



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Magaguadavic Place Community Center

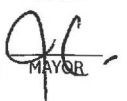
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Craig
Deputy Mayor David Hatt
Councillor Alexa Detorakis
Councillor Adam Hatt
Councillor Lisa McKay
Councillor Darrell Tidd
Councillor Michael Thompson
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councillor Terry Lee
Councillor Wayne MacQuarrie
- STAFF PRESENT:** Jason N. Gaudet, CAO/Clerk
Amy Carter, Administrative Assistant
Lori Kelly, Project Coordinator/Economic Development
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Vicki Hogarth, Florence Mitchell; CHCO-TV
Alex Henderson; Southwest NB Regional Service Commission
Gallery: 10

Minutes of Council meetings are required and described in Eastern Charlotte Bylaw # EC-01, Proceedings of Council:

- a) The minutes shall record, without note or comment:
- i) The place, date and time of the meeting,
 - ii) The name of the presiding officer and the attendance of Council Members,
 - iii) The reading, if required, correction and adoption of the minutes of prior meetings, and
 - iv) All resolutions, decisions and proceedings of the meeting.

Video recordings of meetings are available by link at <https://easterncharlotte.ca/council/council-meetings>, or on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/@easterncharlotte>.


CLERK


MAYOR

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Council for Eastern Charlotte held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Magaguadavic Place, was called to order by Mayor Craig at 7:00 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: THAT Council adopt the agenda for the meeting of January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council, with the addition of a discussion about the Blacks Harbour water communications sub-committee terms of reference to Old Business.

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Councillor Tidd

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- None

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING(S)

Motion: THAT Council approve the Minutes for the meetings of December 17, 2025 (Regular Meeting of Council), December 16, January 6 & January 13 (Meetings of the Committee of the Whole), as circulated to members of Council.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Motion carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- None

6. DELEGATIONS

- None

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**a. General Government Report**

CAO presented the General Government report for the month of December 2025 (attached).

- CAO highlighted the hard work and commitment of ECFR members, staff and community partners with the recent fire incident in St. George.

b. Reports of Southwest NB Service Commission (SNBSC)

JG
CLERK


MAYOR

Alex Henderson, Planning Director, SNBSC, read the Planning report for the month of December 2025 (attached).

- Discussed future possibility of an added service providing updated GIS mapping of infrastructure changes service to support public works and community planning efforts.

c. **Fire Department Report**

Councillor Thompson highlighted the Fire Report for the month of December 2025, as prepared by Cara Hatt, Fire Services Administrator (attached).

d. **Public Works Report**

Deputy Mayor Hatt summarized the Public Works reports for Blacks Harbour and St. George for December 2025 (attached).

The Public Works Report for Blacks Harbour was prepared by Foreman Richard Leavitt, and the Report for St. George was prepared by Foreman Ron Groom.

- Councillor Hatt commented that we should get a quote on cost and time needed to repair the one hundred year old Santa Sleigh and reindeer in Blacks Harbour for the future.
- Mayor Craig emphasized the new heat pumps in the ECRC, and invited people to join walking indoors at the YMCA.

e. **Parks & Recreation Report**

Councillor Hatt summarized the Parks and Recreation report for Blacks Harbour and St. George for December 2025, as prepared by Foreman Drew Dougan (attached).

- Elaborated on the new ice surface camera at the ECRC and how to access it. Thanked original group that raised money to kickstart this process.

f. **Committee Reports**

Councillor Detorakis reviewed the Age-friendly Committee report for December. (attached)

- Discussion on walking trail usage for winter recreation activities and removal of bollards for snowmobiles

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Motion: THAT Council accept the financial report for December 2025.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Blacks Harbour Water Project Communications sub-committee Terms of Reference discussion**


CLERK


MAYOR

- CAO explained that the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee has been circulated for feedback and is to provide another level of communication on the ongoing water projects by Englobe and how it affects the water users and encourage their support and cooperation.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Capital Borrowing Board Application

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Eastern Charlotte submits to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board an application for authorization to borrow money (or to guarantee the repayment of money borrowed or to enter into a lease, lease-purchase or purchase arrangement) in an amount not to exceed \$934,000 for the following:

Purpose	Term	Amount
Emergency services: Fire Truck/Pumper	15 years	\$934,000

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Vote on the Motion:	Councillor Detorakis	Deputy Mayor D. Hatt	Councillor McKay	Councillor Hatt	Councillor Thompson	Councillor Tidd	Mayor Craig (tie-breaker)
Aye (in favour)	X	X	X		X	X	n/a
Nay (opposed)				X			

- CAO explained the process of borrowing and previous tender results
- Councillor Hatt expressed his preference for purchasing a truck within the province.

