



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 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 Terry Lee
Councillor Wayne MacQuarrie
Councillor Darrell Tidd
Councillor Michael Thompson
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councillor Lisa McKay
- STAFF PRESENT:** Jason N. Gaudet, CAO/Clerk
Amy Carter, Administrative Assistant
Lori Kelly, Project Coordinator/Economic Development
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Vicki Hogarth, Patrick Watt; CHCO-TV
Alex Henderson; Southwest NB Regional Service Commission
Gallery : 13

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>.

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CLERK
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MAYOR

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Council for Eastern Charlotte held on Wednesday, March 18, 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 March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council, with the following addition of a motion under new business, 10. h. A motion for curb and gutter quotes on Riverview Ave, St. George.

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- Mayor Craig declared conflict of interest on item 9.d., Code of Conduct complaint- CCC-2026-02 and 10.g., Code of Conduct complaint(s). Mayor Craig will not participate in the discussion or vote in the matter.

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

Motion: THAT Council approve the Minutes for the meetings of February 18, 2026 (Regular Meeting of Council), February 24 and March 3, 2026 (Meetings of the Committee of the Whole), March 10, 2026 (Special Meeting of Council) and March 10, 2026 (Committee of the Whole) as circulated to members of Council.

Moved by: Councillor Lee

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 February 2026 (attached).



CLERK


MAYOR

- CAO commented on upcoming audit, water filtration discussions with Connors, and follow up on hydrant inspections. RFQ being created for sidewalk on Main Street in Blacks Harbour, curb work on Riverview Ave. and pedestrian island at the corner of Mt. Pleasant and Letete in St. George. ECFS will receive 2 pumps and hoses for wildfires from Natural resources Canada program, changing climate fund. Culvert extension on exit 53 is being compiled. Candidate sessions for upcoming elections.

b. Reports of Southwest NB Service Commission (SNBSC)

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

- Discussed By-Law Z.2.7 and what Council can do to move this along including first and second readings of the by-law and holding a public hearing for comments.
- Councillor Detorakis asked Alex for a brief explanation between Municipal or Rural plans that need to be completed by 2028.
- Alex explained Eastern Charlotte is classified as a Rural Community. All current municipal and rural plans pre-amalgamation are still in effect for each area, becoming a town would allow for a municipal plan by-law and noted the benefits in terms of flexibility and control rather than prescribing to Provincial standards including roads, setbacks and subdivision plans. It would also cover infrastructure and other municipal services relating to development. As a rural community, land use and zoning goals can still be decided by council.
- Councillor Detorakis asked the average timeline for each respective plan.
- Alex explained it would be at no cost and would be guided by councils' public engagement timelines with background and research being the bulk of the work. It would be a priority of the new council to get started as soon as possible.
- Councillor Hatt asked if this is when council can change how much land can be subdivided i.e. in Pennfield.
- Alex explained that yes, we would be looking at land use planning. Rural plans would be guided by Provincial standards for lot size
- Councillor Lee asked if there are any test cases in regards to setbacks and lot sizes in those rural areas if we develop a Municipal plan.
- Alex explained that in rural areas the standard distance of 7 ½ metres or 25 feet is based on department of transportation highway setback allowance, but that could be changed in the municipal or rural plan. Advised the standard comes from consideration of liabilities for plow trucks.
- Councillor Lee asked if under the different plans we could have different sets of by-laws for different areas.
- Alex advised would be able to have different zones in different areas.
- Councillor Thompson asked if we could have a different plan for different area
- Alex advised need to have one rural or municipal plan depending on classification of the municipality and a supplementary or secondary plan after the main plan is completed. It is a tool that can be used to zero in on specific geography. A municipal plan doesn't mean all the rural area becomes urban, rather you can have rural areas designated with

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less by-laws dictating control. Tighter areas call for more rules to deal with concerns and can be done under a rural or municipal plan.

Mayor John Craig, read the SNBSC Committee report for the month of February (attached).

- Notes tourism summit in March happening at Dominion Hill.
- Councillor Detorakis asked about the food coordinator project under community development.
- Mayor Craig said would follow up with Raymond Funk of SNBSC.
- Councillor Detorakis asked about the infrastructure scan inventory and for the region to adopt this technology.
- Alex (SNBSC) advised that this is GIS mapping which is still in its early stages and is currently underway. It doesn't replace the municipalities inventory system but more to support it through the mapping that we can do.

c. Fire Department Report

Councillor Thompson highlighted the Fire Report for the month of February 2026, as prepared by Cara Hatt, Fire Services Administrator (attached).

d. Public Works Report

Councillor MacQuarrie summarized the Public Works reports for Blacks Harbour and St. George for February 2026 (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 asked about sand and salt order for next year
- CAO advised will follow up.

e. Parks & Recreation Report

Mayor John Craig summarized the Parks and Recreation report for Blacks Harbour and St. George for February 2026, as prepared by Foreman Drew Dougan (attached).

- Councillor Hatt expressed thanks to CAO and Recreation foreman Drew Dougan. He has stepped down from all committees. Promoted the upcoming 'paint the ice' event at the Eastern Charlotte Recreation Complex in Blacks Harbour.

f. Committee Reports

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

- Highlighted emergency preparedness workshops and upcoming date of April 7th for the declaration of Eastern Charlotte as an official age-friendly community.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Motion: THAT Council accept the financial report for February 2026.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Hatt
Seconded by: Councillor MacQuarrie
Motion carried unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Social Media- Policy & Training

- CAO commented on staff training and joining of the Canadian Association of Municipal Communicators. Social media policy has been circulated, and is still under review.

b. By-Law # EC-03-26, an Amendment to By-Law# EC-03, Remuneration of Council

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the Third and Final Reading, and adopt By-Law #EC-03, Remuneration of Council.

Moved by: Councillor Lee
Seconded by: Councillor Tidd
Motion carried unanimously.

c. By-Law # EC-06-A, a replacement By-Law Respecting All-Terrain Vehicles on Municipal Roads for Eastern Charlotte

- CAO advised First and Second reading, as well as a public hearing for consultation have taken place and are waiting on feedback from department of transportation and infrastructure and will be on the agenda for the April meeting.
- Councillor Detorakis asked if any letters have been received from residents opposing the amendments.
- CAO advised not at this time.
- Councillor Detorakis noted that Adventure Lane is on the approved list, but wants to clarify this does not include the trail, just access to the park.
- CAO confirmed.

d. Code of Conduct complaint- CCC-2026-02 (In camera/closed session)

- Deputy Mayor David Hatt chairing. (Mayor Craig declared conflict of interest). Explained that as per previous meeting where complaint was sent to legal for advice and investigation. For that reason, and based on the Local Governance Act, we have the ability to move to a closed session.
- Councillor Detorakis asked why move to closed meeting
- Deputy mayor Hatt explained that as per previous meeting, complaint was sent to legal for advice and investigation. For that reason, and based on the Local Governance Act, Section 68.1.f), where it involves legal opinion, we have the ability to move to a closed session.

Motion: That council move into closed session to discuss a Code of Conduct complaint as permitted under the Local Governance Act.

Moved by: Councillor MacQuarrie

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved to closed session at 7:42p.m
- Returned to open session at 8:21 p.m.
- Deputy Mayor Hatt summarized that as per legal advice, there was a breach on two items, asked how Council wishes to proceed with sanctions if any.
- Councillor Detorakis called a Point of Information asking CAO to clarify the option of what a letter of reprimand means.
- CAO explained it would be an official letter from Council with their views
- Deputy Mayor Hatt read the list of sanctions available to council

Motion: I MOVE that council determine that Mayor Craig has breached the Code of Conduct as outlined in the report and that council impose the following corrective action in accordance with the Code of Conduct Regulation: A letter of reprimand sent within the next 30 days.

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Councillor Hatt

- Councillor Hatt declared he believes the Code of Conduct by-law needs updating if it contradicts the Local Governance Act.
- Deputy Mayor Hatt advised Code of conduct by-law is the new business item of 10.g) for follow up discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Mayor John Craig returned at 8:30 p.m., returned to chairing the meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Capital Renewal Fund

- CAO explained capital items under the 2026-2029 renewal fund include Clinch Street, Glennie Court, Portage Street and Brunswick Street (St. George) water renewal projects.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Capital Renewal Fund for 2026-2029.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Lee

Motion carried unanimously.

b. By-Law # Z.2.7, an Amendment to By-Law# Z.2, Rural Plan for Blacks Harbour**10.b.1 First Reading, by title only**

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the First Reading, by Title Only, of Amendment By-Law #Z.2.7 to By-Law #Z.2, Rural Plan for Blacks Harbour.

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

- Councillor Hatt asked Alex (SNBSC) for the Coles notes on what is changing
- Alex outlined the re-zoning request, the conditions, concerns and recommendations. Described the property in question, and clarified is a mixed approval for integrated use, including both small homes 'dwellings' and/or tourist cabins for short term or long terms rental options. Referred to schedule 3.c) of his report for photos outlining what is being requested (attached).

Motion carried unanimously.

10.b.2 Second Reading, in its entirety (if applicable)

- CAO advised copies of the draft by-law will be available on our website as well as the municipal office for review.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the Second Reading, in its entirety, of By-Law #Z.2.7, an amendment to By-Law #Z.2, Rural Plan for Blacks Harbour.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

10.b.3 Date for Public hearing of objections

Motion: I MOVE to schedule a Public Hearing of objections of By-Law #Z.2.7, an amendment to By-Law #Z.2, Rural Plan for Blacks Harbour, on **Tuesday March 31, 2026**, at 6:30 p.m. at Stella Maris Hall, Blacks Harbour.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: I MOVE that Council send the amendment to PRAC for review.

Moved by: Councillor Tidd

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Capital Funds- Second Falls Gazebo

- CAO discussed revitalization of community space and fire hall in Second Falls as a green space with recent clearing of brush and Councillor Lee's advice to replace the gazebo.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the use of Capital funds for the amount of \$15,750 to replace the Second Falls Gazebo.

Moved by: Councillor Lee

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

- Deputy Mayor Hatt asked if the motion included tax.
- CAO advised we have a tax exemption rate of 4%.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation

- CAO explained the municipality would sponsor funding to receive a doctor in this area

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve a Grant to the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation with the annual contribution of \$6,000 annually, over the next 4 years (2026-2030).

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

- Councillor Detorakis explained this comes with a return of service agreement, students commit to coming back and practicing in the community, typically one year of service for each year of funding. Stated many residents don't have access to primary care and this is one practical step we can take with potential to attract doctors to our area.
- Discussion on amount given, and confirmation that it is a similar average to other communities and that local business may also be able to offer supplements.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Letter of support for Back Bay School

- CAO explained recent Provincial budget constraints and program reviews include rural schools including Back Bay elementary necessitating a letter of support for our local schools.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that Council send a letter to the Minister of Education expressing concern regarding the possibility of closing the school in Back Bay.

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Hatt

- Councillor Hatt suggested letter include all elementary schools in Eastern Charlotte.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Blacks Harbour Water Renewal – RDC Application

- CAO detailed Englobe water project with estimated cost of \$38 million dollars for phase two. We would like to engage the province by putting in an application for funding possibilities and discussions on a phased approach.

Motion: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve Englobe to submit an application to RDC for Blacks Harbour water system renewal.

Moved by: Councillor Hatt

Seconded by: Councillor Tidd

- Councillor Hatt commented that costs are outside of the scope of original plan which was to locate water for residents and is now a much larger project including our industrial users. In 2020 this was a \$7-\$10-million-dollar project. Clarified that this one includes looking at a water treatment plant to deal with the legacy problem of manganese.

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Code of Conduct complaint(s)

- Deputy mayor Hatt advised that there was another complaint received that was previously acted on. It has been sent to legal for review.
- CAO advised Code of Conduct By-law will be amended to reflect the Local Governance Act. Legal has been consulted on the discrepancies and explained our current By-law was written for Eastern Charlotte by the Province. We are hoping to get this resolved before the incoming Council.

h. Curb and Gutter Quotes- Riverview Ave., St. George

- CAO advised RFQ is being put together for three locations. Riverview Ave. curb, gutter and possible sidewalk replacement, the pedestrian island at Letete Rd. and Mount Pleasant in St. George, and a section of sidewalk on Main St. near the Wesleyan Church in Blacks Harbour.

Motion: I MOVE that Council direct our CAO to get quotes for curb and gutter repair along Riverview Ave. in St. George

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Councillor Lee

- Councillor Hatt asked that other areas listed be included in the motion
- Councillor Detorakis amending the motion

- **Motion:** I MOVE that Council direct our CAO to get quotes for curb and gutter repair along Riverview Ave., the pedestrian island at Letete Rd. and Mount Pleasant in St. George, and a section of sidewalk on Main St. near the Wesleyan Church in Blacks Harbour.

Moved by: Councillor Detorakis

Seconded by: Councillor Hatt

- CAO advised that the repairs to Riverview Ave. are scheduled to be completed as general repairs
- Discussion on safety concerns of crumbling curbs and sidewalks in these areas

Motion carried unanimously.

11. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a. None.

12. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

- a. Glen Hawkins, Shore Rd.-Gave his perspective on need for childcare and the benefits to the community.

13. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

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

- a. Deputy Mayor Hatt declined to comment.
- b. Councillor Thompson declined to comment
- c. Councillor Hatt- commented on childcare project and tendering process, believes money shouldn't be the deciding factor.
- d. Councillor Detorakis- stated the importance of proactive decision making in considering the long-term plans for the municipality including having the services to support a growing community
- e. Councillor MacQuarrie declined to comment
- f. Councillor Lee declined to comment
- g. Councillor Tidd explained his decision to vote to end tendering process on childcare building partly due to funding but is all for childcare.

14. DATE & LOCATION OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7:00 pm, at Magaguadavic Place Community Center.


15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:21pm.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Hatt



John Craig, Mayor



Jason N. Gaudet, CAO / Clerk