

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF NEEPAWA REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NEEPAWA MUNICIPAL OFFICE, 275 HAMILTON ST., NEEPAWA, MB

Present: Mayor Hedley, Deputy Mayor Parrott, Councillors Clark, Gerrard, Kostenchuk, Nadeau and Sisley, CAO Colleen Synchyshyn, Manager of Operations Denis Saquet, Asset Management Co-ordinator Kara Sylvester

Guests: Rrain Prior – NACTV, Eoin Devereaux – Neepawa Banner & Press

Pre-Meeting Committee of the Whole – 5:00 p.m.

- Having received the final draft of the Town's Climate Change Local Action Plan from Intergroup Consultants, CAO Synchyshyn narrated a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the updated document for council's review and approval. No changes required.

1. 5:30 p.m. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No: 2026-107

Parrott/Sisley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the Regular Meeting agenda for June 16, 2026.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No: 2026-108

Kostenchuk/Clark

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 2, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations/Delegations/Public Hearings - Nil

4. Council Reports

4.1 Deputy Mayor Parrott

- Congratulations to ArtFest and Amazing Race Neepawa who recently won the Event of the Year (under 10K) in the 2026 Tribute to Tourism. Thank you to Arts Forward and Belinda Critchlow of Hid'n Hollow.

4.2 Councillor Clark – Yellowhead Centre

- Renovations have been completed to establish a wheelchair accessible washroom; insurance will assist for the water heater break; summer students have been hired, and day camps are being advertised.

4.3 Councillor Kostenchuk – Home Assistance Neepawa & District

- Lyle Watson will take over the duties of the chairperson as Velda Bradley steps down.
- The meal program will once again be offered in the dining room for a six-month trial starting in July.

4.4 Councillor Sisley

- Attended the Filipino flag raising ceremony on June 12th, which marked 128 years of independence.
- The Handivan is working on issuing sponsor decals as a fundraising opportunity.
- Information session on July 15, 2026, for persons interested in signing up to take an Early Childhood Educator II (ECE II) Program to be offered by Assiniboine College in Neepawa starting in January 2027.
- Planning continues for the Riverbend Market at the Courthouse & Canada Day at The Flats.
- Appreciation extended to Neepawa Men's Shed for all of the things they do to help the community and its various organizations.

4.5 Councillor Nadeau

- A student member of the Spruce Plains Justice Committee is graduating and will evolve to become a regular member of the committee.
- Along with Mayor Hedley, attended the Filipino Heritage Day on June 13, 2026.

5. Department Reports

5.1 Manager of Operations - Denis Saquet

- Recent issues with low water pressure relate to draining the water tower for refurbishment. Pressure was stabilized and the Office of the Drinking Water consulted to ensure regulatory compliance.
- The lift station barrel was installed to service the new subdivision at Project 320.
- The lift station to service the new hospital and any future development in that area, has now been energized by Manitoba Hydro. The first lift of asphalt has been applied on the new section of Hamilton Street. Work continues to complete the traffic circle portion of the road and excavation of the active transportation path has begun.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures

- Letter to inform the community that the provincial Dutch Elm Disease (DED) survey and invasive pest monitoring is underway. The community can expect to see provincial inspectors walking through the community sometime between June 22, 2026, and early September.

7. Finance

7.1 May 2026 Financial Statement

Resolution No: 2026-109

Parrott/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the Financial Statement for the month ended May 31, 2026.

CARRIED

8. Unfinished Business - Nil

9. New Business

9.1 Stride Credit Union – Request for Temporary Lane Closure

Resolution No: 2026-110

Sisley/Gerrard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the closure of the back lane to the east of Stride Credit Union from 10: a.m. to 1:30 p.m. from Hamilton Street to their norther property limit to facilitate a fundraising barbecue.

CARRIED

9.2 Approve Sidewalk Tender

Resolution No: 2026-111

Kostenchuk/Gerrard

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we accept the bid from Chisle Construction Ltd. to install new sidewalk on Main Street from 51 Main St. E. to the west limit of 11 Main St. (3.3 meters x 141 meters) & on Commerce Street from Mountain Ave to Second Ave (1.5 meters x 152 meters) at a cost of \$86,900 plus GST.

CARRIED

9.3 Neepawa Dark Sky Viewing Area

Resolution No: 2026-112

Clark/Sisley

WHEREAS the night sky is a valuable, natural, cultural and educational resource; and

WHEREAS excessive or poorly designed artificial lighting contributes to light pollution, negatively impacting wildlife, human health, energy use and the visibility of the night sky; and

WHEREAS the Town of Neepawa recognizes the benefit of preserving dark skies for residents, visitors, education and tourism; and

WHEREAS the HyLife Back Forty Multi-Use Trail Park is suitable for night sky viewing due to its location, limited surrounding light sources and public accessibility;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Neepawa hereby designate the HyLife Back Forty Multi-Use Trail Park as a municipally designated Dark Sky Viewing Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT municipal staff be directed to:

- use dark-sky friendly outdoor lighting within the park, where lighting is required, including fully shielded fixtures and appropriate brightness levels;
- limit non-essential lighting during nighttime hours where safety permits;
- install educational signage promoting responsible night sky viewing; and
- encourage public awareness & educational programming related to night skies and light pollution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this designation shall be a municipal designation only and does not imply certification or designation by the International Dark-Sky Association or the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

CARRIED

10. **By-Laws** - Nil

11. **Other Business** - Nil

12. **In-Camera Session**

Resolution No: 2026-113

Gerrard/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now sit a "Committee of Whole In-Camera" at 5:56 p.m. to discuss personnel and development matters.

CARRIED

Adjourn In-Camera

Resolution No: 2026-114

Kostenchuk/Parrott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn the "In-Camera" session at 7:52 p.m.

CARRIED

13. **Adjournment**

Resolution No: 2026-115

Gerrard/Sisley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we now adjourn this Regular Meeting of Council at 7:53 pm.

CARRIED



Mayor - Brian Hedley
COUNCILLOR DARRYL GERRARD



CAO - Colleen Synchishyn