



ARNPRIOR

Minutes of Council Meeting

June 9th, 2025, 6:30 PM

Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.

Council and Staff Attendance

Council Members Present (In-Person):

Mayor Lisa McGee
County Councillor Dan Lynch
Councillor Ted Strike
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Chris Toner
Councillor Chris Couper

Council Members Present (Virtual):

Council Members Absent:

Councillor Lynn Cloutier

Town Staff Present:

Robin Paquette, CAO
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client Services/Treasurer
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation
Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner
John Steckly, GM Operations
Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer
Rick Desarmia, Fire Chief
Chris Crowder, Captain/FPPO
Cory Nicholas, Deputy Fire Chief

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lisa McGee called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of Council being present except Councillor Lynn Cloutier.

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor Lisa McGee asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work, and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 199-25
Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Chris Couper

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, June 9th, 2025, be adopted as amended with the removal of item 12(d) (Nick Smith Center Meeting Room Lease – Arnprior Packers) and the addition of item 12(e) (Proclamation for Pollinator Week (June 16 – 22, 2025)).

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Question Period

None

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 200-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Ted Strike

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council listed under Item 7 (a) on the Agenda be adopted (Regular Meeting of Council – May 26, 2025).

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

None

9. Public Meetings

Resolution Number 201-25 (6:31 PM)
Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Chris Toner

That Council move into a Public Meeting regarding:

- a) Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment 4/24 (24 Ottawa St., 258 Albert St., and 257 and 269 John St. N.)
- b) Application for Zoning By-Law Amendment 5/25 (85 Madawaska Blvd.)

Resolution Carried

The public meeting was opened at 6:31 PM.

a) Zoning By-law Amendment 4/24 – 24 Ottawa St., 258 Albert St., and 257 and 269 John St. N.

Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner, provided an overview presentation outlining the proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment No. 4/24 for the subject property.

No public comments were received and no written comments received to this date.

b) Zoning By-law Amendment 5/25 – 85 Madawaska Blvd. (6:37 pm)

Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner, provided an overview presentation outlining the proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment No. 5/25 for the subject property.

Public Comments:

- Consultants from Novatech appeared on behalf of the applicant and indicated that they would be happy to answer any questions. Council did not have any questions for the consultants.

The public meeting was declared closed at 6:43 PM.

Resolution Number 202-25 (6:43 PM)

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council resume to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Resolution Carried.

10. Matter Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business
None

11. Notice of Motion(s)
None

12. Staff Reports

a) Impact of Ontario Regulation 343/22 on Fire Department Water Rescue Program,
Cory Nicholas, Deputy Fire Chief

Resolution Number 203-25

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council recognize Option 1B – Hybrid Certification as outlined below as the preferred approach to maintaining water and ice rescue capabilities for the Town of Arnprior Fire Department (AFD), considering operational requirements, volunteer

capacity, regulatory compliance, and long-term financial responsibility and direct staff to train to this standard; and

That Council directs staff to advise both the Town of Renfrew and Township of Horton that the Town of Arnprior wishes to discontinue the current Ice and Water Rescue Agreements designating the Arnprior Fire Department as the primary first response agency for water rescue.

Resolution Carried

- b) **Grant Application: Health & Safety Water Stream**, John Steckly, General Manager, Operations

Resolution Number 204-25
Moved by Chris Toner
Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council directs staff to make an application to the Health & Safety Water Stream grant program, for the proposed Victoria Street Reconstruction Project.

Resolution Carried

- c) **Bell Fire Monument**, Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer

Resolution Number 205-25
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council direct staff to amend the Long-Range Capital Forecast to include a \$20,000 capital project to install a bell monument at the Stanley Tourangeau Fire / Police Service Centre in 2026.

Resolution Amended

Resolution Number 206-25
Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Resolution Number 204-25 be amended to replace the wording as follows:

“That Council direct staff to proceed with a \$20,000 capital project to install a bell monument at the Stanley Tourangeau Fire / Police Service Centre in 2025, to be funded from the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund.”

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 207-25
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council direct staff to proceed with a \$20,000 capital project to install a bell monument at the Stanley Tourangeau Fire / Police Service Centre in 2025, to be funded from the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund.

