



**TOWN OF GANDER
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 04:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Council Present:

Percy Farwell, Mayor
Sheldon Handcock, Councillor
Tara Pollett, Deputy Mayor
Jim Lidstone, Councillor
Krystle West, Councillor
Samantha Abbott, Councillor

Staff Present:

Brad Hefford, Chief Administrative Officer
Alexa Oldford, Town Clerk
James Blackwood, Director of Planning and Public Works
Kelly Hiscock, Director of Corporate Services
Jerry Knee, Director of Community Services
Dave Shea, Fire Chief
Kayla White, Manager of Communications, Branding and Partnerships

Regrets:

Pat Woodford, Councillor

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Farwell at 4:00 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Farwell delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

3. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Proclamation- Volunteer Week April 19-25, 2026.

Mayor Farwell proclaimed April 19-25, 2026 as Volunteer Week in Gander.

3.2 Proclamation- EDS Awareness Month

Mayor Farwell proclaimed May as EDS Awareness Month in Gander.

3.3 Proclamation- (ES/MCS) Awareness Day - May 12, 2026

Mayor Farwell proclaimed May 12, 2026 as ES/MCS Awareness Day in Gander.

3.4 Proclamation- May 1-31, 2026, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Farwell proclaimed May 2026 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month in Gander.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council was presented for approval.

Resolution: **26-068**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Handcock

THAT the agenda for the April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council be approved, as presented.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 25 March, 2026- Regular Meeting of Council

Minutes from the March 25, 2026 Regular meeting of Council were presented for approval.

Resolution: **26-069**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Abbott

THAT minutes from the March 25, 2026 Regular meeting of Council be approved, as attached.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7. STANDING COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.1 Governance and Legislative Services

The Governance and Legislative Services Report was presented by Deputy Mayor Pollett.

a. Community Standards Bylaw - Second Reading

The Community Standards By-Law was presented for second reading. The by-law establishes standards for property maintenance, protection of public spaces, and support for community safety. The by-law includes provisions respecting noise, exterior lighting, nuisances and unsightly premises, pest and vermin control, snow and ice depositing, enforcement, appeals, and penalties.

Resolution: **26-070**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Handcock

THAT Council approve Second Reading of the Community Standards By-Law and that the by-law be adopted, as attached.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

Resolution: **26-071**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Abbott

THAT the Airgun By-Law (1994), the Nuisance Regulations (2020), and the Adult Materials Display Regulations (2018) be repealed.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

b. Use of e-bikes

The committee discussed the use of e-bikes and noted that they are governed primarily under the provincial Highway Traffic Act. It was further discussed that, at this time, the Town's role is better understood as one of public information and awareness rather than the development of a distinct municipal regulatory framework. The committee recommended that the Town prepare a communications piece to help improve public awareness of the applicable rules.

7.2 Planning and Public Works

The Planning and Public Works Report was presented by Councilor Abbott.

a. Commercial Land Parcels

A conceptual land development proposal was presented to Council for review and consideration. As illustrated in Drawing No. 26-1009-1, the proposal involves the subdivision and development of municipally owned land on Ward Street, currently zoned Commercial General.

The proposal provides for the creation of eight (8) building lots, each measuring approximately one (1) acre, to meet current market demand for commercial development. It was recommended that a land buffer of approximately thirty-three (33) metres be retained at the rear of the proposed lots to provide separation from adjacent properties with differing zoning classifications.

It was further noted that the retained corridor is intended to accommodate an open stormwater channel to assist in the management of stormwater from the subject lands and adjacent properties as development occurs.

Following discussion, Council supported the proposed concept and directed staff to proceed with the development and marketing of the land in accordance with the recommended layout and buffering provisions.

b. MPA#7 and DRA #9, 2026 Phase 1 - Approval

Municipal Plan Amendment No. 7, 2025, and Development Regulations Amendment No. 9, 2025, are now ready for approval by Council.

These amendments propose changes to the Gander Municipal Plan and Development

Regulations in support of the Housing Modernization Regulatory Review – Housing Accessibility Fund, Phase 1.

