



**CITY OF BATHURST**  
**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**May 20, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers - City Hall**

Recording of Attendance

Mayor K. Chamberlain  
Councillor P. Anderson  
Councillor D. Branch  
Councillor S. Brunet  
Councillor R. Hondas  
Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc  
Councillor S. Legacy  
Councillor M. Skerry  
Deputy Mayor M. Willett

Absent

Councillor D. Knowles

Appointed Officials

T. Pettigrew, CAO  
A. Parker, City Clerk  
M. Abernethy, City Engineer  
D. Boucher, Fire Chief  
L. Foulem, Corporate Communications Manager  
M. A. LaPlante, Assistant City Manager  
C. Legacy, Director of Economic Development  
D. McLaughlin, Development Officer  
N. R. Rabé Harou, Junior Urban Planner  
C. Roy, Executive Administrator  
R. Wilbur, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism  
M. Bouffard, Director of Municipal Planning  
D. Hammel, Assistant Deputy Chief of Fire

1. **MOMENT OF REFLECTION / TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor M. Willett

**THAT** the Agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Regular Public Meeting Held on May 5, 2025**

**Moved by** Councillor M. Skerry

**Seconded by** Councillor R. Hondas

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Public Meeting dated May 5, 2025, be approved as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Retirement - Fire Chief Boucher**

Council recognized and celebrated the retirement of Fire Chief Danny Boucher, marking the end of a distinguished career spanning over 27 years with the Bathurst Fire Department.

Chief Boucher began his career in fire services as a Volunteer Firefighter and officially joined the City of Bathurst as a Temporary Firefighter on July 27, 1998. Through years of dedicated service, he progressed through the ranks—serving as 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Firefighter, then advancing to Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Fire Chief in 2016, and ultimately assuming the role of Fire Chief on October 18, 2021. Throughout his tenure, Chief Boucher was also recognized as a dedicated trainer and mentor, generously sharing his expertise with colleagues.

On behalf of Council, appreciation was extended to Fire Chief Boucher for his outstanding service, leadership, and steadfast commitment to public safety. Council offered best wishes to Chief Boucher in his well-deserved retirement.

**7. FINANCE**

**7.1 Accounts Payable Totals for April 2025**

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch

**Seconded by** Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

**THAT** the accounts payable totals, including payroll, for the month of April 2025, be approved as follows:

Operating - \$1,243,075

Capital - \$278,748

Total - \$2,997,161

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 8. MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS

### 8.1 Public Presentation - Rezoning Request for 555 Evangeline Drive by Nahyssa Rose Rabé Harou

The City of Bathurst intends to amend By-Law No. 2006-01 “The City of Bathurst Municipal Plan By-Law” and By-Law No. 2008-01 “The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law” to reflect a zoning and land use change for a portion of the property located at 555 Evangeline Drive, bearing PID 20784823. For the purposes of the municipal plan, the future land use designation is changed from “Communication Tower” to “Commercial”. For the purpose of the zoning by-law, the zoning is changed from “Communication Tower (CT)” to “Highway Commercial (HC)”.

The purpose of this rezoning is to specify that the amendments adopted by the council in 2019 were for a portion of the property and not for the entire property.

### 8.2 Public Presentation - Rezoning Request for 1935 St Peter Avenue by Nahyssa Rose Rabé Harou

The City of Bathurst intends to amend By-Law No. 2008-01 entitled “The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law”) to permit a zoning change for a portion of the property located at 1935 St. Peter Avenue, bearing PID 20802625. The proposed amendment would change the zoning designation from “Communication Tower (CT)” to “Highway Commercial (HC).”

The purpose of this rezoning is to specify that the amendment adopted by the council in 2019 was for a portion of the property and not for the entire property.

### 8.3 Council Resolution to Amend the Municipal Plan and the Zoning By-Law Pursuant to Section 111 of the Community Planning Act for 555 Evangeline Drive

**Moved by** Councillor R. Hondas  
**Seconded by** Councillor S. Legacy

**WHEREAS** the City of Bathurst proposes to amend By-Law No. 2006-01 entitled “The City of Bathurst Municipal Plan By-Law” and By-Law 2008-01 entitled “The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law” to allow the designation and use of the following lands as follows:

Change the zoning of a portion of the lot bearing civic number 555 Evangeline Drive and bearing PID 20784823. For the purposes of the municipal plan, the future land use designation is changed from “Communication Tower” to “Commercial”. For the purpose of the zoning by-law, the zoning is changed from “Communication Tower (CT)” to “Highway Commercial (HC)”.

The purpose of this rezoning is to specify that the amendments adopted by the council in 2019 were for a portion of the property and not for the entire property.

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

1. By-laws amending the Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law be drafted for this purpose,
2. The City Clerk, acting on behalf of the Council, see that the public notice prescribed in section 111 of the *Community Planning Act* is posted on the municipality’s website to announce the Council’s intention, the day and place for the consideration of objections to the proposed by-laws, and

3. Consideration of objections to the proposed by-laws take place at 6:30 p.m. on July 7, 2025, in the Council Chambers.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**8.4 Adoption of Restrictions and Conditions Pursuant to Section 59 of the Community Planning Act for Property Located on Daniel Drive and Vanier Boulevard**

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch

**Seconded by** Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

**WHEREAS** Council members approve the agreement between 679798 NB Inc. and the City of Bathurst and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign all related documents on behalf of the City; and

**WHEREAS** the Municipality has received a request from the owner to amend the zoning of the parcel bearing PID 20929683 to allow the development of a residential complex comprising several multi-unit rowhouses; and

**WHEREAS** the Council intends to adopt By-law No. 2025-01Z to permit this development as a conditional rezoning pursuant to section 59 of the *Community Planning Act*; and

**WHEREAS** the Council wants to add terms and conditions through a conditional rezoning agreement attached to By-law No. 2025-01Z to ensure, once the rezoning is completed, that the parcel is developed in accordance with the terms and conditions listed in the agreement; and

**WHEREAS** subsection 59(2) of the *Community Planning Act* stipulates that this agreement, once entered into, will only take effect after certified copies of the rezoning by-law and the agreement are filed in the land registration office.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following terms and conditions be imposed on the parcel:

1. Any new access point between the property and adjoining streets must be approved by the Public Works Department.
2. The owner must contact Surface Water Management of the Department of the Environment and Local Government to obtain a watercourse and wetland alteration permit, if required.
3. The owner must comply with all recommendations made by the consultant in the geotechnical study, particularly those concerning slope stability:
  - a. Site slopes in the construction areas, parking lot and driveway should not be significantly raised from the existing elevation.
  - b. No additional fill should be added to slopes without the approval of the geotechnical engineer.
  - c. Existing vegetation on slopes must not be removed.
  - d. Measures must be taken to ensure that runoff, roof drains and drainage pipes are disposed of in such a way as not to cause erosion or saturation of slopes. Such measures could include riprap-lined swales/ditches on the slope or retention basins with drains falling at the base of the slopes.

- e. Proposed developments should be set back at least 3.5 meters from the edge of the nearest slope.
  - f. The final drawing showing the footprint of the proposed development must be submitted to the geotechnical engineer for review and approval.
4. The development of the residential complex must be consistent with the development concepts, architectural plans and other documents submitted to the Municipal Council and to the Planning Department as part of the rezoning process. If, in the opinion of the Planning Department, the final layout deviates only slightly from the concepts presented, these plans must be re-evaluated and approved by the Planning Advisory Committee as a variance. If, in the opinion of the Planning Department, the proposed modifications are major, these plans will have to be brought back to Council for review and approval by resolution.
  5. All provisions of the zoning by-law continue to apply.
  6. The above-mentioned terms and conditions are binding upon the parties, their administrators, officers, heirs, and assigns.
  7. On the rezoning of the land, the land in the zone and any building or structure on the land shall not be developed or used except in accordance with this conditional rezoning agreement, the terms and conditions imposed, and the time limits prescribed.
  8. The parties acknowledge having read the contents of this document and declare having signed it.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8.5 Proposed Municipal and Zoning By-Law Amendments - Daniel Drive and Vanier Boulevard**

### **8.5.1 Second Reading By-Law 2025-01M**

**Moved by** Councillor M. Skerry

**Seconded by** Councillor P. Anderson

**THAT** By-Law 2025-01M, entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 2006-01 entitled "The City of Bathurst Municipal Plan By-Law"" be read for the second time (by title).

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **8.5.2 Second Reading By-law 2025-01Z**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor M. Willett

**Seconded by** Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

**THAT** By-Law 2025-01Z, entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law 2008-01 entitled "The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law" be read for the second time (by title).

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 8.5.3 Third Reading By-Law 2025-01M

**Moved by** Councillor S. Legacy  
**Seconded by** Councillor R. Hondas

**THAT** By-Law 2025-01M, entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 2006-01 entitled "The City of Bathurst Municipal Plan By-Law"" be read for the third time (by title).

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 8.5.4 Third Reading By-law 2025-01Z

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor M. Willett  
**Seconded by** Councillor D. Branch

**THAT** By-Law 2025-01Z, entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law 2008-01 entitled "The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law" be read for the third time (by title).

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 8.6 Submission to the Minister of the By-Law to Amend the Municipal Plan Pursuant to Section 112 of the Community Planning Act

### 8.6.1 Rezoning for Daniel Drive and Vanier Boulevard

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch  
**Seconded by** Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

**WHEREAS** section 112 of the *Community Planning Act* requires that the Council applies to the Minister for approval of by-law 2025-01M; and

**WHEREAS** the by-law conforms to the requirements of the said Act;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City Clerk, acting on behalf of the Council, apply to the Minister of Local Government and Government Reform for approval of the by-law as prescribed in subsection 112(2) of the said Act.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

### 9.1 Miramichi Lane Reduction Study

Council has requested additional information and has therefore tabled the matter. The following questions were raised and will be addressed at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

In response to the question about the possibility of a three-lane road, due to the large number of opposing driveways and entrances along the route, adding a center lane could significantly increase the risk of head-on collisions. Additional information will be brought to the next meeting outlining the traffic volumes and scenarios that would typically justify a three-lane design. It is believed that the number of driveways presents a serious safety concern. Furthermore, the report from the engineering consultants did not recommend a three-lane configuration.

One councillor stated that Route 430 is significantly busier than Miramichi Avenue, with a high volume of truck traffic. Despite being only two lanes, it has not posed any issues—traffic generally flows smoothly.

A question was raised regarding the actual cost savings for the city. It was noted that if 79% of the project is funded, the city is effectively only saving approximately \$500,000 by opting for a two-lane design instead of a four-lane. Additionally, concerns were expressed about the implications for adjacent properties along Miramichi Avenue. If the road is reduced to two lanes, what will happen to the excess land? Will it be returned to property owners, or will the city retain responsibility for maintaining these areas—including lawns, driveways, and entrances? If the city retains responsibility, the projected annual savings of \$30,000 may not be realized, and additional maintenance costs could be incurred.

In response, while it is true that the project is 79% funded, the provincial funding allocated for highway projects is limited. This means the funds used for this project could not be redirected elsewhere, so any expenditure still represents a cost to the city. Technically, the city saves only 21% in direct tax dollars, but the overall budget impact remains the same—using the funds here means they cannot be used on another project.

Regarding property impacts, the right-of-way will not change. It will remain at 66 feet, consistent with other streets in the city. The reduction to a two-lane design simply means there will be more green space between the road and private property. Residents will have larger front yards and longer driveways, but the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for those areas will remain with the property owners, as is standard throughout the city. The narrowing of the roadway does not affect the width of the right-of-way, and the city will retain possession of that space.

It was clarified that the only section that would be reduced to two lanes is between Rough Waters Drive and Victor Street. And only one phase has been approved under the Provincial Designated Highway Program.

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch  
**Seconded by** Councillor S. Brunet

**WHEREAS** the City has identified Miramichi Avenue as a priority area under the Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership Program (PMHP) for the coming years; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Bathurst contracted Roy Consultants to complete a traffic analysis report for Miramichi Avenue; and

**WHEREAS** City Engineer Matthew Abernethy presented the Traffic Analysis - Miramichi Avenue Lane Reduction Study during the Regular Public Meeting held on May 5, 2025;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the City of Bathurst hereby receives and accepts the Miramichi Avenue Lane Reduction Study completed by Roy Consultants as presented by City Engineer Matthew Abernethy on May 5, 2025.

**MOTION TABLED**

**Moved by** Councillor R. Hondas  
**Seconded by** Councillor S. Legacy

**THAT** the motion be tabled to another meeting until council can receive more information.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9.2 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

**Moved by** Councillor R. Hondas  
**Seconded by** Councillor M. Skerry

**WHEREAS** Councillor Knowles was nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor for a first term at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 12, 2025;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Councillor Knowles be hereby appointed as Deputy Mayor for a first term, to serve until the conclusion of their current term of office on Council.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9.3 2025 Grants Distribution

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch  
**Seconded by** Councillor S. Brunet

**THAT** the grant distribution be approved as follows as discussed by during the Committee of the Whole meeting held May 12, 2025:

<b>Association</b>	<b>Proposed Amount</b>
La Louga BBQ	\$1,000 (\$500 per event)
Curling Club	\$15,000 annually for five years, totaling \$75,000
François Foulem	\$600
Art Society	\$850
Festival théâtre en Acadie	\$550

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by** Councillor R. Hondas  
**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor M. Willett

**THAT** the grant distribution be approved as follows as recommended by the Grant Committee:

<b>Association</b>	<b>Proposed Amount</b>
Festival Chaleur Bantou	\$1,000
École secondaire Népisiguit - Project Enroute II	\$6,250 annually for four years, totalling \$25,000

**Seven (7) For:** Councillors Willett, Brunet, Leblanc, Branch, Hondas, Legacy, Skerry

**One (1) Opposed:** Councillor Anderson

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **9.4 Council Composition, Salaries and Voting Privileges Report**

**Moved by** Councillor M. Skerry

**Seconded by** Councillor R. Hondas

**WHEREAS** the City of Bathurst contracted Strategic Engagement Stratégique Chaleur Inc. (SESC) to conduct a comprehensive review and provide recommendations on the salary levels of the Mayor and Councillors, the composition of City Council, and the voting privileges of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS** Jacques Dubé, President of SESC, authored the report and presented the findings and recommendations during the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on May 12, 2025; and

**WHEREAS** the report was informed by a comparative analysis of eighteen municipalities across Atlantic Canada, a review of relevant municipal by-laws, historical salary data, and provincial legislative frameworks;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the City of Bathurst hereby receives the report prepared by Strategic Engagement Stratégique Chaleur Inc., as presented by Jacques Dubé on May 12, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **9.5 Council Composition**

**Moved by** Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor M. Willett

**WHEREAS** the Council of the City of Bathurst has reviewed the current structure of Council; and

**WHEREAS** Council has determined that a reduction in the number of Council members would improve efficiency and better reflect the needs of the community;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the City of Bathurst hereby agrees to change the composition of Council to eight (8) members, excluding the Mayor; and that the City Clerk be authorized to initiate the formal process by notifying the department of Environment and Local Government of Council's decision.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **9.6 Items Discussed In-Camera**

##### **9.6.1 License Agreement - East Coast Adventure Co.**

**Moved by** Councillor M. Skerry

**Seconded by** Councillor S. Legacy

**THAT** members of Council approve the license agreement between East Coast Adventure Co. and the City of Bathurst for the establishment of a leisure equipment rental kiosk on the property located at Queen Street, Bathurst near the Promenade Waterfront Development and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign all related documents on behalf of the City as discussed In-Camera on May 5, 2025, pursuant to section 68 of the *Local Governance Act*.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9.6.2 Deed for PID 20020061**

**Moved by** Councillor D. Branch  
**Seconded by** Councillor S. Brunet

**THAT** members of Council approve that the City of Bathurst convey all of its interest in the property located north of PID 20020061 and south of Blanchard Avenue to Mr. David Charles Vautour, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign all related documents on behalf of the City as discussed In-Camera on May 5, 2025, pursuant to section 68 of the *Local Governance Act*.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**10.1 Reports from Administration**

None

**10.2 Reports from Committees**

**10.2.1 Coronation Park by Councillor Anderson**

As part of Sports and Recreation Month, the Coronation Park Committee will host a "Kick-Off to Summer" event on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 p.m. The event will include games, barbecues, and activities for children. It will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the McFlurry.

**10.2.2 McFlurry (30th Anniversary) by Councillor Anderson**

Originally created in Bathurst, the McFlurry's official anniversary is June 7th, and the celebration will be combined with Kids Day in the park on Saturday.

**10.3 Report from the Mayor**

- **BHS Student Cleanup Initiative:** A special thank you to the students of Bathurst High School. Once again, this year, students generously dedicated time to assist with garbage cleanup around the city. On behalf of the Mayor and City Council, appreciation is extended to all students and teachers involved.
- **LGBTQ+ Flag Raising (May 16):** The LGBTQ+ flag raising ceremony was held on May 16. Students have also offered to repaint the Pride crosswalk if paint is provided—an excellent gesture of community involvement.

- Chaleur Chamber of Commerce AGM (May 13): Attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Chaleur Chamber of Commerce showed strong community participation and engagement.
- Terry Fox School Flag Ceremony (May 14): Terry Fox School held a significant flag-raising ceremony, permanently raising the Grand Council Mi'kmaq flag—an important act of recognition and respect toward Indigenous heritage.
- Génie-Art Project at Place des jeunes (May 14): Participation in the inauguration of the Génie-Art project at Place des jeunes marked a meaningful collaboration between artist Graziella Matteau and students of PDJ. A bistro was officially opened to provide food to youth in need. Congratulations to Ms. Sophie Bellefleur and to all educators and students involved in the initiative.
- Bathurst Art Society Annual Opening (Saturday, May 24): The Bathurst Art Society will host its annual opening from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Waterfront. Featuring works by local artists, this exhibit is highly recommended for those who appreciate community art.
- Explore the Land, Learn the Stories – Pabineau First Nation Event (Sunday, May 25): A family-friendly, hands-on event focusing on Indigenous history and culture—centered around Canadian Geographic's Indigenous Peoples of Canada initiative—will be held at the Bathurst Education Centre, 155 Munro Street, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Opening ceremony begins at 10 a.m. More information is available on the Pabineau First Nation Facebook page.
- Alzheimer's Walk (Sunday, May 25): The Walk for Alzheimer's will take place at KC Irving Centre. Registration is from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., with the walk beginning at 1 p.m. Community support is encouraged for this important cause.

### 10.3.1 Proclamation - Intergenerational Day

Mayor Chamberlain proceeded to read the proclamation for Intergenerational Day Canada June 1, 2025.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by** Councillor R. Hondas

**Seconded by** Councillor D. Branch

**THAT** the Regular Public Meeting be adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Kim Chamberlain / MAYOR

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Amy-Lynn Parker / CITY CLERK