Carried as amended

e) Proclamation for Pollinator Week, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 208-25
Moved by Chris Toner
Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council proclaim June 16th to 22nd, 2025, as Pollinator Week in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Deputy Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas, pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and

Whereas, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

Whereas, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

Whereas, the Town of Arnprior and its residents maintain green spaces throughout the Town that provide habitats to many pollinator species; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario provides producers with conservation assistance to promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

Whereas, the Arnprior and District Museum's clock tower will be lit up with the colours yellow and orange from June 16th to June 22nd, 2025 to show our support.

Now Therefore, the Council of the Town of Arnprior does hereby proclaim June 16th to 22nd, 2025, as Pollinator Week in the Town of Arnprior, as requested by the Environmental Advisory Committee, and encourages all residents to learn more about pollinators, plant native species that support pollinators, support local bees and beekeepers, and continue to promote the health and wellbeing of pollinators in our community.

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

a. Mayor's Report

Mayor McGee reported the following:

- Mayor McGee, the CAO, the General Manager of Operations and the Engineering Officer met with MPP Denault to discuss the Madawaska River Crossing Project. MPP Denault and staff are going to continue to review this project and see how they can support our needs to have this completed in a timely manner. Appreciate the timely response from our MPP and his continued support.
- The Town just concluded a really big weekend with Priorpalooza, the Big Give, and the first Sunday Market. It was great to see so many people show up for each event. Offered congratulations to MPP Denault on winning the "Off with your head challenge" at Priorpalooza.
- Last week the Town celebrated the opening of Pride Month and raised the Pride flag together in front of Town Hall.
- Last week the Mayor participated in a Strong Mayor Legislation Webinar which provided an overview of the legislation.

b. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Lynch reported the following from the County of Renfrew:

- At the last County meeting there were four delegations.
 - Health Chair, Michael Donahue, introduced the three German Paramedics who spent the week with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.
 - Jason St. Pierre and Lisa Severson provided an annual update from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, including the Cell Gap Project and highlights of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. In Renfrew County 47 new builds were planned with 27 of 47 new sites are in service, 25 upgrades were completed, and nine co-locations are in the process of being completed.
 - Nadia Prescott, Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team, made a presentation on the Primary Care Team expansion proposals recently submitted to address the needs in the communities of Arnprior and McNab/Braeside. This presentation will be scheduled for Arnprior's Council in the near future.

- Stefani Van Wijk, Chair, and Meghan James, Vice-Chair, of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) Board of Directors provided an annual update on the state of tourism in the Ottawa Valley, the critical role played by the OVTA and how tourism is fuelling economic growth and community vitality in the region. As well they commented on having other towns implement the Municipal Accommodations Tax, including Petawawa who started in January 2025 and has raised \$17,000 in the first quarter.
- On May 30, 2025, County Councillor Lynch attended May Day 2025 in Renfrew to support daycares. There were 462 attendees. Through the County Director of Community Services, Andrea Patrick, the Town of Arnprior's Manager of Culture/Curator, Emily Stovel, is now part of their network.
- This Wednesday County Councillor Lynch will be attending the AMO Rural Healthy Democracy Forum in Almonte.
- County Councillor Lynch will be participating in the Warden's Golf Tournament on June 20, 2025.
- The next County meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.

c. Committee Reports and Minutes

Councillor Chris Couper reported the following from the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee:

- The Committee had a Land Acknowledgement Workshop led by an Indigenous Culture and Heritage Consultant.
 - The workshop started by asking participants, what is a territory or land acknowledgment? A territory or land acknowledgment is intended to be an act of reconciliation by settlers on Indigenous lands. A meaningful statement is one from the heart involving recognition and respect for the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples and the human beings who still know these places as home.
 - One important fact the workshop presented was that land acknowledgments must include a recognition of the continued impacts of colonialism and include an action-based commitment to invest in these relationships and these homelands.
 - Land acknowledgments can easily become a token gesture rather than a meaningful practice. When the same land acknowledgment is read every time, it risks being a token gesture.
 - The Committee learned in their workshop to craft a very personal land acknowledgment, which would mean that everyone around the table would have their own land acknowledgment.
 - The Committee's next steps will be to receive all the guiding information that they discussed in the workshop and schedule a Special Meeting to summarize all this information for a presentation to Council.

Councillor Chris Toner reported the following from the Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Archives:

- The Archives have been working through a few issues with their emergency lighting. The unit needs replacement and Archive staff have been working along with town staff to get the new replacement quickly.
- The Archives has also purchased a new commercial grade canopy tent to replace the old consumer grade tent that failed. This more robust tent will better suit the Archive's planned outreach initiatives.
- The past two months have seen a lower volume of research requests but there were meaningful requests from the public that generated a total of \$838 in research-related sales. The lower research requests enabled more work to be completed on the backlog of digital transfers of audio tapes and video records and the online digitization efforts and maintenance of online records.
- The archivist has been assisting Laurie Dougherty in the completion of the Charles MacNamara exhibition. This upcoming exhibition will bring together years of research into a cohesive physical/mobile public exhibition. There was also a collaboration with the museum to digitize approximately 500 slides.
- Student placement Mariah and the abundance of volunteers are continuing to contribute significant work towards processing items in the backlog and supporting various research requests and projects.
- The Archives is continuing with public outreach and engagement through social media. A new blog series titled Behind the Vault: Discoveries in our Archives, aims to share fascinating archival finds. The first post in the series featured research by volunteer Dave Forsyth on the Three Bridges, an archival storytelling blog on the three Elgin St. bridges of Arnprior.
- The Archives voted in the new executive, Sara MacKenzie as president, Kim Clifford as vice president and Brian Gilhuly as treasurer.
- Following the board meeting we had a volunteer appreciation lunch and discussed the planned Archives Volunteer Showcase in the fall. Dates and times will be determined later.
- It is a very exciting time for the AMB Archives. The new president Sara has exciting new initiatives. Stay tuned and make sure to visit the AMB Archives webpage for some interesting blog posts.

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence Package No. I-25-JUN-11

Resolution Number 209-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Ted Strike

That Correspondence Package Number I-25-JUN-11 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 4: As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the provincial government is investing almost \$22 million to help municipalities and emergency response centres support the transition to a new 911 communications system known as Next Generation 911. He asked the CAO if this will affect the Town's Fire Calls through Brockville.
 - In response to County Councillor Lynch the CAO noted that this funding is to assist with upgrades needed to implement the Federally regulated Next Gen 911 system. Brockville dispatch who provides the Town's service is undertaking upgrades which could include new telephone systems, call handling systems and internal network and cyber security infrastructure. The new system allows for more features than traditional 911, including the ability to text, share videos, and send location data. It will also give emergency operators and dispatchers the ability to identify the location of a call using GPS coordinates, resulting in a safer, faster and more informed emergency response.
- Page 6: Good news for the Legion Veterans Service Officers as the Ontario government has launched its new Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence.
- Page 33: Good news for residents receiving the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) as income as the Ontario government intends to exempt the CDB as income.
- Page 75: Residents are asked to participate in the annual Silver Chain Challenge between the County of Lanark and the County of Renfrew. The challenge started on June 1st and residents can register through the County website to log their kilometers biked. The County with the most kilometers at the end of the month will win.
- Page 87: The Railway Association of Canada is asking municipalities to complete a survey on the modernization of the proximity guidelines of land close to railway operations. More information is available on the RailCan website. He asked the CAO if the Town has completed this survey.
 - In response to County Councillor Lynch the CAO noted that the survey appeared to have closed already but the Town will remain engaged with future opportunities.
- Page 115: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, is hosting a vital training session to support municipal councillors in understanding and addressing today's cybersecurity threats. On October 21, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, participants will engage in expert-led lectures, guided discussions, and practical activities that explore the evolving cyber threat landscape, highlight best practices in prevention, and clarify the leadership role of elected officials during a cyber event. He asked the CAO if she would be able to book councillors who are interested in attending.

