



PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held in Chambers on January 14, 2025 at 4:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Mayor Dave Aker	Stephanie Walsh, Acting CAO / Legislative Officer/City Clerk
Deputy Mayor Nicole Kieley	Jason Collins, Director of Recreation and Community Safety
Councillor Jim Locke	Cassie Rideout, Director of Corporate Services
Councillor Isabelle Fry	Glen Dollimount, Director of Public Works
Councillor Bill Antle	Scott Batt, Director of Planning, Engineering & Development
Councillor Mark Rice	Ann Picco, Executive Assistant
Councillor Chelsea Lane	

Mayor Aker chaired the meeting.

25-01-001 Adoption of Agenda

Motion – Councillor Lane / Councillor Rice

RESOLVED THAT, the agenda be adopted as presented.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

25-01-002 Lands Acknowledgement

Read by Mayor Aker.

25-01-003 Adoption of Minutes

Motion – Councillor Antle / Councillor Fry

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Public Meeting held December 10, 2024, be adopted, as presented.

Errors & Omissions: None

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION REPORT

The action report was accepted as presented.

BUSINESS ARISING

25-01-004 New Years Eve Fireworks

Council Members received concerns from residents regarding fireworks, noting that residents are setting them off outside of the regulated timeframe. Council members noted the impact on children, pets and those with sensitivities. There are also safety concerns as fireworks are landing on residential properties.

Council discussed possible solutions, better control, enforcement of regulations and guidelines, and limitations as to the sale and purchase of fireworks. As it relates to municipal enforcement it was noted that it is impossible to investigate all complaints and control due to the number of residents actively setting them off and the challenge of being able to respond before the fireworks have been completed.

It was suggested that the City put off fireworks. It was clarified that safety is of the first and foremost concern due to density of homes, weather factors such as winds, and the need of a safe location. The City has explored the possibility of laser and drone shows. The matter will be further reviewed and discussed at committee.

PROCLAMATIONS

25-01-005 Frosty Festival

Council discussed the new format of this year's 43rd Frosty Festival, noting that Frosty is in the gallery at this evening's meeting.

There are many volunteers who play an active role in the community, and go above and beyond to make the Frosty Festival a huge success along with the support of the City. Volunteers were commended for their hard work, time, and effort over the past 43 years. Mount Pearl is well known for the Frosty Festival, which also brings the community together and is a signature of the City. The events are phenomenal and sell out every year. Council thanked the Recreation and Community Safety Director and all staff for their work on the festival and events.

For information of the public, ticket sales commence online on January 20th at 12:00 noon, and can be purchased at frostyfestival.ca. In-person purchases take place on January 22nd at the Reid Centre from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Note that there are a limited number of tickets for in-person purchases, therefore, everyone is encouraged to

purchase online. Persons requiring accessibility accommodations are encouraged to contact Inclusion NL for assistance at 709-697-3323.

Council reminisced on past events over the years. It is an exciting time and this year there are 28 events scheduled from February 6th to 16th. There are activities for everyone, and it was encouraged to visit the City's website for a full listing of events. Residents were also encouraged to read the most recent copy of the Pearl Pulse for more information.

PRESENTATIONS

25-01-006 Municipal and Provincial Affairs Long Service Award

The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs presents long service awards to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors who have served on municipal councils and accumulated 12, 16, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

Mayor Aker presented Councillor Locke with an award from the Department in recognition of 16 years of municipal service. Mayor Aker congratulated Councillor Locke noting that he has served on Council with him for 14 years. Council commended Councillor Locke's role and the work he has done for this city over the years.

Councillor Locke thanked Council for the presentation, commenting that he is fortunate to serve with councillors who share the love of community and the City and have the same ultimate goals, to want the City to be a place where residents love to live, work, raise families, participate in activities, and retire. Councillor Locke thanked staff who have supported him over the years, providing data and sound advice that plays into decision making, and for making the City a wonderful place to live and work.

CORRESPONDENCE

25-01-007 Municipal Assessment Agency (MAA) – Update on the MAA

For the information of Council. Questions pertaining to assessments can be referred to the City Clerk.

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS

25-01-008 Invoices for Approval

Motion - Councillor Lane / Councillor Rice

RELOVED THAT, approval be given for payment of the following invoices:

1	Amtruck Limited Truck Rental for November 2024	\$ 10,695.00
2	Big Star Lights Christmas Lights for All is Bright	\$ 9,194.74
3	Canadian AV Octoberfest AV	\$ 6,029.67
4	Catering By Design Breakfast with Santa	\$ 7,788.30
5	CBS Rentals New Aerator for Playfield Maintenance	\$ 5,463.64
6	City of St John's Tipping Fees - October 2024	\$ 59,437.68
7	City of St John's Water Consumption for November 2024	\$ 196,645.12
8	Emco Fire Hydrant for 129 Munden Drive	\$ 5,343.77
9	Everbridge Inc Citizen Alert Service Renewal	\$ 8,239.68
10	Gibbons Snow Architects Accessible Boardroom Design Work	\$ 15,697.50
11	Ignite Technology Agreement Ignite Care Security	\$ 16,818.75
12	Ignite Technology Ignite Care Analytics - Month to Month	\$ 6,467.03
13	McInnes Cooper Appeal - Power & Ledwell	\$ 7,824.60
14	Modern Business Equipment Limited Mailing Machines	\$ 17,700.80
15	Pennecon Hydraulic Systems Limited - NL Electric High Torque Application Gun - Quiet Operation	\$ 7,446.25
16	Saunders Equipment Limited Manifold Block/Seal Kit Unit 637	\$ 5,389.98
17	St John's Transportation Commission Transit Cost November 2024	\$ 94,425.29
18	Stewart McKelvey General Labour Advice	\$ 7,904.69
19	Stewart McKelvey General Contract Advice	\$ 5,165.80
20	TOK Transit Taxi Trips October 2024	\$ 11,371.02
21	TOK Transit Paratransit Bus Trips & No Shows October 2024	\$ 30,659.23

22	Universal Power Solutions Inc Contract Agreement January - December 2025	\$ 7,417.50
23	Vipond/Fire-Tech Completed Sprinkler Service Work - Glacier	\$ 7,549.75
	Total	\$ 550,675.79

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Council noted regional services, including water consumption, transportation, and paratransit. It was advised that the City is at an all-time low with respect to water consumption due to the City's leak detection program.

25-01-009 Payment Register

For the information of Council, the following payment register for December 5, 2024 – January 8, 2025, totaled \$3,624,726.95, and the purchase card report for October 26 – November 25, 2024, totaled \$363,831.21.

25-01-010 Façade Improvement Program Application Recommendation – 17 Sagona Avenue – Pro Marine Drive

Motion - Councillor Lane / Councillor Rice

RESOLVED THAT, the Façade Improvement Grant to the property owners of 17 Sagona Avenue in the amount of \$7,840.00 be approved.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to conflict of interest in relation to the below matter, Councillor Locke left the Council Chambers at 5:07 pm.

25-01-011 Direction to Sell – 20 Bannister Street

Motion - Councillor Lane / Councillor Rice

RESOLVED THAT, Council approve the property be sold pursuant to section 161.3 of the City of Mount Pearl Act.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Advertising was questioned, of which Council were advised that notice will be advertised and published within the City every week for the next thirty days and will meet statutory requirements. Tax and proceeds were questioned, and it was clarified

that proceeds of the sale will go towards debt to the City, and anything in excess will be placed in trust for the property owner.

Councillor Locke returned to the Council Chambers at 5:09 p.m.

25-01-012 2025 Public Council Meeting Calendar – Revision

Motion - Councillor Rice / Councillor Lane

RESOLVED THAT, further to the adoption of the 2025 Public and Committee of the Whole Meeting Calendar at the December 10, 2024 Public Meeting, by Motion 24-12-682, that the Public and Committee of the Whole Meetings previously scheduled for January 7, 2025, be rescheduled to January 14, 2025.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

25-01-013 Accessibility Plan 2024-2026

The City of Mount Pearl adopted its first Accessibility Plan in 2024 and has committed to providing an inclusive community, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to the City's services and programs in a way that respects their dignity and independence. By identifying, removing and preventing barriers to inclusion, we're creating a community where everyone can thrive. Information pertaining to completed 2024 projects was highlighted regarding the City's commitments as outlined in the Plan, and continued investment information to improve accessibility in Mount Pearl in 2025 was provided.

Council commented that there is great commitment as it relates to accessibility. The importance of accessibility was discussed, including physical, intellectual, seen and unseen, and to be represented and included. The City has a lot to be proud of, to create inclusive, all-encompassing accessibility, and to be a leader by being proactive. Our community includes diverse peoples and representation is powerful to overcome challenges. The accessible website was questioned, of which it was confirmed this will be a new accessible website.

25-01-014 Public Works Status Report

A status update for Public Works was provided. Winter shift schedules are underway. Work continues in the Parks Division with trail maintenance ongoing. Service and maintenance continue in the Fleet Division with winter equipment maintenance ongoing. Information was provided on UTM general calls, water and sewer repairs, and water levels at Bay Bulls Big Pond as of January 2025 were attached for information.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

25-01-015 Glacier Arena – 2025 Winter Public Skating

For the information of the public, the 2025 winter public skating has commenced. The schedule is posted throughout the facility as well as on the City's website.

25-01-016 CANOE – Procurement Group of Canada | Field Turf USA, Inc. – Mount Pearl Turf Replacement

Motion – Councillor Locke / Councillor Fry

RESOLVED THAT, approval be given to enter into a contract with FieldTurf USA Inc., for the removal of the existing surface and replacement of turf with infill reuse at the Mount Pearl Soccer Field, based on the proposal received through the CANOE Procurement Group of Canada and Sourcewell in the amount of \$1,000,243.49 exclusive of taxes.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Council discussed the new turf, which will enhance an amazing facility. CANOE Procurement was questioned as it relates to tendering and processes. Clarification was provided that this is a national program with approved suppliers already selected through open public tender request for proposals process.

