



**CORPORATION OF THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

**December 2, 2025, 6:30 p.m.  
Held in Council Chambers, 285 County Road 44**

Members Present: Mayor Nancy Peckford  
Deputy Mayor John Barclay  
Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan  
Councillor Deb Wilson

Members Absent: Councillor Kristin Strackerjan

Staff Present: Karen Dunlop, Chief Administrative Officer  
Amy Martin, Director of Planning and Development  
Mike Finley, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services  
Randy Urslak, Fire Chief  
Tana Torch, Director of Parks Recreation & Culture  
Kaitlin Bos, Municipal Clerk

Others Present: Jeff Breedon, Laura Breedon, Rebecca Campbell, Jayne Couch  
and Rose David.

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor N. Peckford called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Mayor N. Peckford advised that Councillor K. Strackerjan has sent her regrets for this evenings meeting.

**B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Deputy Mayor J. Barclay read the land acknowledgement.

**C. OPENING REMARKS**

Mayor N. Peckford provided the following opening remarks:

- Salvation Army Fill-a-bag Campaign;
- Ontario Woodlot Association's December Forest Seminar here at the Municipal Centre December 3. 2026;

- Salvation Army Radiothon or the Kemptville 73's annual Toy Drive this Friday;
- Santa Shuffle and Elf Walk locally or the Makers' Market in Bishops Mills this Saturday;
- Visit our Community Events Calendar – there's something happening nearly every day this month, from the upcoming ABBA tribute this Saturday in support of Parkinson's Canada - to the NG Concert Choir's Christmas Carols, the Kemptville Male Choir's "Merry and Bright," and the Community Christmas Day Dinner;
- 2026 Budget Survey is now open!
- Community Grants Program accepting applications until December 15, 2025; and,
- Winter Parking Ban.

Deputy Mayor J. Barclay

- The Spirit of Christmas in Oxford Mills- December 6, 2025 8:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

**D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**C-2025-444**

Moved by John Barclay  
 Seconded by Doreen O'Sullivan

THAT the Agenda for December 2, 2025 be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**E. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

There were no declaration of pecuniary interest.

**F. DEPUTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**1. Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee - Community Arts Council 2026 Budget Request**

Rebecca Campbell of the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee addressed Council.

Council asked and received a response from the delegate on the following:

- Clarification on the one-time startup fund.

**C-2025-445**

Moved by John Barclay

Seconded by Deb Wilson

THAT Council recommends to Staff the inclusion of the one-time \$12,000.00 budget request in the 2026 Budget for the formation of the Community Arts Council

**CARRIED**

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

**C-2025-446**

Moved by Doreen O'Sullivan

Seconded by John Barclay

THAT Consent Agenda Item G.1. and G.2. be approved.

**CARRIED**

**1. CAO-2025-036 - 2026 Vote Counting Technology and Alternative Voting Method By-law**

THAT Council adopts By-law 68-2025 being a By-law to approve Vote Counting Equipment, and Internet and Telephone as Alternative Voting Methods for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

**2. CAO-2025-037 - Request to Extend the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

THAT Council approves of an interim update to the Municipalities Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025) to extend the term of the Plan through to the end of 2026; and,

THAT Council directs Staff to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to prepare a comprehensive review and update of the Municipality's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in 2026.

**H. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**C-2025-447**

Moved by Deb Wilson

Seconded by Doreen O'Sullivan

THAT the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as presented:

- November 24, 2025 Special Council Meeting; and,
- November 25, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**I. REPORTS**

**1. CAO-2025-035 - 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule**

Municipal Clerk, K. Bos introduced the report.

Council asked and received a response on the following:

- Clarification on the committee schedules; and,
- If there will be any special council meetings for the 2026 budget.

**C-2025-448**

Moved by Deb Wilson

Seconded by John Barclay

THAT Council approves the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule, as attached; and,

THAT Council approves the 2026 Committee Schedule as attached.

**CARRIED**

**2. CS-2025-016 - 2026 Department Work Plans and Community Strategic Plan Update**

Director of Corporate Strategy, H. Geneau introduced the report.

Council asked and received a response on the following:

- Status of the following;
  - Naloxone
  - Tree Care and Maintenance Policy
  - Zoning By-law Amendment to put in place the Tree Buffering
  - Columbarium
  - Specific Active Transportation Projects;

- Clarification on how Notice of Motions, and resolutions passed by Council come back, and timing;
- Clarification on how these plans are integrated throughout the Departments;
- Clarification on the status of of 1.2.1. Define MNG's identity, and the meaning of 'small-town feel' by consulting with community members
- Desire to review the development of an Urban-Rural Strategy.

Mayor N. Peckford brought forward a recommendation that the 2026 Department Work Plans and Community Strategic Plan Update be referred back to staff and that a facilitated session be held in February prior to Council receiving them.

Council directed Staff to bring forward all resolutions and notices of motions that have carried be included in the workplans.

**C-2025-449**

Moved by Doreen O'Sullivan

Seconded by Deb Wilson

THAT Council refers the Staff Report back to staff; and,

THAT staff and Council hold a facilitated Strategic Priorities Session in February 2025 to support the development of the 2026 Department Work Plans; and,

THAT staff report back to Council with updated draft Work Plans following the completion of the session.

**CARRIED**

**3. PRC-2025-031 - Public Arts Policy**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, T. Torch introduced the report.

Council asked and received a response on the following:

- Clarification on the annual budget process, and the maximum tax supported budget;
- Clarification on the annual funding requirements, and the reserve;
- Clarification on the carry-forward of the \$37,500.00 included in the 2025 operating budget;

- Dedicated reserve fund for Public Art; and,
- Establishing a dedicated reserve for the budget allocation.

Deputy Mayor J. Barclay brought forward the following amendments.

THAT the policy be amended to reflect the following "Council sets the annual allocation within the Parks, Recreation and Culture operating budget to support the Public Art Program up to 0.50% of the annual tax-supported budget" and,

THAT Council directs Staff to bring back a Public Art Reserve Fund By-law in 2026; and,

THAT Council directs Staff to transfer the \$37,500 from the 2025 operating budget to the Public Arts Reserve, once established.

Council now voted on the main motion, as amended.

**C-2025-450**

Moved by Deb Wilson

Seconded by John Barclay

THAT Council approve and adopt the Municipality of North Grenville Public Arts Policy, as amended in Attachment 1 to this report;

THAT Council direct staff to implement and administer the Public Arts Policy through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, with advisory support from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) in accordance with its Council-approved Terms of Reference;

THAT Council directs Staff to bring back a Public Art Reserve Fund By-law in 2026; and,

THAT Council directs Staff to transfer the \$37,500 from the 2025 operating budget to the Public Arts Reserve.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**4. PW-2025-042 - County Road 19 Servicing Option Review**

Director of Public Works, M. Finley introduced the report to Council.

Council asked and received a response from Staff on the following:

- Clarification on the extent of the expansion;
- Clarification on the conversations with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville on the sanitary mains;

- Potential start date of the construction;
- Clarification on the funding of the construction and if it is recoverable through development charges;
- Clarification on the timing, developers front ending the financing of the growth related construction;
- Clarification on the costs to design the sanitary solution;
- Clarification on the timeline and budget allocation;
- Clarification on draft the RFP, and timelines; and,
- If a cost estimate would be included in the design.

**C-2025-451**

Moved by John Barclay

Seconded by Deb Wilson

THAT Council direct staff to design a sanitary main on County Road 19 as the preferred sanitary servicing option.

**CARRIED**

**5. PW-2025-043 - Level 3 Low Water Condition Response**

Director of Public Works, M. Finley introduced the report to Council.

Council asked and received a response from Staff on the following:

- How quickly could we get an automatic bulk water filling station in place;
- Including an automatic bulk water filling station in the draft 2026 budget; and,
- Clarification on ability to restrict use in rural water areas.

**C-2025-452**

Moved by John Barclay

Seconded by Doreen O'Sullivan

THAT Council receives Staff Report PW-2025-043 Level 3 Low Water Condition Response for information.

**J. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1. Advocacy for Funds to Effectively Manage the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation**
  - 1. Town of Wasaga Beach**
- 2. Black Bear Harvest Management in Ontario**
- 3. Elect Respect Pledge**
  - 1. Village of Merrickville-Wolford**
- 4. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**
  - 1. Northumberland County Council**
- 5. Increased Income Support Thresholds for Veterans**
  - 1. Northumberland County Council**
- 6. North Grenville Public Library Board October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 7. Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund**
  - 1. Village of Merrickville-Wolford**
- 8. Proposed Amendments to Conservation Authorities Act**
  - 1. Town of Goderich**
  - 2. Township of Augusta**
- 9. St. Lawrence Region Energy Task Force**
  - 1. Village of Merrickville-Wolford**
- 10. Strengthening Self Defence Protections and addressing Rising Home Invasions in Ontario**
  - 1. Municipality of Calvin**
- 11. Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and Environmental Health in the Implementation of Bill 5**
  - 1. Municipality of Wawa**

**K. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

- 1. Notice of Motions for Consideration at this Meeting**
  - 1. Support for Local Governance of Conservation Authorities**

Councillor D. Wilson introduced the Notice of Motion.

**C-2025-453**

Moved by Deb Wilson

Seconded by John Barclay

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and municipalities within the Rideau River watershed established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) in 1970 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs; and,

WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC and RVCA jurisdictions currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years; and,

WHEREAS SNC and RVCA deliver essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of significant public conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements; and,

WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency,

with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring; and,

WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management; and,

WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act; and,

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities including SNC and RVCA already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures; and,

WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's and RVCA's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT the Council of the Municipality of North Grenville urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars; and;

FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations; and,

FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model; and,

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation and Rideau Valley watersheds;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and,
- Conservation Ontario.

**CARRIED**

**2. Notice of Motions for Consideration at a future Meeting of the Council**

**L. PETITIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no petitions and/or written communications from the public.

**M. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no miscellaneous or unfinished business.

**N. PERIOD FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the media or public.

**O. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW**

**C-2025-454**

Moved by John Barclay  
Seconded by Doreen O'Sullivan

THAT the Confirmation By-Law as attached to this Agenda be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed in Open Council.

**CARRIED**

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

**C-2025-455**

Moved by                    Deb Wilson  
Seconded by                Doreen O'Sullivan

THAT we do now adjourn at 8:23 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Mayor.

**CARRIED**

DRAFT