Motion carried.

b. Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership (PMHP), 2027-2031

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Eastern Charlotte approve the *Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership Program* for 2027-2031 and authorize the CAO to submit the application to the Department of Transportation to the Province of New Brunswick.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor McKay

Motion carried unanimously.

JG
CLERK

JL
MAYOR

c. Communications- Councillor Hatt

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council get quotes from firms for training on communications and social media by the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Tidd

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council update the social media Policy within the next 30 days to cover how official posts of the Municipality are to be handled.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor McKay

Motion carried unanimously

d. Blacks Harbour Water System, flow and distribution rates – Councillor Tidd

WHEREAS the Municipality of Eastern Charlotte is committed to ensuring the safety, efficiency, and compliance of water systems within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the Municipal privately owned water system may impact overall water management, public health, and infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to obtain data on flow and distribution rates of the private water system at the source of distribution (Jackson) to assess usage and ensure adherence to applicable guidelines.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Eastern Charlotte authorizes and directs the Municipality's engineering firm Englobe to obtain the flow and distribution rates of the private water system which supplies Blacks Harbour and Beaver Harbour, including data on flow, distribution and consumption, while ensuring all actions fully comply with relevant provincial guidelines under the New Brunswick Public Health Act, Clean Water Act, Water Quality Regulation (NB Reg 82-126), and federal Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, as well as any other applicable provincial and federal regulations pertaining to water quality, privacy, and data collection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the engineering firm shall provide a report to Council on the findings.

And be it further resolved that, should Englobe be unable to obtain this information through standard procedures, the Municipality will seek assistance from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government to facilitate access to the required data.

Moved by: Councillor Tidd

Seconded by: Councillor Hatt

- Discussion regarding feasibility of being able to obtain this data and why it is important to the Blacks Harbour water project and surrounding area with regards to the water table.

Motion carried unanimously.


CLERK

MAYOR

11. CORRESPONDENCE.**a. Richards' family-Thank you card**

Mayor Craig read the thank-you card for ECFR and staff for their effort during the apartment fire in St. George.

b. Letter- Theresa Gaudett

Councillor McKay read the letter from the Gaudett's in its entirety (see attached)

Motion: THAT the letter from Theresa Gaudett be referred to Economic Development for review and recommendation

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Detorakis

Motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

- a. Matthew Hall (Ward 4) advertised the Magaguadavic River white water paddling race, Saturday April 18th, accepting volunteers. Promoted Eastern Charlotte Trail Running club, join the Facebook page. Commented on information received through RTIPPA request and hopes that council and MLAs can work together as there is still no childcare in Eastern Charlotte. Discussed Fire underwriter survey for Blacks Harbour and encouraged other residents to reach out to insurance providers regarding rates. Regarding water system, 150,000 Gallons is what the Village is entitled to in the contract but at full capacity can pump 800-900 thousand gallons a day and says the ditch behind the reservoir has high water. Is disappointed in the way that code of conduct complaints have been happening behind closed doors.
- b. Greg Flemming (Pennfield) was happy to see the OWL digital meeting camera used in the recent committee of the whole meeting providing transparency and participation for the community. Would like to see all public meetings recorded and available.

13. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Please note: Minutes are not intended to be a complete transcript, but a summary of remarks made.

- a. Councillor Tidd thanked everyone for coming. Expressed concerns about communication gap coming from provincial level to municipal level using the Fundy Health centre as an example
- b. Councillor McKay declined to comment


CLERK


MAYOR

- c. Councillor Detorakis thanked all groups for their efforts with the January 4th fire at the seniors' complex in St. George. Encouraged community members to learn about and get involved with the upcoming municipal elections. Discussed the potential airport in St. Stephen. Reiterated how important communication with stakeholders and provincial partners is and that we need to keep working on it.
- d. Councillor Hatt feels childcare project has taken far to long and wishes we had decided to build a childcare building at Magaguadavic Place regardless of funding.
- e. Councillor Thompson declined to comment.
- f. Deputy Mayor Hatt explained that the Mayor is the public face for council and that council is not always invited to every event.

14. DATE & LOCATION OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm, at Magaguadavic Place Community Center.


15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Moved by: Councillor McKay



John Craig, Mayor



Jason N. Gaudet, CAO / Clerk