



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of Council Meeting
November 10th, 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 Lynn Cloutier
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Chris Couper

Town Staff Present:

Robin Paquette, CAO
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation
Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer

Council Members Present (Virtual):

Council Members Absent:

Councillor Chris Toner

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 Chris Toner.

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 351-25
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Dan Lynch

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, November 10th, 2025, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Question Period

None

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 352-25

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Chris Couper

That the minutes of the Regular and Special Meetings of Council listed under Item 7(a) and (b) on the Agenda be adopted (Regular Meeting of Council – October 27, 2025, and Special Meeting of Council – November 3, 2025).

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

Presentations

- a) **Design Options for Robert Simpson Park**, Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation, & Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer

Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation and Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer, Facilities and Assets, provided background information on the phased approach noting the July 14th Council resolution, as well as provided Council with an overview presentation, as outlined in the Agenda Package. This presentation outlined the Design Options for Robert Simpson Park. Staff responded to questions.

The Public Engagement Survey will go live tonight and will be open until November 23rd for the community to provide their feedback. The public open house will be on November 13th from 6-8 pm at the Nick Smith Centre.

Mayor McGee and Council thanked staff for their presentation.

9. Public Meetings

None

10. Matter Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

11. Notice of Motion(s)

None

12. Staff Reports

None

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

a. Mayor's Report

Mayor McGee reported the following:

- Report from Police Services Board Meeting:
 - Discussed Police Services Board and Budget.
 - Received a presentation from a local police officer. This will be a regular event at the meetings, and the intention is that an individual police officer will attend and make a presentation about their scope.
 - Soon the community will be able to see the meetings as they will be livestreamed.
 - Received an update from the detachment commander.
 - Discussed the need to hire an administrative support person for the chair of the Board.
 - Recently there have been efforts, in collaboration with the Clerk's Office, to increase safety around the schools in Town during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.
 - There are still two vacant provincial seats on the board. One member of the community has put their name forward and someone else in the detachment area will also join.
 - Welcomed Councillor Jill Campbell from McNab/Braeside to the board.
- Had the pleasure of visiting MPP Denault at the Grand Opening of his Constituency Office in Pembroke last weekend. Many other members of Council attended as well.
- Had the pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of Council and Staff to the Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers Association (RCCTA) Meeting at the Nick Smith Centre. From Arnprior, the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Acting Manager of Finance and CAO were all in attendance. Attendees were invited to tour the revitalized arenas and spent the day learning, collaborating and networking.
- Continues to participate in Budget Working Group Sessions lead by the General Manager Client Services/Treasurer over the last two weeks. These have included the Museum, Waste Management, and the Corporation Taxation.

b. County Councillor's Report

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

- Taste of the Valley is on December 13th and will be the holiday edition at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 170 Ellis Avenue, Pembroke.
- Last Wednesday, a Special Corporate Services Committee was held that dealt with Council Salary, Warden Salary, Chair Premium, Ad Hoc Stipend, Benefits, Conference Expenses, and the Deputy Warden Position. A number of policy decisions were made which staff will implement for January 2027. One topic being researched by staff is an allowance for caregivers of Council members.

c. Committee Reports and Minutes

None

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence

i. Correspondence Package No. I-25-NOV-19

Resolution Number 353-25

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Correspondence Package Number I-25-NOV-19 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 15: The Ontario Government is investing \$43.9 million over three years to continue the province's After School Program. Regretfully the closest After School Program is located in Ottawa.
- Page 40: Good news for first time home buyers, the Ontario government is proposing to rebate the full 8% provincial portion of the HST for first time home buyers on new homes valued up to \$1 million.
- Page 48: To protect Ontario families during respiratory season, everyone six months and older can now receive their flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Page 84: The Ontario Government has made amendments to Ontario Regulation 406/19 and Ontario Regulation 153/04 to enable greater beneficial use of excess soil and remove barriers to redeveloping brownfield properties. Asked the CAO if these amendments have been beneficial to brownfield sites in Town.
 - The CAO noted that this legislation change is too recent to affect any properties that may be designated a brownfield site but will likely be beneficial in future redevelopment.
- Page 85: The Co-Operators Resilience Acceleration Lab is inviting municipalities to apply for funding to develop projects that reduce physical risks. Selected proposals may receive up to \$150,000 and expert guidance to prepare for private capital financing. Projects will be reviewed until January 30, 2026. Asked the CAO if the Town has considered applying for this funding.
 - The CAO noted that staff are reviewing this opportunity.

Councillor Chris Couper made the following comment:

- Page 53: Ontario is investing \$7 million to support the literary arts and publishers. Have spoken quite a bit about the economic impact of culture. This investment is really three different programs: Ontario Creates - \$5.1 million investment; Ontario Arts Council - \$1.9 million; and Experience Ontario 2025. Arts and Culture Tourism have significant economic impact here in Ontario. It benefits communities by attracting visitors and having visitors stay longer using local businesses. Encouraging to see investments in the literary sector and culture that support opportunities for entrepreneurship.

ii. **Correspondence Package No. A-25-NOV-11**

Resolution Number 354-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Ted Strike

That Correspondence Package Number A-25-NOV-11 be received and the recommendations be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Resolution Carried

15. By-laws & Resolutions

a) **By-laws**

Resolution Number 355-25
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Dan Lynch

That the following by-laws be and are hereby passed:

- i. By-law No. 7634-25 – Purchase and Sale Agreement (74 John Street N)
- ii. By-law No. 7635-25 – Sentinel Well Agreement (Boeing Canada)

Resolution Carried

Mayor McGee noted the purchase and sale of the parking lot at 74 John Street North, noting this was a great asset to move the Town forward. There is no intention or plan to have a special levy at this time, and this purchase is going to be funded from the reserves. She thanked the CAO and other staff involved for getting this done so quickly.

b) **Resolutions**

i. **One Year Extension to the Draft Approval of the Marshall's Bay Meadows Subdivision**

Resolution Number 356-25
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Dan Lynch

Whereas Council approved the recommendation for the plan of subdivision proposed by T. Anas Holding Inc. in September of 2014 and indicated to the approval authority, the County of Renfrew, that the proposed draft plan of subdivision was not premature, that it met the intent of the Provincial Policy Statements and requesting the conditions of draft approval as outlined in the staff report; and

Whereas draft approval was given by the County of Renfrew on August 5, 2015, with revised conditions issued on December 11, 2018, which had a lapsing date of December 11, 2023, however, the County has granted extensions to December 11, 2025; and

Whereas the applicant, Madawaska Regional Inc., has requested that Council provide a resolution in support of a request for extension, as the development is proceeding in a phased approach with Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4A registered, and the developer actively working on finalizing Phases 4B and 5.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council supports the request by Madawaska Regional Inc. for a further one-year extension to the draft approval of the Marshall's Bay Meadows Draft Plan of Subdivision (47-T-14002) to December 11, 2026 and that this resolution be forwarded to the County of Renfrew for consideration of approval.

Resolution Carried

ii. Resolution of Support – Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Resolution Number 357-25

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

Whereas the Town of Arnprior acknowledges that municipal infrastructure – roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems – underpin public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities; and

Whereas the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

Whereas in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

Whereas fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

Whereas predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure funding; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That

- The Town of Arnprior calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets; and
- The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope – and each individual municipal allocation – to the Ontario Consumer Price Index, calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year; and
- The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management; and

- The Province undertakes a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations; and
- A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding; and
- The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report – including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures – in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard; and
- The Clerk of the Town of Arnprior forward this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - The County of Renfrew
 - The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal

Resolution Carried

iii. Resolution of Support – Support for a Nation-Building 2+1 Highway Program on Highways 17 & 11, Phased Implementation, and Federal-Provincial Partnership under the Building Canada Act

Resolution Number 358-25

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Ted Strike

Whereas Canada's east–west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

Whereas four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

Whereas the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

Whereas modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

Whereas a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay → Cochrane, then Cochrane → Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew → Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie → Sudbury; Thunder Bay → Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices.

Whereas analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Council of the Town of Arnprior supports the County of Renfrew formally endorsing the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

That the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

That the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

- Phase 1: Highway 11 (North Bay → Cochrane) and Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew → Sudbury);
- Phase 2: Highway 11 (Cochrane → Nipigon) and Highway 17 (Thunder Bay → Kenora; Sault Ste. Marie → Sudbury); and

That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

That the program incorporates corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials); and

That this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information.

Resolution Carried

iv. Municipal Grant Request (In Kind) – Arnprior Braeside McNab Seniors at Home Program

Resolution Number 359-25

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Arnprior Braeside McNab Seniors at Home Program; and

Whereas the Arnprior Braeside McNab Seniors at Home Program is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy and supports the community in providing practical home support services, transportation, and socializing opportunities to encourage independent living and enhance the quality of life of seniors and adults with disabilities.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Council approves the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall rental fees (value of approximately \$365.00 plus HST) for the Arnprior Braeside McNab Seniors at Home Christmas Craft Fair to be held on December 6th, 2025; and

Further That the Arnprior Braeside McNab Seniors at Home Program 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

v. Municipal Grant Request (In Kind) – Renfrew County 55+ Summer Games 2026

Resolution Number 360-25

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Renfrew County 55+ Summer Games 2026; and

Whereas the Renfrew County 55+ Summer Games 2026 is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy and supports adults 55+ in the community by providing opportunities to increase social interaction, promoting physical and mental wellbeing, and promoting active living.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Council approves the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre arena rental fees (value of approximately \$1,300.00 plus HST) for the Renfrew County 55+ Summer Games 2026 to be held on June 9th and 10th, 2026; and

Further That the Renfrew County 55+ Summer Games 2026 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

vi. Municipal Grant Request (In Kind) – Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club

Resolution Number 361-25

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club; and

Whereas the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy and supports the community by bringing people, families, and friends together to give back to the community.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Council approves the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre arena rental fees (value of approximately \$145.00 plus HST) for the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club's Give Back Disco Skate to be held on December 21st, 2025; and

Further That the Arnprior Optimistic Women's Club 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

16. Announcements

Councillor Couper made the following announcements:

- Had the pleasure of attending the Museum on Friday night for Lisa Webber's performance. She put on an evening of stories and songs, and the theme was Songs of Peace and Remembrance. It featured lots of local connections, stories, and local talent. It was a nice event. MPP Denault attended as well, and it was a full house. Lisa Webber was grateful to the Manager of Culture/Curator who helped put the event together.
- Attended MPP Denault's Constituency Office Grand Opening in Pembroke. Thanked MPP Denault for his generosity with the leftover refreshments that he provided to be shared with the ringette players and parents.

County Councillor Dan Lynch made the following announcement:

- The Manager of Culture/Curator has coordinated the installation of mannequins with different military uniforms of people from Arnprior. At this Nick Smith Centre there is one from Nick Smith who was in the Air Force. At Town Hall there is one from Edna Veitch who was the first woman to join the army from Arnprior. Take the time to remember who our veterans are, and that they were the ones that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

17. Closed Session

Resolution Number 362-25 (7:38 PM)

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council move into Closed Session to regarding one (1) matter pursuant to Section 239(2) (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended to discuss a position, plan, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (By-Law Enforcement).

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 363-25 (7:58 PM)

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council resume to Open Session at 7:58 PM.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 364-25

Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council authorizes the CAO to enter into a 2-year extension, to the current agreement, with Municipal Law Enforcement Services (MLES) for the provision of By-law Enforcement Services, at an increased hourly rate, as discussed in closed session.

Resolution Carried

18. Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution Number 365-25

Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Ted Strike

That By-law No. 7636-25, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on November 10th, 2025, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution Number 366-25

Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Tom Burnette

That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Resolution Carried

Signatures



Lisa McGee, Mayor



Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk