



**CITY OF BATHURST**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MINUTES**

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

**6:30 pm**

**Council Chambers - City Hall**

Present	Councillor P. Anderson Councillor D. Branch Councillor S. Brunet Councillor R. Hondas Councillor D. Knowles Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc Councillor S. Legacy Councillor M. Skerry Deputy Mayor M. Willett
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Absent	Mayor K. Chamberlain
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Appointed Officials	A. Parker, City Clerk M. Abernethy, City Engineer L. Foulem, Corporate Communications Manager S. Gauvin, Treasurer M. A. LaPlante, Assistant City Manager C. Roy, Executive Administrator
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**1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 2025 Budget Kickoff by Sonia Gauvin, Treasurer**

The City Treasurer officially initiated the 2025 budget season with the introduction of the Municipal Operating and Capital Budget Schedule. This evening, committees and commissions will present their funding requests, while department heads will provide updates to members of council and the public on proposed capital projects and operational initiatives in the coming weeks.

The budget schedule is outlined as follows:

- **September 11** – Human Resources (Closed Session)
- **October 7** – DBRC budget presentation (2025 levy)

- **October 9** – Capital General Fund Budget, Capital Utility Fund Budget, Operating Utility Fund Budget, and RSC Budget Items
- **October 23** – Operating General Fund Budget, Review of Operating Utility Fund Budget, and Review of Capital Budgets (General and Utility)

### **Budget Review**

- **November 4** – Comprehensive review of all four budgets with adjustments incorporated

### **Final Budget Approval by Council**

- **November 18** – Presentation of budget highlights, followed by the adoption of budget resolutions

## **2.2 Bathurst Public Library by Miranda Angelski**

Ms. Miranda Angelski, Director of the Bathurst Public Library, presented the library's 2025 budget request, which will fund essential supplies, furniture, and equipment. She clarified that revenue generated from book sales and donations is strictly allocated for collection development (i.e., book purchases), while income from services such as photocopying, laminating, and faxing is used to cover programming supplies and other operational necessities. Given these restrictions, the library requires additional funding to maintain its facilities and acquire new furniture.

For the 2025 budget, the library is requesting \$23,092, allocated as follows:

- \$8,617 for technology-related expenses, including the maintenance and upkeep of both public and staff computers.
- \$12,975 for general library supplies and furniture for use by both patrons and staff.
- \$1,500 for programming supplies. This is a notable increase from the \$500 requested in previous years, reflecting the significant growth in library programs—from 25 offered in 2023 to 205 in 2024.

## **2.3 Nepisiguit Sports Lodge by Peter Kennah**

Established in the 1970s by a dedicated group of local enthusiasts, the Nepisiguit Sports Lodge Snowmobile Club has since expanded to over 1,300 members throughout the Maritimes, significantly boosting winter tourism in the Bathurst region.

Over the years, the club has focused on continuously improving its trail network. To fully leverage the entire winter season, they are seeking the City's support to enhance the main trail system. The club's primary trail, Trail #19, which runs alongside Highway 11, requires the installation of a culvert to safely cross a bog near the St. Anne Street snowmobile crossing. This improvement would extend trail access to local hotels, allowing visitors to stay in the area longer, which in turn would benefit local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments.

The club is requesting a contribution of \$35,000 to fund this crucial infrastructure upgrade.

## **2.4 Bathurst Heritage Trust Commission Inc. by Nancy Culligan-Brunner**

Ms. Nancy Culligan-Brunner presented the Bathurst Heritage Museum's request for financial assistance, along with the 2024 financial statements. The museum is seeking \$37,000 from the

City of Bathurst: \$12,000 to support operational expenses and \$25,000 for much-needed flooring renovations.

The total cost of the flooring project is estimated at \$60,000. To bridge the funding gap, the museum is pursuing additional support, aiming to secure \$15,000 to \$17,000 through the Regional Development Corporation (RDC). They have also launched a fundraising campaign, through the Curling Club's Chase-the-Ace event under the non-profit category, to raise the remaining balance.

The museum had a successful summer staffing program, with two returning students for their third year and two new hires. Funding for these positions came from a provincial grant on a job-share basis, as three of the four students worked part-time. The grant covered over 80% of the associated costs.

To date, the museum has enjoyed another strong year in terms of visitor numbers, activities, exhibits, and community engagement.

## **2.5 Coronation Park Committee by Councillor Anderson**

In 2024, the Coronation Park Committee was granted \$500,000 to upgrade the splash pad and its infrastructure, as it is currently undersized for the number of children using it. Additionally, the electrical and plumbing systems require replacement. However, the City's funding was contingent upon securing government support.

Unfortunately, the committee was informed that their initial funding application was denied. They now plan to reapply through the Regional Development Corporation's (RDC) regular funding stream, which typically covers 40% of project costs.

The committee is requesting that the \$500,000 allocation from 2024 be carried over to 2025, in hopes of moving the project forward with this alternative funding source.

## **2.6 Charlie's Cat Rescue by Jennifer Chamberlain and Rita Vienneau Willett**

Charlie's Cat Rescue, a non-profit organization based in Bathurst, was established in September 2019. Since its inception, the organization has rescued 1,107 stray cats, with 850 successfully adopted. Currently, 169 cats remain in their care or foster homes, while some have been transferred to other shelters, and others have either been lost or passed away.

Every cat taken in by the rescue receives comprehensive medical care, including spaying or neutering, two deworming treatments, vaccinations, microchipping, and treatment for fleas and lice. Additionally, all cats are tested for feline leukemia and immunodeficiency.

In 2023, the group incurred \$120,000 in veterinary costs for the care of 272 cats. This year, they have already rescued 121 cats, with expenses including \$21,439.67 for food, \$8,935.50 for litter, and \$57,470.53 in veterinary bills. The rescue operates entirely on community donations and is run by dedicated local volunteers.

They are requesting a donation of \$10,000 to continue their important work.

# **3. POLICIES**

## **3.1 P2024-10 Culvert Policy**

Years ago, it was determined that culverts were solely intended to provide property access and should be installed by homeowners. Consequently, the City decided that homeowners would also

be responsible for the repair or replacement of culverts. However, this decision was never formally documented in a policy for residents to consult when inquiring about repairs.

To address this, Policy P2024-10, "Culvert Policy," has been developed to clearly define the responsibility for the repair and replacement of driveway culverts in the City of Bathurst. A motion to adopt this policy will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Amy-Lynn Parker, City Clerk