Placentia
Newfoundland & Labrador

MINUTES

A public meeting of the Placentia Council was held December 16, 2025, in the Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Council		Staff
Mayor:	Jamie Neville	Gerry Hynes, CAO (Absent)
Deputy Mayor:	Wayne Power	Lesley Murphy, Deputy Town Clerk
Councillors:	William Neville	Jennifer Bennett, Mgr. of T, M & C
	Sheldon Slaney	Rodney Cooney, PW Superintendent
	Kay Smith	Matthew O'Reilly, Arena Manager
	Ed Tobin	Kathryn Smith, Executive Assistant (R)
	Gerard Wilson	**Spectators**: Zero (0)

Mayor Neville called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.

Motion #25-397 **Councillor Wilson/Councillor Tobin**
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Council meeting held December 16, 2025, is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-398 **Councillor Wilson/Deputy Mayor Power**
Be it resolved that the minutes of November 18, 2025, are adopted as circulated. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Mayor Jamie Neville, Chair; Deputy Mayor Wayne Power, Councillor Kay Smith; Resource Person – CAO)

The Executive Committee made the following recommendations:

Motion #25-399 **Councillor Wilson/Deputy Mayor Power**
Be it resolved that the motion to approve Change Order #2 Jerseyside Stormwater Collection in the amount of $3,395.88 including HST to add duckbill valve to the end of the pumping system discharge line to increase pumping head and add three jersey barriers around the embankment on Blanche Street is

adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-400 **Councillor Slaney/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve Change Order #2 for Jerseyside Stormwater Collection in the amount of $2,180 plus HST due to additional administration, coordination, sketches, and delays that the Consultant required for the land issue which exceeded the contract administration fee is adopted. This does not change the overall cost of the contract. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

The Chair provided an update to the Committee report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Councillor Kay Smith, Chair; Councillor William Neville, Councillor Gerard Wilson; Resource Person – Manager of Finance)

The Finance Committee made the following recommendations:

Motion #25-401 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from Brenntag Canada Inc. in the amount of $26,549.98 including HST for water and sewer supplies is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-402 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Slaney**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from Cimco Refrigeration in the amount of $12,609.75 including HST to replace valves and oil change in compressors at the arena is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-403 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Tobin**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from Pennecon Technical Services Ltd. in the amount of $10,062.50 including HST for upgrade to SCADA system is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-404 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from Pennecon Technical Services Ltd. in the amount of $7,061.20 including HST for upgrade to SCADA system is adopted. **(CARRIED**

UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)

Motion #25-405

Councillor Smith/Councillor Neville
Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from Townsuite Municipal Software in the amount of $9,207.44 including HST for 2026 Annual Subscription is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-406

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson
Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador in the amount of $25,132 for October 31, 2025, operating grant deficit is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-407

Councillor Smith/Councillor Tobin
Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of invoice from YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador in the amount of $20,000 for December 2025 rent reimbursement is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-408

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson
Be it resolved that the motion to approve the remaining Accounts Payable Transaction Journal dated December 8, 2025, in the amount of $26,369.68 is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-409

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson
Be it resolved that the motion to approve the Cheque Register for the Operating Account in the amount of $1,692,685.73 for cheques numbered 033621 to 033733 is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-410

Councillor Smith/Councillor Tobin
Be it resolved that the motion to approve the Cheque Register for the Special Projects Accounts in the amount of $316,827.51 is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-411

Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson
Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of visa statements dated November 2025, to December 2025, in the

amount of $13,979.76 is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-412 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of invoice to Byron Smith Chartered Professional Accountants in the amount of $29,785 for audit services for the year ended December 31, 2024, is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-413 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Slaney**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve payment of invoice to Island Paving Ltd. In the amount of $11,692.62 for street patch paving. The Town's portion is $6,902.87, and the Placentia Lion's Club's portion is $4,789.75 for pavement patching at the library parking lot is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-414 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the Travel & Expense Policy as circulated and reviewed by Council and finalized on December 10, 2025, is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-415 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Slaney**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the payment of invoice from M.J. Hickey Construction Ltd. in the amount of $50,048 including HST for Leak Repair program #3 and asphalt repair is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

(Councillor Gerard Wilson, Chair; Councillor Sheldon Slaney, Councillor Ed Tobin; Resource Person –Public Works Superintendent)

The Public Works & Public Safety Committee made the following recommendations:

Motion #25-416 **Councillor Wilson/Councillor Tobin**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve a development permit for construction of a personal use garage at #4 Morrissey's Lane as per the application submitted is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion #25-417 **Councillor Wilson/Councillor Smith**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the demolition, removal, and remediation permit for the removal of dilapidated buildings at the Northeast Arm Camps, Dunville is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Mayor Neville and Councillor Neville declared conflict due to family ownership of a restaurant establishment, Councillor Wilson declared conflict due to family relations with the developer. Deputy Mayor Power took Chair.

