



The regular meeting of the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke was held on **JANUARY 13, 2025** at the Town Hall 1056 Brook Road, Hinchinbrooke, Quebec. Mayor Wallace presided over the presidency in the presence of the following councillors:

Marc Bakos
Ralph Duncan
Tanya Clarke
Kirk Feeny
Laurie Ann Prevost

Absent:

Elgin MacFarlane

Also present:

Resident of Fairview Road, Dewittville.
Resident of Fairview Road, Dewittville.
Residents on Meadow Road, Hinchinbrooke.
Resident on Tanglewood Road, Hinchinbrooke.

Adam Antonopoulos, Director general and secretary treasurer, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

25-01-01

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Feeny
SECONDED BY: Councilor Clarke

That the regular meeting be opened at 7:59 p.m.

ADOPTED

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

25-01-02

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Prévost

That the agenda be adopted as distributed.

ADOPTED

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER**

25-01-03

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Clarke
SECONDED BY: Councilor Duncan

That the French version of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 2, 2024 be adopted as distributed.

ADOPTED

25-01-04

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos
SECONDED BY: Councilor Duncan

That the English version of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 2, 2024 be adopted as distributed.

ADOPTED



4. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER**

25-01-05

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Prevost
SECONDED BY: Councilor Duncan

That the French version of the minutes of the extraordinary budget meeting held on December 17, 2024 be adopted as distributed.

ADOPTED

25-01-06

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Clarke
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Bakos

That the English version of the minutes of the extraordinary budget meeting held on December 17, 2024 be adopted as distributed.

ADOPTED

5. **URBAN PLANNING**

Council took note of the municipal inspection report as filed by the inspector during the caucus meeting of January 9, 2025.

5.1 **ZONING REGULATION 378-24**

AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW NUMBER 378 TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIGNAGE

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke has adopted *Zoning By-law number 378* ;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke is governed by the *Municipal Code* and subject to the provisions of the *Act respecting land use planning and development* and that *Zoning By-law number 378* may only be amended in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

WHEREAS The municipality considers it appropriate to make certain adjustments to the provisions relating to signage

WHEREAS a draft regulation was filed and a notice of motion was given at the regular meeting of November 4, 2024;

WHEREAS the draft regulation was adopted on November 4, 2024;

WHEREAS the public consultation on the draft regulation was held on December 2, 2024;

WHEREAS the by-law will be adopted with amendments to specify that a sign may only be erected if the use to which it is attached complies with the zoning by-law or if this use benefits from an acquired right;

THEREFORE,

25-01-07

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Clarke
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Bakos



BE IT STATED AND ORDERED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1: Article 8.1 is amended by adding, at the end of the 2nd paragraph, the following sentence:

“The use to which the sign is attached complies with the zoning regulations or benefits from an acquired right.”

ARTICLE 2: Article 8.5 is replaced by the following:

“8.5 MATERIALS AND PERMANENCE OF THE MESSAGE ”

Only solid core wood, metal, aluminum, bronze, glass, plastic, fiberglass, rigid fabric, canvas, high density urethane and " Crezon " type plywood are authorized as materials in the construction of signs.

The message on the display must be fixed and permanent. No system for changing the message as needed is permitted except in the following cases:

- a) gasoline price display ;
- b) temperature and time display ;
- c) the display may include a non-fixed and non-permanent message, with a system for changing the message as needed. The maximum area of this removable display is twenty-five percent (25%) of the total area of the sign. This removable message must be located at the bottom of the sign.

ARTICLE 3: Article 8.8 is repealed.

ARTICLE 4: Article 8.9 is replaced by the following:

“8.9 PROVISIONS RELATING TO ROADSIDE SIGNS OF AESTHETIC INTEREST ”

Notwithstanding any contrary provision contained in this by-law, any sign on a post or base installed on a property adjacent to Fairview Road, Ridge Road, Gore Road and the part of Route 132 running along the hamlet of Rockburn to the municipal boundary with the municipality of Franklin must comply with the following provisions:

- a) must be located at a minimum distance of 1.5 meters from the right-of-way of the road. This distance applies to all elements making up the sign and its structure;
- b) must be of a color related to the buildings on the property;
- c) at the base, be embellished with landscaping;
- d) in the event that the sign is illuminated, this lighting must be by reflection.

