



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of Council Meeting
April 13th, 2026, 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.**

Council and Staff Attendance

Council Members Present:

Mayor Lisa McGee
County Councillor Dan Lynch (6:35 PM)
Councillor Ted Strike
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Lynn Cloutier
Councillor Chris Toner
Councillor Chris Couper

Town Staff Present:

Robin Paquette, CAO
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client Services/Treasurer
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
Kelly Vieira, Client Services Coordinator
Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator
Rick Desarmia, Fire Chief

Council Members Absent:

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 County Councillor Dan Lynch.

3. Land Acknowledgement

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.

4. Adoption of the Agenda (Additions/Deletions)

Resolution Number 089-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Couper

Be it Resolved That the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, April 13th, 2026, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Question Period

None

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 090-26

Moved by Tom Burnette

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 – March 23, 2026).

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

a) Delegations

i. Just Good Compost

Will Affleck of Just Good Compost provided an overview presentation to Council, attached as Appendix A and forming part of these minutes, and responded to questions.

Mayor McGee and Members of Council agreed to promote this company on the Town's website as requested and thanked Mr. Affleck for the information and his presentation.

County Councillor Lynch joined the meeting at 6:35 PM.

b) Presentations

i. Fire Department Update, Fire Chief

Fire Chief, Rick Desarmia, provided Council with an overview of the presentation included in the agenda package and responded to questions.

ii. Museum Draft Strategic Plan, Manager of Culture/Curator

Manager of Culture/Curator, Emily Stovel, provided Council with an overview presentation of the materials included in the agenda package and responded to questions.

9. Public Meetings

None

10. Matters Tabled/Deferred/Unfinished Business

None

11. Notice of Motion(s)

- a) **Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Service Level Review**, Councillor Chris Couper
Councillor Chris Couper provided notice of the following motion:

Whereas the Town of Arnprior previously conducted a comprehensive review of winter sidewalk maintenance in June 2019, which resulted in an updated priority route and a transition from contracted to internal service delivery; and

Whereas the 2019 report identified that factors such as the intensity of winters, an increased hourly rate for external equipment, and an increased number of assets contribute to rising winter control costs; and

Whereas the Town has continued to experience the addition of new infrastructure since the last review, which impacts current operational resources and service levels; and

Whereas the Town's Strategic Plan and provincial mandates emphasize finding efficiencies within municipal operations and ensuring effective service delivery; and

Whereas an updated analysis is required to evaluate sidewalk priority routes; and

Therefore Be It Resolved that Council direct staff to provide a comprehensive Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Service Level Review report; and

Be It Further Resolved That this report specifically take into consideration:

- **Town Growth:** The impact of new sidewalks and subdivisions added to the municipal inventory since 2019.
- **Cost and Staffing Analysis:** A current financial comparison of labour, equipment, and supply costs associated with winter control.
- **Service Level Opportunities:** Potential adjustments to the priority sidewalk route and maintenance schedules to balance community safety with operational efficiency.

It was noted that this motion will be up for consideration and discussion at the next Regular Meeting.

12. Staff Reports

a) **Council Remuneration**, Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client Services/Treasurer

Resolution Number 091-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council receive report 26-04-13-01 as information; and

That Council provide direction to set the remuneration for the 2026-2030 term of Council.

Resolution Carried

Discussion ensued among Members of Council with providing direction to the General Manager, Client Services Treasurer to bring back at the next Regular Council Meeting, the full Council Remuneration by-law for consideration as well as further information on compensation options for the new Deputy Mayor position.

b) **Election Information Report**, Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

Resolution Number 092-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council receive the 2026 Municipal Election Report as information.

Resolution Carried

c) **Proclamation – Earth Day**, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 093-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council proclaim April 22, 2026, as Earth Day in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Deputy Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd each year, and is a key time to unite our community and make a positive impact on the environment; and

Whereas Earth Day is known as the movement to change the business climate, political climate, and how we take action on climate change; and

Whereas the theme for Earth Day 2026 is “Our Power, Our Planet,” focusing on mobilizing individual and collective action to drive systemic change; and

Whereas climate change is being observed and experienced at an increasingly local level and needs to be taken seriously; and

Whereas local levels of government are finding themselves at the frontline of the battle against climate change; and

Whereas the mounting environmental challenges that we are facing will require our towns and cities to take a leading role in the fight for a more sustainable world; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior's Environmental Advisory Committee will be sharing information to help residents learn about ways to make a positive impact on the environment; and

Whereas the community, along with members of our Environmental Advisory Committee, will be hosting "The Great Arnprior Trash Hunt" on May 2nd, 2026, from 9am to 12pm starting at the Arnprior and District Museum; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior will be providing free park clean-up kits to local residents, that can be picked up at the Nick Smith Centre beginning on April 22, 2026, while supplies last, to use in local parks during the week of April 27th to May 3rd, 2026 (Pitch-In Canada Week); and

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim April 22nd, 2026, as Earth Day in the Town of Arnprior, and encourage all residents to participate in the Earth Day activities being provided, learn more and understand their role in assisting to combat climate change, as well as make a positive impact on the environment on Earth Day and every day.

d) Proclamation – Community Living Month, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 094-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council proclaim May 2026 as Community Living Month in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Deputy Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas Community Living Month is a province-wide annual awareness campaign created to promote authentic inclusion with people who have an intellectual disability and their families; and

Whereas there are 52,000 adults with developmental disabilities across Ontario without services, such as housing, employment and community connections, to name a few; and

Whereas Community Living Renfrew County South has been providing exceptional services and support to people with developmental disabilities and their families in Arnprior and the surrounding area; and

Whereas as part of the celebrations this year, Community Living Ontario is hosting their annual *Shine a Light on Community Living* campaign on Friday, May 1st, 2026; and

Whereas the Community Living Flag will be raised on May 1st through May 31st, 2026, at Town Hall and the Arnprior and District Museum's clock tower will be lit up with the colours of blue and green on May 1st through May 31st, 2026, to show our support.

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of the Town of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Community Living Month in the Town of Arnprior, encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Community Living Renfrew County South.

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

a) Mayor's Report

Mayor Lisa McGee reported the following:

- Mayor McGee attended the Renfrew Police Services Board Meeting. There will be a posting coming soon for an administrative position to support the Board's work. The Detachment Commander also provided a detailed list of outreach and engagement efforts including foot patrol, RIDE, and targeted traffic. The Board requested additional information about these efforts to get a better understanding of service levels in each community.
- Mayor McGee met with members of the community regarding the upcoming fundraiser for the Prior ChestNuts Dragonboat team.
- Mayor McGee attended a few grade 4/5 classes at John XXIII in the past few weeks.
- Mayor McGee attended a fundraiser for Seniors at Home.
- Together with Councillor Toner and County Councillor Lynch, they handed out medals to everyone who crossed the finish line at the Bunny Run. Congratulations and many thanks to Lucas and his team for a great event.
- Last week, with many Town Staff Members and Councillor Toner and Councillor Burnette, Mayor McGee attended an Indigenous Relations Training Exercise.

- Together with the CAO and Councillor Couper, Mayor McGee attended an online session hosted by ROMA on the Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions project.
- Mayor McGee had a catch up with the Chief Librarian.

b) County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Dan Lynch reported the following:

- Sales Activities:

	Sales		Average Price	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
February	10	9	\$387,249	\$513,400
Yearly	16	16	\$481,718	\$503,263

- The 2026 Taste of the Valley dates and locations include:
 - August 8 – Barry’s Bay Railway Station, Madawaska Valley
 - August 22 – Douglas Recreation Centre, Admaston/Bromley
 - September 19 – Civic Centre, Petawawa
 - October 17 – Cobden Fairgrounds, Whitewater Region
 - December 12 – Renfrew Armouries, Renfrew
- County Council will be requesting that local municipalities support the following resolution about the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project:
 - **That** the Operations Committee recommends that County Council endorse the advancement of the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project and direct staff to work with federal, provincial, and regional partners to pursue funding through the Government of Canada's Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (TDCF) for improvements to the Highway 17 corridor between Meath Hill and Deep River; and **That** staff be directed to prepare and submit the necessary expressions of interest, project documentation, and funding applications required to position the project for federal investment; and **That** Council reaffirm its support for strategic investments in the Highway 17 corridor as a critical component of Canada's national transportation and trade network.

c) Committee Reports and Minutes

Councillor Couper reported the following from the Culture & Diversity Advisory Committee:

- The Committee recommended that the draft Land Acknowledgement Statement be presented to Council.
- Received an overview of the Draft Museum Strategic Plan, which was also presented to Council this evening. Committee Members supported the focus on collaboration with Recreation, the Museum, and the Library. There was discussion on the reestablishment of the Friends of the Museum and how that would function with CDAC. Discussion regarding pursuing more grants to support the Museum, though capacity is a continued issue. Committee Members also indicated that they would like to see benefits from the Organizational Review coming forward.
- Leonard Spinks turned 100 this year and the Manager of Culture/Curator noted that she intends to record him for an interview as he has stories that the community would like to keep.

Councillor Chris Toner reported the following from the Environmental Advisory Committee:

- The Committee has had discussions about tree cutting bylaws at both the November 17th, 2025, and the March 30th, 2026, meetings. The Committee feels very strongly that the Town should investigate a tree cutting bylaw.

Discussion ensued, resulting in the following motion:

Resolution Number 095-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council direct staff to investigate the potential of a tree cutting by-law for both Town owned and privately owned lands within the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Chris Toner reported the following from the Arnprior McNab Braeside Archives (AMBA):

- AMBA president Sara, along with acting archivist Laurie Dougherty and Town of Arnprior, Manager of Culture/Curator, Emily Stovel made a presentation to the Lanark Genealogical Society.
- Sara attended Heritage Day at the City of Ottawa and attended the relaunch meeting of the Renfrew County Museum Network. This is important work as the archives look for collaboration partners and future grant opportunities.
- The archives will be on Valley Heritage Radio on a regular basis with prerecorded and live segment discussion on the exciting and wonderful work that happens behind the vault in the archives.
- To celebrate Archives Awareness Week in Ontario, the AMBA is posting its Archives A to Z in April. Today's post, April 13th was the letter M for Madawaska. It shown a pic of the Madawaska River taken by Charles

Macnamara took in July 1908. Check out their Facebook page for the rest of their posts and look back at letters A to L, very interesting pictures.

- Also on Facebook is a post asking others to ask the archives before you share, modify, alter or recolour images taken from our website collection. There have been a few posts where pictures from the collection were altered, and watermarks removed without giving credit to the archives collection.
- Plans are also in motion with the Town Hall regarding disposal of documents and transfer of boxes to the archives.
- The move of items in storage from Kenwood to the Diefenbunker is complete. This move will save the archives approximately \$700 annually.
- The AGM of the AMBA is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd. Long time volunteer Doug Collins will be recognized and thanked for his years of service on April 16th for national volunteer week (April 19-26). Doug will be moving to Carleton Place at the end of month. The archives have also attracted several new volunteers from the ongoing outreach efforts.
- There is exciting news to share regarding the AMBA that will be shared shortly.

Resolution Number 096-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Toner

That Council receive the minutes of the Advisory Committees as listed under item 13 (c) on the agenda for information (Council Remuneration Ad-hoc Committee – May 14, 2025; Council Remuneration Ad-hoc Committee – October 22, 2025; Environmental Advisory Committee – November 17, 2025; Environmental Advisory Committee – December 17, 2025; Accessibility & Age Friendly Advisory Committee – November 19, 2025; Culture & Diversity Advisory Committee – March 2, 2026) for information.

Resolution Carried

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence

i. Correspondence Package No. I-26-APR-07

Resolution Number 097-26

Moved by Ted Strike

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Correspondence Package Number I-26-APR-07 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 7: The Ontario government is investing \$2.25 million in the second round of the Enhancing Access to Space for Everyone grant. Applications are now open until May 7, 2026. A webinar is scheduled for April 23, 2026, at 11 AM. County Councillor Lynch asked the CAO if the Town has considered applying for this grant and if any staff will be attending the webinar.
 - The CAO noted that yes, staff are investigating this opportunity and staff will be attending the webinar.
- Page 25: The Ontario government is advancing road enhancement projects and cracking down on dangerous driving on highways 17 and 11.
- Page 56: Ontario is investing \$300 million in the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to build and upgrade sport and recreation facilities.
- Page 64: Effective October 1, 2026, minimum wage will increase from \$17.60 to \$17.95.
- Page 70: The Ontario government is increasing the Ontario Transit Fund from \$5 million to \$10 million to assist communities with safe transit systems. County Councillor Lynch asked the CAO if the Town has considered a transit system.
 - The CAO noted that the Town did a transit feasibility study several years ago that did not recommend a transit system at that time.
- Page 70: The Ontario Government has signed a 2024-2028 Physician Services Agreement that will connect everyone in the province with a family doctor or primary care provider by 2029.
- Page 78: The Business Corporate Tax is being cut from 3.2% to 2.2% over the next three years. This could mean up to \$5,000 in tax relief.

ii. Correspondence Package No. A-26-APR-05

Resolution Number 098-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Correspondence Package Number A-26-APR-05 be received and the recommendations be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Resolution Carried

15. By-laws & Resolutions

a) By-laws

Resolution Number 099-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

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

- i. By-law No. 7663-26 – Repeal Acting Deputy Treasurer (K. Eastman)
- ii. By-law No. 7664-26 – Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Agreement

Resolution Carried

b) Resolutions

i. Amend 2026 Calendar of Meetings – Inaugural Meeting Date November 16, 2026

Resolution Number 100-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council amend the 2026 Calendar of Meetings, originally adopted through staff report 25-11-24-05, to move the Inaugural Meeting of Council to occur on November 16, 2026, instead of November 23, 2026.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Chris Couper declared a pecuniary interest on item 15(b)(ii) as his son elected school board trustee.

Councillor Couper left his seat at 9:17 PM.

ii. Resolution of Support – Renfrew County District School Board – Protecting Local Voice in Public Education

Resolution Number 101-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

Whereas locally elected school board trustees provide essential community representation; and

Whereas rural communities rely on trustees to reflect local priorities, ensure accountability, and advocate for students; and

Whereas proposed changes may reduce or eliminate locally elected trustees.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council affirms support for maintaining elected trustees; and

Further That the Mayor and Clerk send a joint letter to the Minister of Education and the Premier expressing the municipalities support for

maintaining elected trustees, with copies to ROMA, AMO and local MPP Billy Denault.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Couper resumed his seat at 9:19 PM

iii. Municipal Grant Request (In-Kind) – Arnprior & Area Physician Recruitment Committee

Resolution Number 102-26

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 & Area Physician Recruitment Committee; and

Whereas the Arnprior & Area Physician Recruitment Committee is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy as they support the community by working to ensure that every current and future resident has access to a local family physician.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council approve the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall rental fees on April 23rd, 2026, (value of approximately \$470 plus HST) for their Doctors Dining Duel event; and

Further That the Arnprior & Area Physician Recruitment Committee 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 and is responsible for any security related costs for the event.

Resolution Carried

16. Announcements

Councillor Cloutier made the following announcement:

- Doctor's Dining Dual is on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026. Councillor Cloutier is part of the committee this year and indicated that there are less than 10 tickets left for the event.

Councillor Chris Toner made the following announcements:

- Last Saturday after the Bunny Run, Councillor Toner participated in the Persian New Year Egg Painting. The event was lots of fun and the Museum staff did a great job.

Councillor Chris Couper made the following announcements:

- The Arnprior McNab Ringette Association had four teams attend the U12 Provincial Championships in Markham this past weekend. They returned with two silvers and one gold medal. With ten teams in one of the tiers, the top two teams were both from Arnprior. There will be new banners going up at the Nick Smith Centre.
- The Arnprior McNab Ringette Association will be hosting their AGM on April 14th at 7pm at the Masonic Hall in Arnprior. There are opportunities for new members to join the executive.

Councillor Dan made the following announcements:

- “So You Want to Run for Council” are free sessions that are being offered to support residents interested in running for Council. There are sessions in three municipalities in Renfrew County.
- Leonard Spinks is local resident and an airborne soldier from WWII who celebrated his 100th birthday recently. Thanks to the Fire Department for all the bells and whistles that certainly made his day.
- The community lost a bus driver, Santa Claus, and a real good guy, Bernie Lynn. His funeral was this evening.
- The community also lost Reverend Leo Hughes, the patron of Arnprior, and his funeral is on Wednesday at 6:45pm. He will be missed.

17. Closed Session

None

18. Confirmatory By-law

Resolution Number 103-26
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Chris Couper

That By-law No. 7665-26, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 13th, 2026, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried

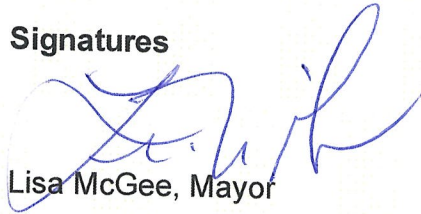
19. Adjournment

Resolution Number 104-26
Moved by Lynn Cloutier
Seconded by Chris Couper

That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Resolution Carried

Signatures



Lisa McGee, Mayor



Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