Motion #25-418 **Councillor Tobin/Councillor Slaney**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve that the development of a craft micro-brewery can proceed at the proposed site located at #1491 Main Road, Dunville following the discretionary process is adopted. The application for construction will be reviewed when drawings are submitted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Slaney, Smith, and Tobin. Abstained: Mayor Neville, Councillors Neville, and Wilson)**

Mayor Neville, Councillor Neville, and Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting. Mayor Neville resumed Chair.

The Chair provided an update to the Committee report.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(Councillor Sheldon Slaney, Chair; Councillor William Neville, Councillor Ed Tobin; Resource Person – Arena Manager)

The Recreation Committee made no recommendations; however, the Chair provided an update to the Committee report.

TOURISM & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

(Deputy Mayor Wayne Power, Chair; Councillor Kay Smith; Councillor Ed Tobin; Resource Person – Manager of Tourism, Marketing & Communications)

The Tourism & Communications Committee made no recommendations; however, the Chair provided an update to the Committee report.

Presentation of Budget 2026
Delivered by Finance Chair, Councillor Kay Smith

Good evening, Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, fellow Councillors, Town staff, and residents present in the gallery and those who have virtually joined for the 2026 budget presentation. It is my honour as Chair of the Finance Committee to deliver my ninth consecutive municipal budget *for the Town of Placentia. Each budget year brings its own challenges and opportunities, and 2026 has been no exception. Tonight's budget reflects strong financial oversight, responsible planning, and a deep commitment to strengthening our community, supporting families, and building toward a prosperous future. Thank you to all residents that contributed to the budget consultation and presented their views to help prioritize spending for the 2026 fiscal year.*

As in previous years, Council and staff have worked diligently to prepare this budget, and we are pleased to announce that we have met our planned goals and objectives for 2025, including a collection rate of more than 90%. Despite inflated operating costs resulting from the current economic climate, I am very pleased to report that Council has achieved a balanced budget for 2026 without any increases to the mil rate, water and sewer rates for residential or business properties, or changes to the overall Tax Structure for the coming year.

However, it is important to note that the persistent rise in operating expenses, affecting everything from materials and equipment to insurance, contracted services, and utilities will continue to put pressure on municipal finances. To ensure the long-term sustainability of essential services and the Town's ability to maintain and invest in critical infrastructure, Council anticipates that an increase in taxes will be required as part of the 2027 budget. This early notice reflects our commitment to transparency, responsible planning, and preparing residents for the fiscal realities ahead.

Before I speak to the work of the past year, I want to take a moment to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of the outgoing Council under the leadership of Mayor Keith Pearson. Over the past four years, Mayor Pearson and his Council made significant progress in infrastructure, recreation, community development, and governance. Their steady leadership positioned Placentia on a strong and stable path, advancing projects that have had a meaningful and lasting impact on our residents.

As a new Council, we express our appreciation for their work, and we commit to continuing these important initiatives into 2026. Good governance is a continuum, and we intend to build on the strong foundation laid by those who served before us.

Throughout 2025, Council has worked with discipline and transparency to ensure that the Town's resources are managed responsibly. We renewed our five-year Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement with the Port of Argentia, strengthened policy frameworks.

We adopted a revised budget with total expenditures exceeding $7.4 million for 2025 and continued to support residents and businesses through fair and thoughtful financial practices, including tax recovery planning.

Reliable infrastructure remains one of the most important responsibilities of Council. This year, we advanced several major projects, many of them multi-year, high-impact investments. We continued significant work on the Dunville Watermain Replacement Project, including necessary amendments and change orders to address aging infrastructure and safety concerns. We also completed the Jerseyside Stormwater Project, and Station Road Erosion Project, both major *milestones for the community. In addition, we supported progress on the Orcan Drive Wave Wall upgrades, concrete patching, and municipal street resurfacing throughout the Town.*

We renewed our snow clearing contracts for the upcoming winter season, ensured the purchase of salt and sand, and invested in pedestrian safety with the installation of speed bumps throughout the community.

Public Works received an important equipment upgrade through the acquisition of a 2025 Ford F-350 and installation of a new flatbed, ensuring our crews can meet the service expectations of our residents effectively.

The safety of our residents is paramount. Council continued to invest in emergency preparedness with new fire-retardant gear, pagers, rescue equipment, safety ropes, and training resources for our volunteer firefighters.

We also advanced water and wastewater reliability through lift station repairs, leak detection work, waterworks supplies, and pump upgrades—investments that safeguard our essential services and improve operational stability.

