



CITY OF BATHURST
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

September 15, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers - City Hall

Recording of Attendance

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

Appointed Officials

T. Pettigrew, CAO
A. Parker, City Clerk
J.-S. Chiasson, Communications Officer
C. Legacy, Director of Economic Development
C. Roy, Executive Administrator
R. Wilbur, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
M. Bouffard, Director of Municipal Planning

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

Moved by Councillor M. Willett

Seconded by Councillor P. Anderson

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 September 2, 2025**

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor M. Skerry

THAT the minutes of the Regular Public Meeting dated September 2, 2025, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. **PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 **Victoria Park Enhancement Committee Inc.**

An overview of completed and ongoing projects for 2025 was presented. Completed work included preparation of the community garden, tilling, and the purchase of new equipment; improvements to flower beds with mulch, flowers, and geo-textile; maintenance of two sheds and water storage equipment; and the purchase of doggy bags, dispensers, and signage for dog walkers. To date, approximately \$5,000 has been spent.

Ongoing projects include rebuilding the remaining flower beds and replacing an old picnic table with a composite model. It was also requested that pavement improvements be considered as part of the City's future works. These initiatives are intended to maintain the safety and attractiveness of the park's green space.

Council was asked to consider an allocation of \$5,000 for Victoria Park during the upcoming budget season.

7. **FINANCE**

7.1 **Accounts Payable Totals for August 2025**

Moved by Councillor D. Branch

Seconded by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

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

Operating - \$960,722

Capital - \$921,692

Total - \$4,506,825

MOTION CARRIED

8. MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS

8.1 Receipt of the Planning Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Zoning By-Law Amendments

The Planning Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the Zoning By-law at its August meeting. Twenty-eight minor amendments were identified, mainly to correct errors and adjust development standards. The Committee recommends that Council adopt the amendments as submitted.

8.2 Hearing of Objections or Support Regarding the Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendments

A public notice concerning the proposed Zoning By-law amendments was published, as required under section 111 of the *Community Planning Act*. No written objections were received.

Members of the public were invited to express their views on the proposed amendments.

8.3 Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendments

8.3.1 First Reading of By-Law 2025-07Z

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Knowles

Seconded by Councillor D. Branch

THAT the proposed By-Law 2025-07Z entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 2008-01 Entitled "The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law"" shall be read 3 times by title as per requirements specified in the *Local Governance Act*, subsection 15 (3); and

THAT the above-mentioned proposed By-Law may be examined by contacting the City Clerk during regular office hours; and

THAT the above-mentioned proposed By-Law shall be posted to the City of Bathurst Website and Facebook page, as per the *Local Governance Act*, subsection 70 (1) c; and

THAT the purpose of the above-mentioned proposed By-Law is to modify certain provisions of the zoning by-law to address some inconsistencies.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT proposed By-Law 2025-07Z entitled "A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 2008-01 Entitled "The City of Bathurst Zoning By-Law"" be read for the first time, by title.

MOTION CARRIED

8.3.2 Second Reading of By-Law 2025-07Z

Moved by Councillor S. Legacy

Seconded by Councillor D. Branch

THAT By-Law 2025-07Z, 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

8.4 Establishing the Composition of Council and Determining the Local Governance System of the City of Bathurst

8.4.1 First Reading of By-Law 2025-05

Moved by Councillor D. Branch

Seconded by Councillor S. Brunet

THAT the proposed By-Law 2025-05 entitled “Establishing the Composition of Council and Determining the Local Governance System of the City of Bathurst” shall be read 3 times by title as per requirements specified in the *Local Governance Act*, subsection 15 (3); and

THAT the above-mentioned proposed By-Law may be examined by contacting the City Clerk during regular office hours; and

THAT the above-mentioned proposed By-Law shall be posted to the City of Bathurst Website and Facebook page, as per the *Local Governance Act*, subsection 70 (1) c; and

THAT the purpose of the above-mentioned proposed By-Law is to amend the composition of Council in anticipation of the May 2026 municipal elections.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT proposed By-Law 2025-05 entitled “Establishing the Composition of Council and Determining the Local Governance System of the City of Bathurst” be read for the first time, by title.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4.2 Second Reading of By-Law 2025-05

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor S. Legacy

THAT By-Law 2025-05, entitled "Establishing the Composition of Council and Determining the Local Governance System of the City of Bathurst" be read for the second time (by title).

MOTION CARRIED

9. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

9.1 UMNb Voting Members

Moved by Councillor P. Anderson

Seconded by Councillor M. Willett

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Bathurst hereby resolves that Councillor LeBlanc be appointed as the voting member at meetings of the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB), with Mayor Chamberlain appointed as the alternate voting member.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2 Public Awareness - Rail Safety Week

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Knowles

Seconded by Councillor S. Legacy

WHEREAS Rail Safety Week is to be held across Canada from September 15 to 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, 261 railway crossing and trespassing incidents occurred in Canada in 2024; resulting in 68 avoidable fatalities and 58 avoidable serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railway rights-of-way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS Operation Lifesaver is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the public, rail industry, governments, police services, media and others to raise rail safety awareness; and

WHEREAS CN and Operation Lifesaver have requested City Council adopt this resolution in support of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness, save lives and prevent injuries in communities, including our municipality;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to support national Rail Safety Week to be held from September 15 to 21, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10.1 Reports from Administration

10.1.1 Economic Development by Chris Legacy

The Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) is a federal initiative that provides funding to municipalities committed to lasting housing reforms, with the goal of removing barriers such as slow approvals and restrictive zoning in order to build more homes, faster, to meet the needs of growing communities. In 2024, the City of Bathurst received initial funding of \$3,012,000 and committed to implementing seven action plan initiatives, including adjustments to residential parking requirements, increasing housing density, permitting accessory dwelling units (ADUs), streamlining permitting processes, adopting a municipal land disposition policy, developing a municipal infrastructure plan, and creating housing development grant policies. In Year 1, the City permitted 125 units, valued at nearly \$14.9 million in construction, of which 31 were affordable units.

In 2025, Bathurst was recognized as one of Canada's top 27 performing municipalities under HAF and received an additional \$320,000 in funding. A new target of 170 permitted units by 2026 was established, and the City committed to an eighth initiative: reviewing its zoning bylaw to align with CMHC's Housing Design Catalogue. Year-to-date results for 2025 include 254 permitted units, valued at \$37.3 million in construction, with 30 designated as affordable units. The target was exceeded, with performance reaching 223% of the objective, based on a total of 170 units.

Cumulatively, between 2024 and 2025, Bathurst permitted 379 units, including 272 new builds and 107 conversions, representing a total construction value of \$52.2 million and 61 affordable units. To date, seven of the eight initiatives have been completed, with strong progress shown on the action plan. The City has already more than doubled the original HAF

objective, achieving over 340 units just halfway through the program, and has fully committed \$3.3 million in development grants, successfully leveraging available funding.

10.1.2 Parks, Recreation and Tourism by Ryan Wilbur

The Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department provided an update covering multiple facilities, programs, and initiatives. At the Bathurst Aquatic Center, work focused on organizational onboarding and support through shared services in areas such as IT, Finance, Human Resources, Health and Safety, and Communications. Infrastructure updates included the installation of a new rooftop unit, improvements to the security system, and upgrades to phone systems.

In Parks Operations, recent and upcoming projects included the installation of swings at Coronation Park and planning for a splash pad project in 2026, as well as the addition of a pickleball court at Centennial Park. Parks and Recreation Month was recognized, and at Youghall Beach, capital work on the canteen building was completed while erosion concerns continue to be monitored.

At the Promenade Waterfront and Visitor Information Center, visitor traffic reached 5,924 as of September 1, 2025. Infrastructure updates included boardwalk capital work and investments to address aging infrastructure. A range of events were hosted, including community music five times per week, Hospitality Days Idol, artisan workshops, and the Harvest Festival scheduled for September 20. The Chal Baie Boutique reported record sales in 2025.

The K.C. Irving Regional Center welcomed a new major tenant, the Chaleur Lightning of the Maritime Hockey League. Demand for ice at the facility has reached record levels. This past spring and summer, the facility hosted new hockey programs, summer camps, and spring ice, and the demand for prime-time ice continues to increase. Infrastructure updates included capital work on the ice plant controls, installation of a new digital screen, updates to team rooms and branding, improvements to the Florence Roussy room, and boardroom upgrades.

At the Daly Point Nature Reserve, visitor traffic exceeded 33,000 visits in 2024, with visitors coming from a global demographic. Ongoing maintenance continues, and the site hosted events such as foraging workshops, school visits, haunted trails, a 5K fun run, and the Easter Egg Hunt, among others.

Programming and events throughout the department included a range of community activities such as Volunteer Recognition, Canada Day, New Brunswick Day, Acadian Day, Community Registration Day, and the Santa Claus Parade. Program offerings included summer day camps, open gym at the Pavilion, access to the fitness track, and public skating and roller-skating programs.

10.2 Reports from Committees

None

10.3 Report from the Mayor

The Mayor noted that the Lightning Chaleur will hold their home opener on Friday at 7 p.m. at the KCI Center. The Mayor also attended the ElVino event at 4 Rivers, organized by the Chaleur Chamber of Commerce. In addition, upcoming activities include the Harvest Festival at the Promenade Waterfront on Saturday, the Show and Shine for vintage cars and Corvettes near 13 Barrels, and a large sidewalk sale."

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor M. Skerry

THAT the Regular Public Meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Kim Chamberlain / MAYOR

Amy-Lynn Parker / CITY CLERK