Sale of the current turf was further discussed. As a public body, the City is required to be open and transparent as it pertains to public access. There will be a public process, which will be further discussed at Committee as it relates to the re-use of the turf.

PLANNING, ENGINEERING & DEVELOPMENT

25-01-017 Building and Occupancy Permit Listing | December 02 – December 31, 2024

Motion – Deputy Mayor Kieley / Councillor Antle

RESOLVED THAT, the residential and commercial building permits issued for this period, showing a total construction value of \$1,794,350.00 be approved; and, furthermore, that the occupancy permit list be accepted as presented.

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

25-01-018 Development Permit Listing | December 02 – December 31, 2024

Motion – Deputy Mayor Kieley / Councillor Antle

RESOLVED THAT, the development permits issued for this period be accepted as presented.

Development Permit #	Date of Issue	Type of Use	Civic Address
DP 24-0574	Dec 03, 2024	Consolidation of Land	5 Glencoe Drive
DP24-0525	Dec 13, 2024	Group Child Care	21 Wilson Crescent
DP24-0691	Dec 18, 2024	Sub-division of Land	979 Topsail Road
DP24-0674	Dec 18, 2024	Interior Expansion	46 Bannister Street
DP24-0739	Dec 30, 2024	Open Air Assembly	20 First Street

Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

25-01-019 Capital Projects Update

An update was provided on the City's capital projects, highlighting information on work that is complete, ongoing, and deficiencies remaining in relation to multi-streets, Northlands upgrades, and Jackman Drive updates.

NEW BUSINESS

25-01-020 Pearl Pulse 2025 Winter Edition

Deputy Mayor Kieley advised that it is great to be back in the new year, and an exciting time to have our community join us for the Frosty Festival. She referred to the Pearl Pulse, advising it is a great way to check out what's happening in the City and the Festival events. The Guide includes information on all departments and City plans, and is an effective and engaging document for residents. Deputy Mayor encouraged everyone to review, and thanked all those for their input.

Councillor Rice commented on the 2025 Winter edition of the Pearl Pulse, encouraging residents to refer to this latest edition for information and updates about our City. He thanked everyone who had a part in putting the City guide together.

25-01-021 New Year/Welcome Back

Councillor Antle wished all a Happy New Year, and welcomed everyone back. Mount Pearl is such a busy City as seen in the public agenda.

We have now started a new year, and Councillor Antle advised that his family have just welcomed a new addition, a baby boy, born on January 1st, bringing the number of grandchildren to five. Council congratulated Councillor Antle on the addition to his family.

Councillor Antle advised that on January 5th he attended the Park Avenue Pentecostal Church Service, which he reported was a good service and great start to the new year. A listing of declarations was provided to parishioners for 2025.

25-01-022 Frosty Festival - Volunteers

Councillor Rice advised the public that the City is always looking for volunteers; and if interested in volunteering for the upcoming Frosty Festival, to visit frostyfestival.ca/volunteer and submit an application.

25-01-023 Congratulations – St. Peter's Junior High Basketball Team

Councillor Lane congratulated the St. Peter's Junior High Grade 9 Basketball Team on winning silver this past weekend at the Python Tournament.

25-01-024 Mount Pearl Library

Councillor Lane advised that the Mount Pearl Library provides a package of free books to preschool children in preparation for school. Should anyone wish to obtain, present proof to show your child is in preschool and receive your package.

25-01-025 Community Conversation on Community Safety

Councillor Fry provided information for the public that meetings continue to be held with the Department of Justice and Public Safety on a Community Safety & Well-Being Plan for Mount Pearl. The plan refers to the ideal state of a community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, as well as where individuals and families are able to meet the needs for education, health care, food, housing, etc. The Plan will require long-term collaborative efforts to address root causes of crime. Discussion at these meetings is based on the Community Conversation on Public Safety meeting which took place on December 3rd. She advised that this is not forgotten, and the City is working on it.

Council advised that residents have reached out questioning information as to what the City has heard. It was advised that a summary of results will come forward at the next public meeting.

25-01-026 Family Celebrations at the Glacier

Councillor Locke commended staff for the skating activities and celebrations at the Glacier on New Year's Eve, advising he was very impressed with the turn out. He reported that there were a number of new Canadians who participated. It was a great way to kick off the New Year.

25-01-027 Old Pool Demolition

Councillor Locke reported that the demolition is completed on the old pool site, and the area looks great. Looking forward to expressions of interest being forwarded.

25-01-028 Thank you

Councillor Locke thanked his colleagues for the 16 years of recognition in municipal government. He advised he cannot do this job without the support of his family, and extended sincere appreciation and thanks to them for 16 years of sacrifice to serve in his busy role as City Councillor.

25-01-029 Happy New Year

Mayor Aker wished everyone a Happy New Year, noting it's great to see everyone back.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm on a motion by Councillor Locke and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kieley.

Chairperson

City Clerk