



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026
MINUTES**

Present: Mayor Derek Amalfa, Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Councillor Anna Chetwynd, Councillor Candace Malik, Councillor Kevin Chetwynd, Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.

Regrets: Kevin Snow, Public Works Supervisor

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Derek Amalfa at 1:00 P.M.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

01-23-26-01

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the January 23, 2026, meeting with the following addition under Business arising from previous minutes – Legion posters. Motion Passed

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

5. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

01-23-26-02

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the January 9, 2026, meeting Minutes as circulated. Motion Passed

6. Business arising from previous Minutes

There was a small discussion around the Town of Lockeport purchasing a small Legion picture to be placed in the Town Hall. Councillor Kevin Chetwynd suggested that he would like to see Yolande Donaldson do some research and have pictures of soldiers from the Lockeport area, not just the south shore, if possible.

01-23-26-03

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the purchase of a small picture, as presented, at a cost of \$125.00 for the Town Hall and explore the option of having the picture specific to Lockeport's soldiers that passed away overseas. Motion Passed

7. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes.
- Each resident is to state their name and where they live
- The resident is to speak directly to the Council.
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time.
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched.

8. Presentations

Paul Beazley and Andrew Willsey presented a slideshow from Property Valuation Services Corporation. The 2026 assessments are based on sales from 2024. Paul Beasley went over how the Capped Assessment Program works and that the appeal process for assessments closes on February 12, 2026. Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen asked about the tax rates as Paul had made a comment that our commercial assessments are flat. Paul replied that the assessments are normal for our area and 83% of our assessments are capped on our assessments and some communities have 91% – 95% assessments capped. Deputy Mayor Hillen also asked about how they do their data collection since there have not been a lot of sales in Lockeport. Andrew Willsey reported that they look in an area that have similar services as us and history. Paul will get information back to the Town Clerk/Treasurer regarding the locations used outside of Lockeport to compare the last four houses sold in the Town of Lockeport.

9. Department Reports

- Public Works Department Report

The Public Works truck was having an issue as it is a diesel truck and needs to be blown out periodically. Rob Harlow from Harlow Construction sent his mechanic to Lockport to fix the truck as this is the truck with the salt spreader on it. A total fix will cost around \$3500, plus the money for the mechanic to come to Lockport and fix the truck to get us through the weekend. Mark Williams Excavating offered his help and salted the roads Friday morning. Councillor Candace Malik remarked that we had been told before to do the blow-out as we had the same problem last year. The Town Clerk/Treasurer will ask Kevin Snow to see if Kendall or Jake, both mechanics, have a fix for this problem and if they can blow them out at their shops.

Councillor Anna Chetwynd asked about the UV system and if it had been finished. It is still in the works and will be no cost to the Town to make the discharge permanent under the ground and not above ground. The Town does have the approval from the Department of Environment, that everything is good to go.

Councillor Candace Malik asked about the brackets for the convex mirror at the corner of Beech and Hall Streets and Mayor Amalfa asked for an update from the Public Works Department regarding the brackets.

- Administration Report

The Town Clerk/Treasurer went over her report.

- Mishell Itkind – Clean Foundation Report

Mishell Itkind and Patrick Latimier presented a slideshow for the Joint Climate Action Plan (JCAP) and the Lockport Climate and Causeway Action Team (LCCAT). The JCAP will increase regional resilience against climate change. Mayor Amalfa thanked them for all their hard work on these projects. The JCAP will assist the LCCAT.

01-23-26-04

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Clean Foundation to go ahead with the Joint Climate Action Plan at no cost to the Town. Motion Passed

- Connie Lamm, Make Your Move Budget Report

Mayor Amalfa stated Connie is doing a good job. Councillor Malik asked if they had decided about donating money to the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) for the volleyball nets and posts. Councillor Anna Chetwynd said it would be discussed at the meeting on February 2, 2026, and then Councillor Malik can let SAC know.

10. Finance

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$63,635.64

There were no questions regarding invoices already paid.

- Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival

The Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival is coming together great, and we hope that the event will bring a lot of people to Lockeport.

- Transfer money from Sustainable Services Growth Fund to General Operating Account.

01-23-26-05

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Town Clerk/Treasurer to move \$46,292.07 from the Sustainable Services Growth Fund to the General Operating account to cover final invoices for the Sustainable Services Growth Fund projects. This will complete the project. Motion Passed

- Laneway behind the Town Market and proposed costs for clearing

Mayor Amalfa stated that we have three choices; clear the laneway and leave it, clear the laneway and take ownership or leave it alone. Councillor Anna Chetwynd remarked about the cost to clear the laneway and to get new gravel, surveys and legal fees. She does not see the value for the whole community in this as we look at the roads that we do need to maintain. Councillor A. Chetwynd also stated that the laneway is not utilized past the Town Market right now. Hall Street in particular needs a lot of work and it would be better use of taxpayers' money to fix that up for the whole community to use. Councillor Kevin Chetwynd said that it was not cost effective, and the Town would be maintaining a dead-end laneway and that money could be used for a bathroom at the Transportation Building. Deputy Mayor Hillen stated that no residents have ownership of the laneway and that it is a public laneway. Councillor Malik pointed out that the Town Market has used it for 20+ years, as the previous owner Mr. Swim used it prior to selling to the current owners. Therefore, it could be possible for them to apply for

Adverse Possession through the province, as it should be grandfathered into their purchase. Councillor Malik is unsure of the legalities and says that it would fall on the owner to look into this. She is also torn on the issue because she sees the benefit of the Town taking over the laneway, as it would set a precedent for all unassumed property/laneways in the Town instead of doing nothing. Mayor Amalfa stated that under the Municipal Government Act, the Town can assume the laneway, but with liability also.

01-23-26-05

It was duly moved and seconded that the Town of Lockeport will not assume the Laneway behind the Town Market.

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hillen

Councillor Anna Chetwynd

Councillor Kevin Chetwynd

Opposed: Mayor Amalfa

Councillor Malik

Motion Passed

11. Other Business

- Letter from Mike Cotter – Signs at Soccer field

Mr. Cotter is asking to purchase and display three signs at the soccer field recognizing the accomplishments of three Lockeport residents with the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame. While Council did agree it was a wonderful idea, they would like to see a mock-up of the signs and ask that they be smaller in size. Mr. Cotter will be asked to attend the next Council meeting for clarification.

12. Committee Reports

- Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen
 - o Heritage and Tourism Advisory Committee

The subject of the seaweed on Crescent Beach, Chetwynd's Beach and Col Locke's Beach was discussed. Deputy Mayor Hillen offered to draft an advisory letter to go to the Province of Nova Scotia letting them know the situation. Hopefully it will all be gone by the time the Piping Plovers come to nest.

- Businesses of the month for February & March 2026

01-23-26-06

It was duly moved and seconded that the Heritage and Tourism Committee will recognize the following as businesses for the month: Lillian Benham Memorial Library and Royco Plumbing for the month of February and South Shore

Construction (Mike Williams) and C. Stephens Construction for March. Motion Passed

- Lobster Sea Catch Festival

01-23-26-07

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Heritage and Tourism Committee to hold the Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival on February 21, 2026. Motion Passed

- Advisory letter to Province of NS re: Seaweed on the beaches

01-23-26-08

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approves to send an advisory letter to the Province of Nova Scotia advising them of the tremendous amount of seaweed on our beaches in Lockeport. Motion Passed

- Councillor Anna Chetwynd
- Recreation/MYM Committee Draft Minutes
 - o New Play Park Policy

01-23-26-09

It was duly moved and seconded that Council as recommended by the Recreation Committee approve rescinding the old policy #GG – 023 known as the “Play Park Seasonal Policy” and approval given to the Recreation Committee to write a new Play Park policy to allow the park to remain open year round, unless deemed necessary by the Town of Lockeport to close it. Motion Passed

- o Soft Opening for Playpark

01-23-26-10

It was moved and seconded that Council, as recommended by the Recreation Committee, allow a “soft opening” of the park on or after January 31, 2026, weather permitting. Motion Passed

13. Correspondence

There was nothing for Correspondence

14. Information Only

There was nothing for Information Only

15. Date of next meeting

- Friday February 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

16. "In Camera"

There was nothing for "In Camera"

17. Adjournment

01-23-26-11

Being as there was no further business, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 3:25 p.m. Motion Passed

Mayor Derek Amalfa

Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding

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