committee reviewed the consultant’s findings related to Code of Conduct Complaint #JUL2024.

Resolution No. 25-0029

Moved by Bettina Ford, Deputy Mayor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved that Council accept the consultant’s findings related to Code of Conduct Complaint #JUL2024.

Carried 6 - 0

B. Hefford and Councillor Woodford returned to Council Chambers at 4:50 p.m.

Finance

The Finance report was presented by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor.

Fire Protection Vehicles and Equipment Funding

The Committee discussed the opening of the 2025-26 funding programs for fire protection vehicles and equipment, with applications being due by March 31, 2025. The Fire Protection Vehicle Program offers cost-sharing options for new vehicles based on community population.

The Committee recommends proceeding with the application process for funding.

Multi-Year Capital Works (MYCW) Agreement

The Committee was presented with correspondence from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure advising that Council's request to reallocate funds within the existing Multi Year Capital Works funding agreement was approved and a motion of Council is required to approve the new agreement.

The request to re-allocate funding within the agreement was approved at the Council meeting held on January 22, 2025.

Resolution No. 25-030

Moved by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Seconded by Wilson Hoffe, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander accept cost-shared funding as outlined in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure project approval letter dated 28th day of January, 2025, to re-allocate funds within the 2023-2026 MYCW agreement with a total value of \$ 2,761,002. This Council agrees to provide the Ultimate Recipient share value of \$1,455,160 in funding and authorizes the Mayor and Town Clerk to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of the Town Council for the Town of Gander.

Carried 7 - 0

RFQ 25-01 Rental of Garbage Truck

The Committee reviewed RFQ 25-01 for the rental of garbage trucks for two weeks from May 5 to May 16, 2025. Two bids were submitted, the first at \$20,125 per week (HST included) for a truck capacity of 22 m³, and the second at \$25,127.50 per week (HST included) for a truck capacity of 32 m³. The Public Works and Corporate Services Departments recommended awarding the contract to T2 Ventures Inc. at a total cost of \$36,500.10 (net of HST), which exceeds the budget by \$4,000.10 for spring clean-up event.

Resolution No. 25-031

Moved by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander award RFQ 25-01 for the rental of garbage trucks to T2 Ventures Inc. for the period of May 5 to May 16, 2025, at a cost of \$36,500.10 (net of HST).

Carried 7 - 0

Sale of Surplus Assets

The Committee reviewed the disposal of two surplus assets: one Mycom Compressor, and a 2015 Ford F250 Crew Cab, 4x4 Pick-Up with a 6.5' box. It was recommended that both items be sold with no reserve bids. Additionally, the Town will explore improved methods for advertising the sale of surplus items to increase visibility and engagement.

Strategy, Growth, and Investments

The Strategy, Growth, and Investments report was presented by Pat Woodford, Councillor.

Atlantic Female U13 AAA Organizing Committee

The Committee discussed a request from the Host Committee of the upcoming Atlantic Female AAA U13 Hockey Tournament. This event will be held in Gander from April 10-13, 2025, and is expected to bring over 100 athletes and coaches to the community.

The Committee recommends approving a reduced ice rental rate of \$125.20 per hour (HST inclusive) and providing a \$200 tournament hosting grant to support the event.

Resolution No. 25-032

Moved by Pat Woodford, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander approve a reduced ice rental rate of \$125.20 per hour (HST inclusive) and a \$200 tournament hosting grant for the Atlantic Female AAA U13 Hockey Tournament, scheduled to take place from April 10-13, 2025.

Carried 7 - 0

Business Navigators Program Officially Launched

The Committee reviewed the Provincial Government's launch of the Business Navigators Program, announced by Minister Andrew Parsons. The program provides one-on-one support to small businesses on regulatory requirements, financing, taxes, and more, with a \$500,000 budget and business navigators stationed in St. John's, Clarenville, and Corner Brook.

The Committee recommends drafting a letter to the Ministers responsible, congratulating them on the initiative and expressing Gander's interest in exploring opportunities to expand

the program to the area.

Community Well-Being and Outreach

The Community Well-Being and Outreach report was presented by Tara Pollett, Councillor.

Bike Rodeo

The Committee reviewed plans for a Bike Rodeo in June 2025 at the Steele Community Centre Parking Lot. The three-hour event will feature a BBQ and stations for helmet sizing, bike engraving, and repairs, with participation from Fire, RCMP, EMS, Military Police, and Search and Rescue. Planning will be led by the Municipal Enforcement Officer's internal community planning group, focusing on scope, support, and sponsorships.

Gander Rotary Club – Snowshoe Trail

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Rotary Club to develop snowshoe trails at Cobb's Pond Rotary Park, starting at the parking lot. The plan was discussed with the Airport Nordic Ski Club, which had no objections. The initial loop aims to assess costs, volunteer engagement, and feasibility, focusing on clearing brush, avoiding major tree cutting, and maintaining cleanliness through proper signage.

The Rotary Club has requested the Town's confirmation of interest and guidelines to proceed with a pilot project. The Committee recommends moving forward with the pilot to evaluate the trail system's practicality and enable continuous improvement.

Councillor Pollett and Councillor Woodford left the Council Chambers at 5:01 p.m. due to potential conflict of interest.

NL Special Olympics Summer Games 2025 (Read by Councillor White)

The Committee reviewed a request from the organizers of the NL Special Olympics Summer Games, scheduled to take place in Gander from July 3-6, 2025. The event will bring approximately 400 athletes and coaches to compete in Athletics, Bocce, Golf, and Swimming.

Organizers have requested that the Town waive fees for the use of the track, one ballfield for Bocce, and the Steele Community Centre for a morning of award presentations. The total anticipated facility costs are \$950 plus tax. Recognizing the importance of this event for the community and its participants, the Committee recommends approving the fee waiver.

Resolution No. 25-033

Moved by Marcie White, Councillor

Seconded by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Resolved to approve the request from the NL Special Olympics Summer Games organizers to waive the facility fees, totaling the anticipated facility costs of \$950 plus tax, for the use of the track, one ballfield for Bocce, and the Steele Community Centre for a morning of award presentations during the event scheduled from July 3-6, 2025.

Carried 5 - 0

Councillor Pollett and Councillor Woodford returned to Council Chambers at 5:04 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Town of Gander Upcoming Events for February 20 - March 19, 2025

February 20th - 22nd: SnoBreak 2025

February 21st - 22nd: RCMP Memorial Hockey Tournament

March 7th - 8th: Cy Hoskins Tournament

March 13th - 15th: DFO Hockey Tournament

March 19th: Community Wellness Event

Email from Chamber of Commerce

The committee discussed an email from the Chamber of Commerce regarding a recent business break-in reported by the RCMP. Businesses are urged to follow RCMP safety tips, including securing doors and windows, ensuring security systems are up to date, avoiding large cash holdings, and making video files accessible for investigations.

International Women's Day Gala

International Women's Day is a global celebration held annually on March 8 to honor the political, cultural, social, and economic achievements of women worldwide. It also serves as a call to advance gender equality and advocate for women's rights.

The Committee discussed the upcoming International Women's Day Gala, hosted by the Gander Women's Centre on March 6, 2025. The Gander Women's Centre has requested a \$150 sponsorship to help cover award and Gala expenses. The Committee recommended approving the \$150 sponsorship and securing a table for Town representatives.

Resolution No. 25-034

Moved by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Seconded by Marcie White, Councillor

Resolved purchasing a table at the upcoming International Women’s Day Gala and providing a sponsorship of \$150.

Carried 7 - 0

Cobb’s Pond Rotary Park Planning Committee

The Cobb's Pond Rotary Park Planning Committee met on January 30th to discuss ongoing and future projects at the park. The Town will continue to work collaboratively with the Gander Rotary Club to implement improvements and enhance the park's amenities.

Deputy Mayor Ford and Councillor Handcock left the Council Chambers at 5:07 p.m. due to potential conflict of interest.

Gander Collegiate Graduation – Waiver of Fees

The Committee reviewed a request from the Gander Collegiate Grad Committee to waive fees for the use of the Steele Community Centre for this year’s graduation. The facility will be utilized from June 23rd to June 27th for setup, the graduation ceremony, and tear-down. Acknowledging the importance of this community event, it was recommended to waive all associated internal fees as a gesture of support for young families who are the foundation of our community's growth and future. External fees, such as insurance, will be paid by the graduation committee.

Resolution No. 25-035

Moved by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Seconded by Pat Woodford, Councillor

Resolved that the Town of Gander waive all fees associated with the use of the Steele Community Centre for the Gander Collegiate Graduation event, recognizing its importance as a community event and as a meaningful way to support young families who are the foundation of our community.

Carried 5 - 0

Deputy Mayor Ford and Councillor Handcock returned to Council Chambers at 5:10 p.m.

Impact Hockey Summer Ice Contract

The Committee reviewed a request from Impact Hockey to add an extra week to their program in 2025 and possibly 2026, pending ice availability. While their existing contract, which specifies prescribed dates and rates, will be honoured, the Town will explore accommodating the extra week by putting the ice down one week early. The additional ice time will be made

available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis as per the schedule of rates and fees.

Orange Store 2025 Canada Games Torch Relay

The Committee discussed the upcoming Orangestore 2025 Canada Games Torch Relay, which is set to pass through Gander on Thursday, July 17, 2025, as part of its journey across Canada leading up to the Games in St. John's from August 8-25, 2025. The relay will feature the Roly McLenahan Torch and highlight the spirit of the Games.

Gander has been allocated 8 torch bearers, who will be selected through a nomination process. Council encourages residents to nominate individuals who exemplify leadership, sportsmanship, and community pride. The nomination deadline is Friday, February 28, 2025, and forms can be accessed at 2025canadagames.ca or through the Town of Gander Facebook page.

SnoBreak Schedule

Council discussed the upcoming SnoBreak Winter Carnival, scheduled to take place from Thursday, February 20th to Sunday, February 23rd. A variety of events are planned for the community during the carnival. Residents are encouraged to visit the Recreation & Community Services Facebook page or call 709-651-5927 for a detailed schedule, admission information, and event updates.

Thursday, February 20th

6 - 8 pm: Puzzle Competition

7 - 9 pm: Young Artists Paint Nite

Friday, February 21st

2 pm: Seniors' Tea

6:30 pm: SnoBreak 2025 Night Walk

Saturday, February 22nd

10 - 11:30 am: Let's Get Messy

6 - 8 pm: Game Night

Sunday, February 23rd

1 - 2 pm: Arts Culture Centre Swimming

2 - 2:50 pm: Superhero Skate

Community Connections: Mayor and Council

Effective engagement with the community is essential for successful local governance, as it promotes transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration. In line with our commitment to these values, we are excited to share highlights of recent events attended or hosted by Council, meetings with community

members, and the ongoing leadership and advocacy efforts led by the Mayor.

Events and Engagements:

Council is actively involved in numerous community events, both hosting and attending. Highlights include:

- **January 23:** Hosting the Winter Melodies and Morsels event, bringing together residents for an evening of music and culinary delights.
- **February 8:** Medal presentation at the Special Olympics Provincial Snowshoe Competition, celebrating the achievements of these inspiring athletes.
- **February 20:** Attending and providing greetings at the Under 16 Provincial Curling Opening Ceremonies, supporting young athletes in our community.

Mayor's Leadership Initiatives:

As the spokesperson for our Council and community, the Mayor is actively involved in various advocacy efforts and projects that aim to foster community growth and address local issues. Recent initiatives include:

- **January 22:** The Mayor welcomed two new physicians to Gander, taking the time to chat with them and learn more about their backgrounds, while also providing a guided tour to help them settle in and become familiar with the community.
- **February 5:** The Mayor held an introductory meeting with Keith Boyle, the new CEO of New Found Gold. The purpose of this discussion was to establish an open line of communication and nurture a collaborative relationship between the company and our community.

7. ADMINISTRATION

There was no business arising from Administration.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The New Business report was presented by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor.

Canoe Quote # 032824-DAI 2024 Freightliner

A quote was received through Canoe from Western Star Trucks Newfoundland Limited to purchase a 2024 Freightliner. The quote met specifications and is \$49,824.03 under budget.

Resolution No. 25-036

Moved by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved to award the Canoe Contract #032824-DAI to purchase a 2024 Freightliner to Western Star Trucks Newfoundland Limited at a cost of \$187,659.30 HST included.

Carried 7 - 0

Consulting Services for Traffic Calming – Raynham Roundabout

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure provided the results from the quote for Consulting Services for Traffic Calming Raynham Avenue Roundabout. Two bids were received and the lowest bid that met specifications was from Harbourside Transportation Consultants in the amount of \$94,599.00 HST included.

This project is funded through the provincial government with a total project cost of \$1.5 million HST included.

Resolution No. 25-037

Moved by Sheldon Handcock, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

Resolved to award quote # MI15724 for Consulting Services for Traffic Calming Raynham Avenue to Harbourside Transportation Consultants at a cost of \$94,599 HST included.

Carried 7 - 0

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 25-038

Moved by Pat Woodford, Councillor

Seconded by Tara Pollett, Councillor

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council at 5:29 P.M.

Carried 7 - 0

P. Farwell, Mayor

B. Hefford, Town Clerk