



## Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

**Place:** Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
**Presiding Officer:** Mayor Greg Henley  
**Councillors Present:** Deputy Mayor Black, Brenton Colborne, Olivia Canning-Sweet, Chrystal McNutt, Padraic Moore, and Paul Jones  
**Councillor Regrets:** Nil

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting.***

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Cloney (CAO), Stan McDougall (AdminAssistant / Recording Secretary), and Ruthann Brookins (Manager of Finance)

**Presenters in attendance:** Nil

**Media in attendance:** Mark Rushton, HelloOxford

**Gallery in attendance:** Nil

### **1. Call to Order – Welcome**

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones to approve the agenda of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, October 8, 2025, be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **3. In-Camera**

#### **3.1 - acquisition, sale, lease, legal, and security of municipal property**

At 6:45 PM it was moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Canning-Sweet to go in-camera to discuss the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property.

***Motion Carried***

At 7:05 PM it was moved by Deputy Mayor Black and seconded by Councillor Colborne to come out of in-camera and resume the Special Council Meeting.

***Motion Carried***

The **Project Overview for GRID Application** was reviewed with the Council

The Town of Oxford is seeking funding to complete detailed design for the renewal and expansion of critical water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure that supports community growth, public safety, and climate resilience. The project will prepare shovel-ready designs for coordinated upgrades that address aging infrastructure, inadequate fire protection, and storm flooding while enabling new housing development within the Town.

The design will replace 1930s-era water main on Main Street and deteriorated sections along Pugwash Road that are prone to breaks and backups. These lines connect Oxford's reservoirs and serve as the core distribution paths for residential supply. Their failure increasingly disrupts service reliability for existing homes and constrains development potential, which will also rely on this aging service line.

A new reservoir is also required to replace the aging Pugwash Road facility, which is well beyond its useful life and at risk of structural failure, according to the conclusions of two separate investigations. The new reservoir will restore safe storage capacity and provide adequate pressure and fire flow

to current and future serviced areas. The existing facility's limitations have become a direct barrier to housing growth in parts of the community.

The project will also include extension of water and sewer systems across Highway 104 to unlock new development land in the south part of the Town and strengthen network redundancy. This will increase the number of serviced lots for housing while ensuring reliable service for infill areas within the existing boundary.

The Main Street renewal design will integrate accessibility and climate adaptation measures consistent with the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act and municipal accessibility priorities. The street will be redesigned with a multi-use path, vegetated buffers, and rain gardens that reduce crossing distances and improve pedestrian safety. Stormwater upgrades—including permeable surfaces and hybrid green infrastructure—will reduce flooding during heavy rainfall and high-river events, which currently limit access for vehicles and pedestrians and are expected to worsen under changing climate conditions.

Collectively, these design elements will strengthen the Town's essential water and sewer systems, enhance system redundancy, improve accessibility, and reduce environmental, and health risks associated with infrastructure failure and flooding.

**Key Outcomes:**

- a) Replacement of high-risk aging waterlines to ensure safe and reliable service.
- b) Design of a replacement reservoir to restore pressure and fire flow capacity.
- c) Enabling of new and infill housing through extension of water and sewer networks.

- d) Integration of accessibility improvements and active transportation routes.
- e) Reduction of flood risk through nature-based stormwater management.
- f) Creation of shovel-ready design and tender documents for construction.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Black and seconded by Councillor Jones, that Council supports the submission of the Service Renewal to Support Community Growth project for funding consideration under Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID).

***Motion Carried***

#### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Greg Henley

  
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Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

2025-10-22  
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Date Approved