Significant investments were made in our recreational facilities, particularly Unity PARC and the YMCA. This included: access control upgrades for the arena, new flooring for the arena to provide programming throughout the year which was funded by the Placentia Lions Club, nine new spin bikes, and updated branding and signage. We also submitted a Capital Investment Plan to secure Canada Community-Building Funds for a new arena chiller—an essential upgrade for ongoing ice operations.

Our Council continued supporting valued community groups and events including Freshwater Days, Voices of Placentia Bay, Placentia Area Historical Society, Placentia Rowing Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, Laval High School, and Hike Placentia. These investments strengthen our sense of community and support youth, volunteers, and cultural heritage.

This year, we reaffirmed our commitment to economic growth by adopting a revised Business Tax Incentive and Milestone Recognition Program, supporting home-based businesses, small vendors, and commercial expansions.

Tourism initiatives advanced through partnerships, brush-cutting programs, and the approval to upgrade our Town marketing services. The Town reached an agreement, approved by Council, to name the Recreation Complex the Port of Argentia Wellness Centre in recognition of their significant donation of $500,000, strengthening the partnership and supporting future opportunities.

Development remains strong throughout Town, with large numbers of new homes, renovations, business expansions, and residential improvements. Growth is happening in every part of our municipality.

Council continued to modernize operations with the hiring of a new Manager of Finance, Mrs. Lesley Murphy, who also serves as Deputy Town Clerk. We improved financial controls through updated signing authorities, streamlined procedures, and strengthened administrative oversight.

We also welcomed Matthew O'Reilly as the new Arena Manager, a role that provides dedicated leadership for the day-to-day operations of the arena, including facility maintenance, scheduling, user group coordination, and event management.

As we move into 2026, we remain focused on:

- *Strengthening core municipal infrastructure.*
- *Adaptation to climate change.*
- *Supporting safe and sustainable neighbourhoods.*
- *Enhancing recreation and community life.*
- *Fostering economic development; and*
- *Maintaining strong and transparent fiscal management.*

We are committed to carrying forward the important work begun under former Mayor Keith Pearson and the previous Council, ensuring continuity, stability, and progress for all residents. This includes completion of the Dunville Watermain Replacement Project; repairs to the Orcan Drive Wave Wall with an allotment of $100,000; leak detection initiatives with an allotment of $150,000; and $150,000 allocated for pavement recapping.

Beginning in 2026, a $50 fire protection fee will be introduced under the new Towns and Local Service District Act. The fee will be administered through the Eastern Regional Service Board and will apply to residential properties located outside the Placentia Volunteer Fire Department's municipal catchment area. In addition, Council is currently reviewing the potential implementation of a fire response fee for properties located within the catchment area.

New priorities for 2026 also include an additional $50,000 toward the Fire Training Centre and increased honorariums for our Volunteer Firefighters. Council has identified further needs such as repairs to the roof at the Jerseyside pumphouse and an additional $25,000 to enhance community events and sponsorships. A Tourism Accommodations Tax will also be implemented in April 2026.

We will continue to pursue government funding through 80/20 cost-shared programs and federal funding to help advance these and other future infrastructure upgrades.

Your Worship, the following is the January 1st to December 31st, 2026, budget presented to Council for approval:

Department	*Expenditures*
Government Services	*$1,267,055*
Protective Services	*$314,652*
Transportation Services	*$1,361,340*
Environmental Health	*$1,407,900*
Planning & Development	*$126,120*
Recreation & Cultural Services	*$1,516,545*
Fiscal Services	*$609,000*
	$6,602,612

Department	Revenues
Taxes	$4,102,599
Sales of Goods & Services	$279,000
Other Revenue from Own Sources	$420,286
Government Transfers	$506,073
Other Transfers	$1,486,062
	$6,794,020

Motions

Motion to Approval the 2026 Budget

Motion #25-419 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Wilson**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the 2026 Budget in the amount of six million, six hundred and two thousand, six hundred and twelve dollars is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

Motion to Approve the 2026 Tax Structure

Motion #25-420 **Councillor Smith/Councillor Neville**

Be it resolved that the motion to approve the 2026 Tax Structure for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, 2026, as presented and reviewed by Council is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

As Finance Chair, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, my colleagues on Council, our CAO, and Town staff for their support and dedication throughout this year. Delivering my ninth budget has been a privilege, and I remain committed to ensuring Placentia continues to grow with confidence and purpose.

Together, we are building a strong, vibrant, and sustainable future for the Town of Placentia; one that our families, businesses, and future generations can be proud of. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #25-421 **Councillor Wilson/Councillor Tobin**
Be it resolved that the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. is adopted. **(CARRIED UNANIMOUS: In favour: Mayor Neville, Deputy Mayor Power, Councillors Neville, Slaney, Smith, Tobin, and Wilson)**

JAMIE NEVILLE, MAYOR

LESLEY MURPHY, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Jan 20 | 26

DATE