ARTICLE 5: These regulations come into force in accordance with the law.

ADOPTED

6. PUBLIC WORKS

Council took note of the public works report as filed by the road supervisor during the caucus meeting of January 9, 2025.

7. COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



7.1 **FIREFIGHTERS**

7.1.1 ELGIN / HUNTINGDON INTERMUNICIPAL FIRE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the Municipality of Elgin and the Town of Huntingdon wish to avail themselves of the provisions of articles 468 of the Cities and Towns Act (RSQ, chapter c-19 and articles 569 et seq. of the Municipal Code (RLRQ, chapter C-27.1) to conclude an intermunicipal agreement for mutual assistance in the event of a fire;

WHEREAS it is necessary to define mutual assistance according to the needs of the municipality of Elgin during a disaster as provided for in the fire safety risk coverage plan of the MRC du Haut Saint-Laurent;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Elgin has signed an intermunicipal agreement with the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke for the provision of a fire safety service in their territory;

WHEREAS under the intermunicipal agreement entered into between the Municipality of Elgin and the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke, the management of operations during a fire on the territory of Elgin falls under the authority of the director of the fire safety service of the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke designated for this purpose;

THEREFORE,

25-01-08

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Feeny

SECONDED BY: Councilor Clarke

THAT the council of the municipality of Hinchinbrooke recognize the conclusion of an agreement relating to the provision of a mutual aid service in the event of a fire with the Town of Huntingdon and the municipality of Elgin.

THAT The Mayor and the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer are authorized to sign this agreement on behalf of the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke.

ADOPTED

7.1.2 INTERMUNICIPAL FIRE AGREEMENT HINCHINBROOKE / SAINT-LOUIS-DE-GONZAGUE

WHEREAS the municipalities wish to avail themselves of the provisions of articles 468 et seq. of the *Cities and Towns Act (RLRQ, chapter C-19)* and articles 569 et seq. of the *Municipal Code (RLRQ, chapter C-27.1)* to conclude an intermunicipal agreement on mutual assistance in the event of fire and emergency response;

WHEREAS the *Fire Safety Act (RSQ, chapter S-3.4)* allows for the establishment of a system of mutual assistance between municipal fire safety services and establishes the conditions thereof;

WHEREAS the municipal council has taken note of the agreement and undertakes to respect its conditions;



ACCORDINGLY

25-01-09

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Duncan
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Bakos

To conclude the agreement on mutual assistance in the event of fire and emergency response;

To authorize the mayor as well as the director general and secretary-treasurer to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke, any document relating to this agreement.

ADOPTED

7.2 ARENA

Nothing to report for December 2024

7.3 RECREATION (RECREATION)

7.3.1 CANADA DAY FIREWORKS

25-01-10

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Feeny
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Bakos

That the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke choose the date of Saturday, June 28, 2025 to hold the Canada Day fireworks display.

ADOPTED

7.4.1 DONATION REQUEST – CVR EDUCATION FUND

25-01-11

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos
SECONDED BY: Councilor Clarke

That the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke make a donation in the amount of \$500 to the CVR education fund which must be allocated to a resident of Hinchinbrooke.

ADOPTED

7.4.2 DONATION REQUEST – S.A.B.E.C.

25-01-12

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Prévost

That the Municipality of Hinchinbrooke make a donation of \$500 to the S.A.B.E.C. organization

ADOPTED

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wallace reviewed the list of correspondence received during the month of December 2024.



8.1 CELLULAR COVERAGE

WHEREAS cellular coverage remains insufficient in several regions of Quebec, limiting access to an essential service for residents and visitors;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has committed to deploying complete cellular coverage across the entire territory by October 2026, recognizing its importance for the quality of life of citizens and socio-economic development, particularly in a context where automation is becoming an essential solution to the labour shortage;

WHEREAS reliable cellular services are essential to ensure access to information, health services, and public safety responses, and poor coverage compromises the safety of people in areas with limited coverage or when roaming, particularly in emergencies requiring rapid response by first responders;

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) procedure CPC-2-0-17 imposes conditions of licence on cellular service providers (CSPs), including mandatory roaming, tower sharing and prohibition of site exclusivity, in order to facilitate network access for subscribers of another CSP when a service is available;

WHEREAS this same procedure does not, however, oblige FSCs to request the service of another provider in the event of non-existent coverage in a given region, thus limiting the scope of the measure;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the CRTC provide significant subsidies to telecommunications companies for the construction of new cellular infrastructure in order to improve coverage in the region;

WHEREAS despite the presence of more than 8,500 cell towers in Quebec, the exclusive use of these towers by a single FSC limits access for other providers and constitutes a major obstacle to the deployment of optimal cellular coverage for the entire population;

25-01-13

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos

SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Prévost

TO ASK the Liberal Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Bloc Québécois:

- To include in their electoral platform for the next federal election the obligation for all cellular service companies to conclude roaming agreements so that cellular service customers, regardless of their provider, can benefit from the presence of cellular sites in the region where they are located ;

TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Finance of Quebec, Mr. Eric Girard, responsible for fulfilling the government's commitment to provide cellular service throughout the inhabited territory in this mandate;

TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the directors of telecommunications companies, in particular BCE (Bell), Videotron, Rogers, TELUS and Cogeco .



ADOPTED

8.2 SQ RATES

Whereas the municipalities served by the Sûreté du Québec have just received their invoice for the year 2025;

Whereas the average of the announced increases is 6.47%, but that the increases for several municipalities are much more significant, even considerable;

Whereas the 2025 bill marks the end of the transitional period to lead to a 50-50 sharing of the bill for Sûreté du Québec services between the Government and the municipalities. A period characterized by the establishment of an increase ceiling of 7% and a floor of 2 %;

Whereas during the negotiations for the new formula in 2019, the authorities of the Ministry of Public Security assured its municipal partners that the increases would be approximately 3% per year once the transitional period ended and that this formula would protect the municipal world from increases of the nature of those announced in 2025;

Considering that the inflation rate is now less than 2 %;

Whereas the media have recently reported on the management of overtime by police officers in the regions, which is causing significant pressure on the overall cost of the Sûreté du Québec service billed to municipalities;

Considering the legitimate questions from several elected officials concerning the real impact of the number of unfilled police positions and the significant use of overtime, while an effective police service requires stability and a long-term, developed community presence;

Considering the unconsidered increase in the costs of the Sûreté du Québec and their impact on the bill imposed on municipalities;

Considering that the municipal world is not involved in determining the working conditions of police officers and the management of the Sûreté du Québec;

Considering that the total amount billed to municipalities for 2025 amounts to more than \$444.8 million, a considerable amount that should give municipalities a say in the management of these services.

25-01-14

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos

SECONDED BY: Councilor Duncan

It is proposed that the municipality of Hinchinbrooke ask the Minister of Public Security, Mr. François Bonnardel :

- To mandate an external firm to analyze the management of the Sûreté du Québec, similar to the approach taken with municipal transport companies, which made it possible to identify possible solutions to save several hundred million dollars;
- To maintain a ceiling and a floor for the increase in bills in the permanent formula as in the transitional formula until the analysis has identified means to control the inconsiderate increase in the cost of Sûreté du Québec services.

That a copy of the resolution be sent to the Minister of Public Security, Mr. François Bonnardel , to the Member for the



constituency of Huntingdon, Ms. Carole Mallette, to the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, Ms. Johanne Beausoleil and to the President of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), Mr. Jacques Demers.