In general terms, the amendments include the following measures:

- Provide definitions for “multi-unit housing” and “accessory dwelling unit,” including subsidiary apartments; refine the definitions of apartment building, double dwelling, and dwelling unit for clarity; and remove the definitions of Accessory Dwelling and Secondary Suite;
- Enable greater flexibility for new development by reducing development standards by 10% in the Residential Medium Density (RMD), Residential High Density-1 (RHD-1), and Residential High Density-2 (RHD-2) zones, subject to the National Building Code;
- Allow multi-unit housing as a permitted use in residential zones, with a clear definition and development standards;
- Allow accessory dwelling units as a permitted use in the Residential Medium Density (RMD), Residential High Density-1 (RHD-1), Residential High Density-2 (RHD-2), Residential Rural (RR), Rural (farm-related only), and Tourism Recreational (TR) zones, with a clear definition and development standards;
- Remove Secondary Suite and Accessory Dwelling and provide a new definition for Accessory Dwelling Unit, including subsidiary apartment and garden suite, along with development standards and conditions;
- Limit the number of dwelling units per lot in the RLD zone to four dwelling units;
- Eliminate the restriction stating that apartment buildings and row dwellings shall not comprise more than 50% of the total dwelling units on an individual street in the RMD zone; and
- Reduce the minimum required parking for all dwelling units from 1.5 spaces per unit to 1 space per unit.

The required advertising and provincial review have been completed. A public hearing was scheduled for February 25, 2026, at the Town Hall. No objections or representations were received by the February 23, 2026 deadline, and the hearing was cancelled.

Resolution: **26-072**

Moved By Councillor Abbott

Seconded By Councillor Lidstone

THAT Municipal Plan Amendment No. 7, 2025, and Development Regulations Amendment No. 9, 2025, be approved under section 23 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

c. Additions to Land Inventory

The Committee received a request to make available for sale a parcel of commercial land on Memorial Drive East, as described in attached Drawing No. 20-1087. After considering the short-term economic benefits associated with the sale of the vacant commercial parcel for infill development, including increased assessment, efficient use of existing infrastructure, and support for business growth, the Committee determined that the long-term strategic value of retaining the parcel outweighs the immediate fiscal return and therefore directed staff not to offer the land for sale at this time.

Further, Council affirmed the parcel's importance in maintaining access, connectivity, and planning flexibility necessary to support potential larger-scale, coordinated commercial or mixed-use development of adjacent lands.

Council may reconsider disposition of the parcel in the future when its role within a broader development concept or corridor plan has been clearly established.

d. Commercial Land Application - 25 Ward Street

The Committee reviewed a Commercial Land Application to purchase approximately 1 acre of Town-owned land at 25 Ward Street for the purpose of establishing a mineral exploration operation. The proposed use includes the logging and cutting of drill core, storage of drill core, and storage of mineral exploration equipment.

The subject property is zoned Commercial General. Light Industrial uses are permitted as a discretionary use within this zone in accordance with the Town of Gander Development Regulations. A Discretionary Use Notice will be prepared and brought forward to Council following the required public notification period.

The Committee recommends proceeding with the application in principle, subject to

approval of the discretionary use, completion of a legal lot survey, and compliance with all applicable legislative requirements.

Resolution: **26-073**

Moved By Councillor Abbott

Seconded By Councillor Handcock

THAT Council approve the Commercial Land Application subject to approval of the discretionary use, completion of a legal lot survey, and compliance with all applicable legislative requirements.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

e. Planning Departmental Report

The Planning Department report for the period of March 12 to April 1 was presented to the Committee for review. The report summarized applications received, permits issued, zoning compliance letters processed, and provided an overview of new construction activity during the reporting period. During this period, five residential applications were received, seven building permits were issued, one occupancy permit was issued, and six compliance letters were completed.

f. Development Application 112-138 Sullivan Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of Gander has received an application and a discretionary use request to construct two (2) 4 plex residential apartment buildings and further develop the site at the existing property known as 112-138 Sullivan Avenue, as a cluster development. (See attached drawing)

A Cluster Development means two or more residential and/or commercial buildings developed in combination on one lot, in single ownership.

It is noted that this area is zoned **Residential Medium Density (RMD)** and **Cluster Developments** are permitted as a Discretionary Use within the RMD zone in the Town of Gander Development Regulations.

The application was advertised in accordance with the Town's Development

Regulations, and no objections were received by the advertised deadline.

Resolution: **26-074**

Moved By Councillor Abbott

Seconded By Councillor Handcock

THAT Council approve the discretionary use to construct two (2) 4 plex residential apartment buildings and further develop the site at 112-138 Sullivan Avenue as a cluster development.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

g. Development Application - Subdivision of Lots 288 & 289 Waterton Street

The Committee reviewed a development application requesting the subdivision of two parcels of land located at Lots 288 and 289 Waterton Street to facilitate residential dwelling units. The proposed subdivision will create four legal properties, as more particularly described in attached Drawing No. 26-1011. The Department confirmed that, upon subdivision, the four properties could meet the requirements of the Town of Gander Development Regulations and the Design Standards for Streets and Subdivisions, subject to submission of final legal surveys for review and evaluation.

Resolution: **26-075**

Moved By Councillor Abbott

Seconded By Councillor West

THAT the Town of Gander approve the application for subdivision of Waterton Street lots 288 and 289 to form 4 legal properties subject to the submission of final surveys for review and approval by the Town of Gander.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

h. Home Based Business - 1 Cotton Street

Notice is hereby given that Council has received an application from Sheppardraft

Consulting Inc. to operate a home office for a design/drafting service from 1 Cotton Street.

It is noted that home occupation is permitted as a "discretionary use" for the zone in which the property is located.

The application was advertised in accordance with the Town's Development Regulations, and no objections were received by the advertised deadline.

Resolution: **26-076**

Moved By Councillor Abbott

Seconded By Councillor Handcock

THAT the application from Sheppardraft Consulting Inc. to operate a home office for a design and drafting service at 1 Cotton Street be approved as a discretionary use, subject to the Town of Gander Development Regulations and any conditions outlined in the permit.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

i. Household Hazardous Waste Day Event

The date for the 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Day has been confirmed with Central Newfoundland Waste Management and the Steele Community Centre. The event will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Steele Community Centre parking lot

j. Notable Dates

Residents are advised that the 2026 Curbside Clean-Up Week is scheduled from May 4 to May 15, 2026. Please visit the Town of Gander's website www.gander.ca for complete details.

k. Public Works Departmental Report

During the period of March 12 to April 1, the Public Works Department completed 13 snow and ice control deployments and nine (9) pothole repairs. The Water and Sewer Division responded to 28 service calls and completed two (2) repairs to municipal infrastructure.

7.3 Community Services

The Community Services Report was presented by Councilor Handcock.

a. Cobb's Pond Rotary Park Dog Park Volunteer Committee

The Department met with a resident interested in establishing a Dog Park Volunteer Committee. The proposed committee would focus on fundraising initiatives to support park enhancements, such as lighting, signage, shade structures, and a water fountain.

It was recommended that the group formally establish the volunteer committee and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Gander to guide fundraising activities, including advertising within the park.

b. Central Newfoundland Hockey League

Deputy Mayor Pollett declared a conflict of interest, due to immediate family member being one of the representatives, and left the Council meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Pollett declared a conflict of interest and left the Committee meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Management met with representatives of the Gander Senior Flyers to discuss their potential participation in the Central Newfoundland Hockey League for the 2026–27 ice season, with games and practices to be held at the Steele Community Centre.

As part of this discussion, the team has requested the following:

- One complimentary hour of practice ice time per week
- Ice time to accommodate up to eight home games, in addition to any playoff games
- A game-day revenue arrangement whereby the Town would deduct applicable expenses (including staffing and ice costs) from gate receipts, with the remaining proceeds allocated to the Gander Senior Flyers
- Access to designated storage space within the facility for game day requirements.

Committee discussed the importance of the team being established as a formal entity, and management advised that the group had been encouraged to undertake that process. Committee was supportive of the requested arrangement for the first season, with a review after the first year.

Resolution: **26-077**

Moved By Councillor Handcock

Seconded By Councillor Lidstone

THAT Council waive the fee for one hour of practice per week at a cost of \$208.65/hr HST inclusive for the Gander Senior Flyers for the 2026-2027 season.

For (5): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Conflict (1): Deputy Mayor Pollett

Carried (5 to 0)

Deputy Mayor Pollett returned to Council Chambers at 4:40 p.m.

c. 2027 Atlantics U18 AAA Championships

Traction Central Impact expressed interest in submitting a bid to host the 2027 Atlantic U18 AAA Hockey Championships at the Steele Community Centre from March 31 to April 4, 2027. The event is expected to attract teams, coaches, officials, and visitors to the community. As part of the bid, operational requests included exclusive use of the Steele Community Centre, including dressing rooms and meeting spaces, access to the Town's ticketing system for the sale of game passes, and approval to display sponsor advertising throughout the arena.

Committee discussed the request, including the potential overlap with provincials week, and recommended that Council approve an inclusive hourly rate of \$125.20 for game-day ice and a \$200 hosting grant, contingent upon receipt of letters of support from Hockey NL and Steele Hotels.

Resolution: **26-078**

Moved By Councillor Handcock

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Pollett

THAT Council approve a hosting grant of \$200, together with an inclusive hourly rate of \$125.20 for game-day ice, for the Atlantic U18 AAA Championships scheduled for March 31 to April 4, 2027, contingent upon receipt of letters of support from Hockey

NL confirming that the Town of Gander will be eligible to host an eight-team tournament in the first half of 2027.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

d. Soccer & Track Facility Storage

Council was presented with a conceptual plan outlining the proposed addition of two storage facilities, a clubhouse, and a timing facility at the Soccer and Track Sports Facility.

Following consultation with user groups, management recommended that the project proceed at this time with construction of the two storage facilities only, as these were identified as the immediate priority.

Council supported proceeding with the construction of the two storage facilities as the current phase of the project.

e. Stewardship Association of Municipalities

The Stewardship Association of Municipalities will host its second annual NL Habitat Conservation Workshop in St. John's from May 28–29, 2026, followed by its Spring Annual General Meeting in Torbay from May 29–30, 2026.

Councillor Woodford will attend on behalf of Council.

f. 9/11 Community Mosaic Mural Project

The International Lounge Foundation, in partnership with the Town of Gander, is proposing the creation of an 8 x 12' community mosaic mural to commemorate Gander's response to 9/11. The project will invite community participation through individually painted tiles that will be assembled into a unified mural. The total project cost is estimated at \$10,000, of which \$5,000 was approved in the 2026 budget. The Foundation will lead project planning, coordination, and implementation, with support from the Town in promotion, community engagement, installation, and funding of the overall project cost.

g. Upcoming Events

The following events will take place in the coming months:

April 19 - 25: National Volunteer Week 2026

April 20 - 23: Central MinEx 2026 at the Steele Community Centre

April 28: Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Steele Community Centre from 6 - 8 pm.

April 29: Seniors Community Wellness Session

May 2 – 3: Geek Fest at the Steele Community Centre

May 4: Youth Ball Hockey Season starts

May 4 - 10: Municipal Awareness Week

May 12: Canada's Circus Spectacular at the Steele Community Centre. Two shows: 4:30 pm & 7 pm

For more information, please contact the Community Services Department at 709-651-5927.

7.4 Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Report was presented by Councilor Lidstone.

a. Information Technology Digital Government Update

The Committee reviewed a list of the Digital Government initiatives undertaken within the past year. These included the ongoing migration of the Town's domain from gandercanada.com to gander.ca, implementation of Teams Phones, and replacement of traditional desktops with laptops to improve staff flexibility and support business continuity. The staff intranet was further developed as a centralized internal resource hub, and Geotab Citizen Insights was introduced to support snowplow tracking.

Additional updates included the rollout of an AI Copilot pilot group, continued development of a centralized intake and case-tracking approach through Dynamics 365, and initial work on a Digital Strategic Plan to support governance and long-term digital transformation.

b. Year-End Unaudited Financial Reports to December 31, 2025

The Committee reviewed the Town's unaudited year-end financial results. Projected

revenues are estimated at \$24,197,975, while projected expenses total \$22,046,351, resulting in a projected surplus of \$2,151,624.

The favourable projected surplus is primarily attributable to significant variances relative to the approved operating budget.

On the revenue side, these variances include unbudgeted land sales generating additional revenue of \$509,049, unbudgeted lease revenue of \$330,367 related to the property at 59 Elizabeth Drive, and higher-than-budgeted miscellaneous revenues totaling \$207,605, driven by ice rentals, building permits, corporate sponsorships, and tax certificate fees. Taxation revenues exceeded budget by \$137,738, reflecting increased residential property tax revenue, utilities tax revenue, and grants in lieu. Financing costs also resulted in a favourable variance of \$169,873, primarily due to borrowing requirements being lower than budgeted.

On the expenditure side, wages and benefits reflect a favourable variance of \$450,665, largely due to unfilled positions during the year, while consulting costs were lower than anticipated, resulting in a variance of \$122,985.

The Committee was advised that capital project expenditures remain within approved budget, with total capital spending of approximately \$8.5 million.

The collection report indicates that tax collection levels are consistent with previous years. As of December 31, 2025, the collection rate for property tax is 97.99%, and the collection rate for business tax is 97.40%.

In accordance with the Fiscal Sustainability Strategy, the year-end surplus will be allocated with 50% applied to the reduction of capital borrowing and 50% transferred to capital reserve.

It was noted that the financial information presented is unaudited and subject to adjustment as part of the Town's year-end audit process. Final audited results will be presented to Council upon completion of the audit.

c. Request for Quotes for Garbage Truck Rentals

The Committee reviewed the results of the request for quotes for garbage truck rental for the Town's clean-up event, scheduled from May 4 to May 15, 2026. Two bids were submitted, and the Planning and Public Works Department confirmed that the lowest bid met all specified requirements, including provision of an operator and all associated rental costs.

Resolution: **26-079**

Moved By Councillor Lidstone

Seconded By Councillor Abbott

THAT RFQ 26-04 for garbage truck rental be awarded to Ridge G&P Services Limited for the period of May 4 to May 15, 2026, at a total cost of \$34,960, HST included.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

d. Ultimate Recipient Annual Expenditure Report 2025

Council reviewed the Ultimate Recipient Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) compliance report for the year ending December 31, 2025, prepared by Doane Grant Thornton. This report provides reasonable assurance that the Town of Gander followed the requirements outlined in the CCBF Administrative Agreement between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

According to Doane Grant Thornton, the Town fulfilled all major criteria of the Agreement throughout the review period. Additionally, the report offers a summary of CCBF funding allocations and highlights the completion of \$8.6 million worth of capital projects since the program's inception.

The report has been provided to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, as required.

e. Capital Investment Plan Application Event and Active Living Infrastructure – Phase 1

The Committee was presented with a Capital Investment Plan application for Phase 1 of the Event and Active Living Infrastructure capital project. As a requirement to access available funding under the Canada Community-Building Fund, Council approval of the application is required.

Phase 1 of the project focuses on completing the necessary architectural and engineering design work to advance the project to a shovel-ready stage, including the development of preliminary cost estimates and completion of the Town's planning and approval processes.

Resolution: **26-080**

Moved By Councillor Lidstone

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Pollett

THAT the Capital Investment Plan application for the Event and Active Living Infrastructure – Phase 1, in the amount of \$1,000,000 net of HST, be approved as attached.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

f. Property Tax Reductions

The Committee reviewed six (6) applications for residential property tax reductions submitted in accordance with the income-based criteria outlined in the Schedule of Rates and Fees. All applications were found to meet Council's established eligibility requirements.

Including these applications, a total of ten residential property tax reductions have been approved to date, amounting to \$7,848.35 in reductions.

Resolution: **26-081**

Moved By Councillor Lidstone

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Pollett

THAT all six (6) applications for residential property tax reductions, totaling \$4,203.62, be approved as attached.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

g. Re-allocation of Canada Community-Building Funds Agreement

In the 2025 construction season, the capital projects involving sectional paving on Rowsell and Memorial Drive were fully funded by the Canada Community-Building Fund.

The actual expenditures for these projects were \$33,498.69 less than the initial cost estimates. Council must approve the final project costs before these savings can be allocated to other capital initiatives.

Resolution: **26-082**

Moved By Councillor Lidstone

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Pollett

THAT Council approve the final cost of project #89-2024-8392 at \$829,873.31 for road upgrades to Rowsell and Memorial Drive, funded by the Canada Community-Building Fund Agreement.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

7.5 Public Safety and Protective Services

The Public Safety and Protective Services Report was presented by Deputy Mayor Pollett.

a. Junior Firefighter Scholarship

Council discussed a request from Gander Fire Rescue's Junior Program for one member of Council to serve on the selection committee for the Junior Firefighter Scholarship. It was noted that the committee will consist of one chief officer, one paid member, one volunteer member, the CAO, and one councillor, and that no individual involved in the Junior Program will serve on the committee. Deputy Mayor Pollett agreed to participate on the selection committee and review applications submitted through the Junior Firefighter Program.

b. March Activities

Council received the monthly activity report for Gander Fire Rescue and Municipal Enforcement. Gander Fire Rescue responded to 24 calls in March, compared with 27 calls in March 2025. Municipal Enforcement recorded 39 traffic violations and 40 resident engagements. The report also noted 25 fire inspections, one home oxygen inspection, and six citizen fire code concerns.

Gander Fire Rescue attended STEAM Day at Gander Elementary on March 31, where members spoke to students about the science of fire and the technology used in safety equipment. It was further noted that new recruits will begin the first stage of call

response by reporting to the station to learn radio operations and assist with emergency support duties, including filling breathing apparatus bottles and cleaning equipment.

7.6 Communications, Engagement and Strategy

The Communications, Engagement and Strategy Report was presented by Councilor West.

a. Central MinEx Sponsorship Request

Councillor West declared conflict of interest due to being an Executive of the Gander and Area Chamber of Commerce and left Council Chambers at 5:04 p.m.

Council received a request from the Gander and Area Chamber of Commerce for a \$2,500 sponsorship to support the Central MinEx Mineral Industry Showcase, scheduled for April 20–23, 2026. The conference brings together industry professionals, businesses, and stakeholders, providing valuable opportunities for networking, economic development, and showcasing the region’s role in the mineral industry.

Resolution: **26-083**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Abbott

THAT Council approve a sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500 to the Gander and Area Chamber of Commerce in support of the Central MinEx Mineral Industry Showcase, scheduled for April 20 to 23, 2026.

For (5): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, and Councillor Abbott

Conflict (1): Councillor West

Carried (5 to 0)

Councillor West returned to Council Chambers at 5:06 p.m.

b. Texts from the Town - Year One Report

Council received an information note regarding “Texts from the Town,” the Town’s public notification system delivered through TxtSquad. In its first year, the system reached 1,354 subscribers, exceeding the initial target of 500. The platform continues to operate effectively, with strong user uptake and a low opt-out rate of 0.66% (9

users). Residents are encouraged to visit the Town's website to sign up.

c. Stats Canada Outreach – 2026 Census Community Awareness

Council received a request from Statistics Canada for support in promoting awareness of the 2026 Census, taking place in May, as well as local employment opportunities related to census operations.

The Town has been asked to share information and job postings through municipal communication channels to help support participation and recruitment. Committee agreed to support the request.

d. Water and Wastewater Workshop Engagement

Council received an information note regarding the 2026 Water and Wastewater Workshop hosted by the Department of Environment, Conservation & Climate Change in Gander from March 24–26.

Tours of the Town's water and wastewater treatment facility were held on March 23 in advance of the workshop, and the Mayor delivered opening remarks at the conference.

A total of 130 participants attended, with five tours conducted to accommodate demand. Feedback from attendees was very positive, with strong interest in the facility.

e. Council Engagement Report

Community engagement continues to be an important part of Council's work, supporting open communication, collaboration, and responsiveness to local needs.

Over the past few weeks, Council members participated in several community events and meetings, including:

- Urban Municipalities Meeting in Port aux Basques
- Meeting with first-year medical students
- ANC Community Housing Roundtable

As Council's spokesperson, the Mayor leads advocacy and strategic initiatives that support community priorities. Recent activities include:

- Meeting with MP Clifford Small and Shadow Minister for National Defence James Bezan
- Meeting with representatives from Newfoundland Power

- Participating in media interviews related to the 9/11 anniversary event
- Bringing greetings at the Gander Minor Hockey U18 Provincials
- Meeting with Chief of Defence Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces.
- Bringing greetings at the PMA 54th Annual Convention and Trade Show

8. ADMINISTRATION

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Farwell requested a motion for adjournment.

Resolution: **26-084**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Pollett

Seconded By Councillor Abbott

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:11 pm.

For (6): Mayor Farwell, Councillor Handcock, Deputy Mayor Pollett, Councillor Lidstone, Councillor West, and Councillor Abbott

Carried (6 to 0)

P. Farwell, Mayor

A. Oldford, Town Clerk