
ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Adam Lutz, arrived at 6:48 pm
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Lisa Walsh, Director of Finance (via Zoom), left at 8:45 pm
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant (via Zoom)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Taylor Boylan, Recreation Coordinator
Jordan Hebb, Active Living Coordinator
2 members of the public

REGRETS:

Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Justin Serino

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

The action items were reviewed. The land acquisition referenced at the last Council meeting has been sold, as noted by CAO Boyd.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mayor Trinacty** – The Quality-of-Life Survey has arrived in the mail.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Accessibility Report Card

Taylor Boylan reviewed the annual report card for the Accessibility plan. The decision was made by the committee to change the timeline from fiscal year to

calendar year to align with budgetary requests. Council discussed the need for plain language communication policies and explored options for providing accessibility at events, such as ASL interpreters or transcription services.

b. Active Living Report Card

Jordan presented a report card on the Active Living Strategy, highlighting completed and ongoing action items across four pillars: individual, social, physical, and policy. He noted the success with after-school activities and the need to review the communications plan. Jordan provided the status of the Active Transportation Plan, which is expected to have a draft ready by March or April, with a final version expected by October.

Jordan and Taylor left the meeting at 6:59 pm

c. Draft Strategic Plan

CAO Boyd shared that the draft strategic plan has been added to the agenda package for Council to review and provide comments. An update on how it will be reported and incorporated into decision requests will be presented on March 24. It was suggested that the draft document be sent to the community participants for their review and feedback. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak noted article 2.2.3 needs to be changed from Annapolis River to the Cornwallis River (Jijuktu'kwejk). Councillor Jamieson mentioned that the report used a lot of acronyms, and there should be a glossary of terms added.

d. Operating Budget

The budget discussion covered revenue increases, expense projections, and various initiatives, including a part-time safety officer position and library budget increases. Staff also addressed changes to benefits, utilities, and insurance costs, noting savings in some areas and increases in others.

It was noted that the public engagement session for the budget has been rescheduled to March 9th at the Berwick Fire Hall. It was noted that version one of the 2026/27 Operating Budget reflected a surplus of \$16,000. Though discussion and direction from Council, version two reflects a deficit of \$43,850.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8:35 pm

e. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. **Finance** – circulated
- b. **Berwick Fire Department** – circulated
- c. **Community Development** – circulated
- d. **Public Works** – circulated
- e. **CAO** – circulated

f. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **Accessibility Committee** – circulated
 - b. **Homelessness Advisory Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated.
 - c. **AVRL Meeting** – Councillor Walsh reviewed the report as circulated.
 - d. **Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition** – circulated
 - e. **Berwick Beautification Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the concept for the Gateway Garden presentation.
 - f. **Diversity Kings Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated
 - g. **Fire Services Subcommittee** – CAO Boyd reviewed the report as circulated
 - h. **Kings County Trails Society** – circulated
 - i. **Valley Regional Services** – Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report as circulated.
 - j. **Valley Ren-Loc** – circulated
- g. **MAYOR'S REPORT** – circulated. Reminder of the Stormwater Management Plan public information session is on Monday, March 2nd, at the Berwick Fire Hall at 6:30 pm.

h. **ADJOURNMENT**

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:55 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, March 24, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**