ADOPTED

8.5 KEBAOWEK FIRST NATION SUPPORT

WHEREAS :

- The Government of Canada plans to build a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) at Chalk River to store 1.5 million cubic metres of low- and intermediate-level nuclear waste;
- The proposed site for this project is located in a marshy, hillside area with direct drainage to the Ottawa River;
- The Ottawa River is an essential source of drinking water for up to 9 million people in Quebec and Ontario and represents a popular natural environment for recreational activities;
- It is imperative to protect this vital resource against any risk of radioactive contamination in the short, medium and long term;
- Since April 2021, more than 140 municipalities, regional county municipalities and villages in Quebec have adopted resolutions expressing their opposition to the current plans of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for this project;
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) did not hold sufficient public consultations in Quebec, limiting access to information for municipalities and concerned citizens;
- The International Atomic Energy Agency recommends burying nuclear waste in deep geological layers, far from populations and sources of drinking water.

THEREFORE,

25-01-15 **PROPOSED BY:** Councilor Prévost
SECONDED BY: Councilor Feeny

THAT this Council express its opposition to the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) Near Surface Waste Management Facility (NSWMMF) project in its current form;

THAT this Council call upon the Government of Canada to comply with the international standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding the management of nuclear waste;

THAT this Council demand that the Canadian government hold additional public meetings in Quebec municipalities to allow citizens and elected officials to express their views on this project;

THAT this Council asks the Government of Quebec to take a clear, firm and public position against this project and to intervene with the CNL to demand a complete review of the project, in accordance with national and international environmental and health safety standards.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT this Council authorizes the Mayor, the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of



Hinchinbrooke, any document necessary to give effect to this resolution.

ADOPTED

8.4 REGULATION 463 TAXATION

NOTICE OF MOTION and DEPOSIT was given by Councillor Bakos that By-law 463 concerning TAXATION 2025 will be adopted at the next council meeting.

8.5 ANNUAL REPORT CONTRACTUAL REGULATION 457 MANAGEMENT

That the Director General, Mr. Adam Antonopoulos explained to the council that for the year 2024, there was no particular problem or situation related to the context of regulation 457. All contracts over \$25,000.00 were also presented to the council.

8.6 SUBMISSION FOR COMPUTER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

25-01-16

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Bakos
SECONDED BY: Councillor Duncan

That the council accept the submission of Mr. Francis Aubut, computer technician, for the replacement of the computers of the inspector and the director general at the price of \$3,500 (plus taxes and installation costs).

ADOPTED

9. QUESTION PERIOD

A resident of Meadow Street wanted to thank the council and municipality for allowing them to use the basement of the town hall for the Christmas dinner. A total of 75 people were present. They asked if they could have a winter carnival at the Athelstan ball park and if it would be possible to use the basement of the town hall once a month to have a social event for the elderly. The mayor and council had no objection and thanked the citizen for organizing the event.

The citizen also asked if the municipality has a recreation committee. The mayor explained that the committee is essentially the council as a whole. If someone wants something or wants to organize something, they just have to talk to council or send an email to the city manager.

A resident of Fairview Road asked a question regarding the new by-law 378-24. The resident does not agree with the measurements contained in the by-law and wants to know the steps to follow to oppose it. The Mayor explained that he must first apply for a permit. The citizen wants us to check his property file since he states that he had obtained authorization for the sign in question. The director general explained that he will review the property file, but that it is the citizen's responsibility to prove that he has obtained the appropriate permission.



Tanglewood resident asked the council why council members were raising their hands during the meeting. The mayor and director general explained the voting process, quorum and other general rules regarding municipal public meetings.

Without further questions from the floor, this point is tabled.

10. INVOICES TO BE APPROVED

25-01-17

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Bakos
SECONDED BY: Councilor Duncan

That the accounts payable for the period from December 2, 2024 to January 13, 2025 in the amount of \$321,893.60 be adopted and paid and that said accounts be kept in a register for this purpose and form an integral part of these minutes.

ADOPTED

11. ADJOURNMENT

25-01-18

PROPOSED BY: Councilor Clarke
SUPPORTED BY: Councilor Prevost

That the business of the meeting having been duly completed, the meeting be adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ADOPTED

Mark Wallace
Mayor

Adam Antonopoulos
Director General