- In response to County Councillor Lynch the CAO noted that she can certainly book any councillors that are interested in attending. She noted that the Town provides Council and staff with regular cybersecurity training opportunities through our IT consultant and reminded Council to continue to participate in these online sessions.
- Page 133: Recognized the Certificate of Appreciation to the Town of Arnprior received from the Physician Recruitment Committee for the Town's support for the latest version of Doctors Dining Duel held in April.

Councillor Chris Couper made the following comments:

- Page 19: As summer nears and people are looking to travel, there is no better time to explore and celebrate all the beauty and culture that Ontario has to offer. The Ontario Government has started a We Stand campaign to feature some of Ontario's landscapes and some of the province's top destinations. Ontario's tourism industry supports more than 325,000 jobs and contributes \$32 billion to Ontario's GDP. MPP Denault has helped announce over \$200 million to protect Ontario's tourism sector including festivals and events across the province.
- Page 62: Ontario just wrapped up Local Food Week. Now more than ever it is important to buy local, home-grown products and food in order to protect 871,000 jobs and \$51 billion in the agriculture and food sector. If you are looking to buy local, look for the Foodland Ontario logo when shopping or shop in local places like Arnprior's Sunday Market.

b) Correspondence Package No. A-25-JUN-07

Resolution Number 210-25
 Moved by Dan Lynch
 Seconded by Chris Toner

That Correspondence Package Number A-25-JUN-07 be received and the recommendations be brought forward for Council consideration.

Resolution Carried

15. By-laws & Resolutions

a) Resolutions

i. Municipal Grants Application (In-Kind Request) – Terry Fox Foundation

Resolution Number 211-25
 Moved by Dan Lynch
 Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Terry Fox Foundation for the 2025 Terry Fox Run; and

Whereas the Terry Fox Foundation is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy; and

Whereas the Terry Fox Foundation will be hosting the Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 14th, 2025, at Robert Simpson Park which is a fundraising event that supports the Terry Fox Foundation to fund cancer research; and

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council approve the request for waiving the Robert Simpson Park Gazebo Rental Fee (value of approximately \$550) on Sunday, September 14th, 2025, for the Terry Fox Run; and

Further That the Terry Fox Foundation be advised that it is mandatory to carry sufficient liability insurance and have the Town of Arnprior added as an additional insured for the event.

Resolution Carried

ii. Request for Support – Arnprior Regional Health Foundation – Water Bill Insert in July/August 2025 Water Bills

Resolution Number 212-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation; and

Whereas the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation has included a Community Update as a water bill insert in previous years to reach all local homes, share updates on their programming and provide an opportunity for local residents to give back to healthcare in a meaningful way; and

Further That Council approves the request from the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation to include a letter from the ARH Foundation in the July/August 2025 utility bill mailing to be delivered to homes in early September 2025 at no cost to the ARH Foundation.

Resolution Carried

16. Announcements

County Councillor Lynch made the following announcements:

- This past Saturday was a great Priorpalooza Event. Of note, Mayor McGee lost in a tie breaker at a Priorpalooza Jousting match to MPP Denault.
- The Lions Club is having their annual Jail or Bail this Saturday at Giant Tiger.
- This Saturday at 2:00 PM, the local Cadets will be having their graduation parade at the Arnprior District High School.

- On July 6, 2025, residents can attend the “Stone Soup” which will be held at the Christian Education Centre from 4:00PM – 7:00 PM.
- The Township of McNab/Braeside will be celebrating its 200-year anniversary on June 28, 2025 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

17. Closed Session

Resolution Number 213-25 (7:52 PM)

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council move into Closed Session to discuss one (1) matters pursuant to Section 239 (2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, to discuss a personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or Local Board employees (Secondary School Bursaries).

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 214-25 (8:07 PM)

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council resume to Open Session.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 215-25

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Chris Toner

That Council direct staff facilitate the awarding of the 2025 Secondary School Bursaries as directed.

Resolution Carried

18. Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution Number 216-25

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That By-law No. 7599-25, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 9th, 2025, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried


19. Adjournment

Resolution Number 217-25
Moved by Ted Strike
Seconded by Tom Burnette


That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Resolution Carried

Signatures



Lisa McGee, Mayor



Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk