



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of Council Meeting
February 23rd, 2026, 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.**

Council and Staff Attendance

Council Members Present):

County Councillor Dan Lynch
Councillor Ted Strike
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Lynn Cloutier
Councillor Chris Toner
Councillor Chris Couper

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Lisa McGee

Town Staff Present:

Robin Paquette, CAO
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client
Services/Treasurer
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
John Steckly, GM Operations
Kelly Vieira, Client Services Coordinator
Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community
Services/Planner

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Ted Strike 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 Mayor Lisa McGee.

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Deputy Mayor Ted Strike requested the Town Clerk complete the Land Acknowledgement Statement. Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk, 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 045-26
Moved by Chris Toner
Seconded by Dan Lynch

Be It Resolved That the amended agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, February 23rd, 2026, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Chris Couper declared a pecuniary interest on item 15(b)i (Resolution of Support – ReNature Foundation) as he is a paid employee of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

6. Question Period

None

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 046-26
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council listed under Item 7(a) on the Agenda be adopted (Regular Meeting of Council – February 9, 2026).

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

None

9. Public Meetings

Resolution Number 047-26 (6:33 PM)
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council move into public meeting regarding Application for Official Plan Amendment #10 – 400 Division Street.

Resolution Carried

Deputy Mayor Ted Strike opened the public meeting and asked staff to provide an overview of the application. Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner, provided an overview presentation of the application for Council and the public.

Deputy Mayor Ted Strike opened the floor to public comments with the following being a summary:

- Lorne Franklin, Drainage Superintendent for Township of McNab/Braeside, submitted comments in writing and outlined his comments at the Public Meeting:
 - He believes that this application has the potential to increase impact to the flood plain and worsen the flooding conditions in the municipality upstream.
 - Noted that there are known flood conditions and expressed concerns about the maintenance of the drain.
 - Drains that are under old legislation, including this one, require that individual residents of a subdivision show up to clean up the drain regularly, as this legislation did not consider other methods by which to perform the maintenance of the drain.
 - There would be an ability to have someone maintain the drain, such as the Town of Arnprior, and take on the responsibility even though it is technically for individual homeowners.
 - Indicated that there are a few different methodologies for the maintenance and that he believes the most effective would be to turn it into a municipal drain.
 - There is the opportunity for the Drainage Superintendent to receive the information about the flood plain and the access proposed and then be satisfied that their concerns have been mitigated. He would like the extra time to ensure concerns are addressed through the Drainage Act or other methodologies.

Deputy Mayor Ted Strike thanked the public for their comments.

Resolution Number 048-26 (6:43 PM)

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council resume to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Resolution Carried

10. Matter Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

11. Notice of Motion(s)

- a) **Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program, County Councillor Lynch**

Resolution Number 049-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Tom Burnette

Whereas County Councillor Lynch has brought forward the following resolution to demonstrate the Town of Arnprior's support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program; and

Whereas small and regional airports in Ontario serve as critical infrastructure-facilitating essential public services including air ambulance operations, forest firefighting, search & rescue, and law enforcement activities, while also driving local and regional economic development; and

Whereas many of these airports are ineligible for the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) due to eligibility constraints such as lacking year-round scheduled service, yet still require capital funding for safety-related infrastructure; and

Whereas the Airport Management Council of Ontario (AMCO) has identified a persistent funding gap for non ACAP eligible community airports, estimating that approximately 85 such airports need \$5.5 million annually to address critical airside infrastructure needs; and

Whereas provinces including British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have successfully managed permanent provincial capital-assistance programs-offering clear models for cost-sharing framework, eligible projects criteria, and annual funding envelopes; and

Whereas AMCO's proposed Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) envisions an annual operational budget of \$8.5-10 Million, with a 75% provincial and 25% facility owner cost-share, a \$2 million per applicant cap, and bonuses for key community-benefiting projects; and

Whereas the 2025 Ontario Budget has already acknowledged "airports as cross country infrastructure" and signaled intent to include them in upcoming capital investments; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior and the County of Renfrew benefit directly from airport-enabled services and ensure its continued operation are in the public interest of resident safety, economic resilience, and efficient connectivity.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior formally urges the Government of Ontario to:

- i. Implement the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) managed by the Ministry of Transportation; and
- ii. Adopt the recommended cost-sharing structure (75% provincial and 25% facility owner), and cap funds at \$2million per project per applicant; and
- iii. Expand eligibility to include public-use registered aerodromes and certified airports not currently eligible for ACAP; and
- iv. Reinstate the Ontario Air Advisory Panel to advise on airport infrastructure and policy priorities; and

- v. Designate community and regional airports as critical infrastructure under provincial policy; and
- vi. Investigate stable funding mechanisms – such as a dedicated stream from the aviation fuel tax – to support OACAP sustainably; and

Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, the County of Renfrew, and AMCO; and

Further That the Mayor, on behalf of Council send a letter to the Chair of the Arnprior Airport Commission expressing formal support for the establishment of a provincial Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program.

Resolution Carried

12. Staff Reports

a) 2025 Council Remuneration, Jennifer Morawiec, General Manager Client Services/Treasurer

Resolution Number 050-26
Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Chris Toner

That Council receives as information the attached 2025 Statement of Remuneration and Expenses paid to Council and Local Boards.

Resolution Carried

b) Proclamation for Invasive Species Week (February 23rd to March 1st, 2026), Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 051-26
Moved by Chris Toner
Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council proclaim February 23rd to March 1st, 2026 as Invasive Species Week in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Town Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas this February 23 to March 1, 2026, marks Invasive Species Awareness Week that has been recognized by municipalities, environmental groups and industry across Canada; and

Whereas Invasive Species Awareness Week is a national environmental campaign that builds awareness around the problems caused by invasive species which are non-native, aggressively spreading aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, and pathogens; and

Whereas invasive species can impact the numerous natural heritage areas, shorelines, corridors, and recreational trails within in the Town of Arnprior including Bell Park, Nopiming Game Preserve, and Gillies Grove; and

Whereas the spread of invasive species poses risk to our local biodiversity, the health of our residents, and our infrastructure; and

Whereas we, as a municipality, are committed to acts of conservation for supporting our local biodiversity, both terrestrial and aquatic; and

Whereas we, as a municipality, will act against invasive species through a public education campaign aimed at community awareness and involvement in identifying, reporting and preventing the spread of invasive species. This year's themes include:

- Learning About Invasive Species
- Pathways of Spread
- Invasive Species Research and Science
- How You Can Prevent the Spread
- Reporting

Now Therefore the Council of the Town of Arnprior, does hereby proclaim February 23rd to March 1st, 2026, as Invasive Species Awareness Week in the Town of Arnprior and urge residents to learn about invasive species in our areas and take action to prevent their spread.

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

a. Mayor's Report

None

b. County Councillor's Report

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

- Renfrew County has created a new Standard Operating Procedure dealing with social media "Commenting and Moderation Protocol". Media releases will not have the "comment" option available to readers. Residents will continue to have multiple avenues for questions, complaints, and formal engagement, including:
 - Email and telephone contact
 - County website and online forms
 - Council meetings and formal delegations

- Structured consultation processes (public meetings, surveys, etc.)
- Community Services reported the Emergency Assistance and Homelessness Prevention Applications made by municipality in 2025. Arnprior had 50 emergency assistance clients, and 128 total applications to the Homelessness Prevention Program.
- On February 5, 2026, the County was successful in accessing a new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) centre which is located in Pembroke. These HART Hubs will protect the safety of children and families, while improving access to recovery and treatment services for people facing housing instability, mental health challenges, and substance use challenges.
- Community Housing waitlist statistics as of December 31, 2025:
 - Number of Households on the Chronological Waitlist: 1,992
 - Number of Households with Special Priority Status: 100
 - Average wait time to be housed Special Priority Status: 1-2 years
 - Average wait time to be housed Chronological waitlist: 8-10 years
 - Households that moved out of RCHC units: 22
 - Households that moved into RCHC units: 23

c. Committee Reports and Minutes

Councillor Chris Toner reported the following from the Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) Advisory Committee:

- The SALC's new March schedule has programming 6 days a week.
- New programming includes the Knot Club – learn to know and crochet. They are grateful to have received a donation of knitting needles and yarn from Councillor Cloutier.
- The SALC has a few new collaborations including Steelheads and Strikes Bowling every Wednesday from 1-3pm and Ultimate Fitness drop in every Tuesday from 10-11am.
- There are several clinics and information sessions planned in the upcoming months including Hearing Clinic with Hear Canada, Health Clinics (blood pressure and foot care assessment) by Community Nursing Registry of Ottawa, MTO presentation, Managing Stress and Burnout as a Caregiver by the Ontario Caregiver Organization, Prostate Cancer Support Group, and RCVTAC information session by Commander Stuart Theron.
- Gas's Gang of Musicians are still very popular on the last Thursday of every month.
- There is a bus trip planned with the Renfrew Golden Age Centre in August to the 1000 Islands playhouse to see a performance of Grease.
- The annual survey was sent to SALC members on February 18th and there were 44 responses in the first 24 hours.

- The SALC Advisory Committee onboarding manual, volunteer manual, and membership benefits are all being updated and ready for distribution by the end of March.
- Check out the momentum on their Facebook page: Arnprior Seniors Active Living Centre – SALC.

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence

i. Correspondence Package No. I-26-FEB-04

Resolution Number 052-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Correspondence Package Number I-26-FEB-04 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 3: Good news for residents, our Mayor received a letter from the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement indicating that a Service Ontario Centre will be opening on the top floor of Gilk's Sign and Trophies at 74 River Road.
- Page 12: Good news for the Environment, the Ontario Government is investing \$20 million through the Species Conservation Program to help protect species at risk and their habitats. This includes the Monarch Butterfly, Blanding Turtles, and Butternut Trees.
- Page 18: The Ontario Government is launching the next round of Road Safety Initiatives Fund (RSIF) to support safety measures in school zones and community safety zones. Bad news, Arnprior is not eligible due to our community not using speed cameras.
- Page 21: Interested in wheelchair basketball? Mark down September 9th to 19th to be in Ottawa to watch the 2026 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation World Championships.
- Page 68: LAS is hosting an Energy Workshop & Treasurer Hunt dealing with hidden energy savings in our facilities. Asked the GM Operations if the Town is participating in this program.
 - The CAO noted: Staff will review this program in more detail to see if it is a good fit for our facilities at this time.
- Page 68: LAS is hosting a Road & Sidewalk Assessment Program that is free. Asked the GM Operations if the Town is taking advantage of this free program.
 - The CAO noted: The Town is not participating in this program this year however we undertook an assessment of our road surfaces last year through this LAS Program. It should be noted that the program isn't free; just the quote is free.

ii. **Correspondence Package No. A-26-FEB-03**

Resolution Number 053-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Correspondence Package Number A-26-FEB-03 be received and the recommendations brought forward for Council's consideration.

Resolution Carried

15. By-laws & Resolutions

a) **By-laws**

None

Councillor Chris Couper left the table at 7:01 PM.

b) **Resolutions**

i. **Resolution of Support – ReNature Foundation**

Resolution Number 054-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Tom Burnette

Whereas the Town of Arnprior has the following interest: Improving schoolyards by creating outdoor learning spaces and tree canopy environments; and

Whereas the Re-Nature Foundation is undertaking the "Growing Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Schoolyard Canopies with Re-Nature" program, which will be building outdoor learning spaces and planting trees at the elementary schools with the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Town of Arnprior acknowledges and supports the funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Growing Canada's Community Canopies" initiative for the "Growing Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Schoolyard Canopies with Re-Nature" program, which will be building spaces and planting trees at the elementary schools in Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the Town of Arnprior; and

That the Council of the Town of Arnprior also recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the "Growing Canada's Canopies" initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within our municipality, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs; and

That if approved, this project will be counted towards that lifetime limit.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Chris Couper resumed his seat at 7:02 PM

ii. Municipal Grant Request (In-Kind) – Arnprior & District Quilters Guild

Resolution Number 055-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Arnprior & District Quilter's Guild; and

Whereas the Arnprior & District Quilter's Guild is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy as they support the community through fostering interest, awareness, and education in the area of quilting and creating charity projects that benefit the community.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council approve the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Arena Slab and Community Hall rental fees on May 29th, 30th, and 31st, 2026, (value of approximately \$3,045 plus HST) for their Quilt Show; and

Further That the Arnprior & District Quilter's Guild 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

iii. Municipal Grant Request (In-Kind) – Prior Chest Nuts

Resolution Number 056-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

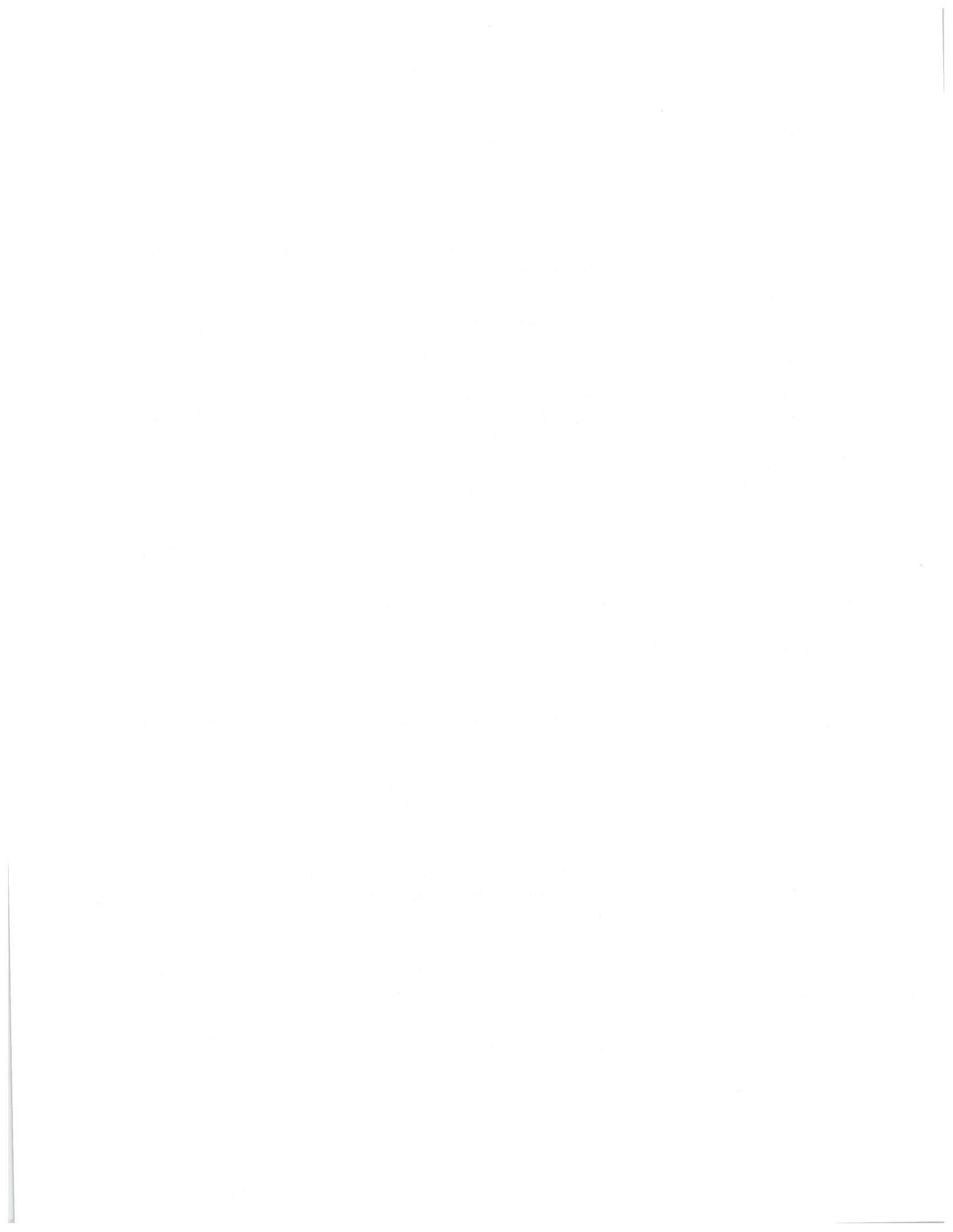
That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Prior Chest Nuts; and

Whereas the Prior Chest Nuts is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy as they support the community through providing support to those who have been touched by breast cancer in the community.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council approve the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Pool rental fees on April 11th and April 26th, 2026, (value of approximately \$232 plus HST) for their event; and

Further That the Prior Chest Nuts 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

Councill Chris Couper made the following announcement:

- The Arnprior Fire Department participated in Water and Ice Rescue Technician training. This was the second weekend of this training. Deputy Chief Nicholas thanked the following members who dedicated approximately 80 hours of pre-class theory and instruction, and 56 hours of practical training and third-party examination to achieve this certification: Captain Chris Crowder, Captain Chris Belda, Lieutenant Matt Ethier, Firefighters Bob Smith, Graeme Ivory, Wes Schnob, Matt Scott, and Faith Styles. While many of us were warm this weekend, they were in the river. They were able to use the new thermal protection gear that Council had budgeted for this year, which was quite nice compared to the old gear they used last time. Thank you very much to the members of our Fire Department for taking part in this important training program.

17. Closed Session

Resolution Number 057-26 (7:06 PM)
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council move into Closed Session to discuss One (1) matter pursuant to Section 239 (2)(b) and (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, labour relations or employee negotiations (Staff Matter).

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 058-26 (7:20 PM)
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council resume to Open Session.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 059-26
Moved by Dan Lynch
Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council direct staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

Resolution Carried

18. Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution Number 060-26
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That By-law No. 7656-26, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 23rd, 2026, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution Number 061-26
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Chris Couper

That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Resolution Carried

Signatures

Ted Strike, Deputy Mayor



Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

