



Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Meeting # 2025-05-06

In Attendance

Council:
Mayor Raymond Quqshuun
Deputy Mayor Christine Porter

Councilor Samo Takkiruuq
Councilor Stephanie Aaluk
Councilor Susan Hillier

Staff:

CAO Jennifer Wakegijig
Executive Secretary Catherine Anguttitauruq-Rogers
Lands Administrator Topsy Banksland

1. **Call to Order 7:15pm**
Opening Prayer led by Mayor Quqshuun
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved by: Councillor Qitsualik **Seconded by:** Councillor Puqiqnak
Motion # 2025-05-06-001 Carried Unanimously
3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
None Declared
4. **Adoption of Minutes**
Motion to adopt the minutes of

March 25, 2025	April 1, 2025
March 26, 2025	April 15, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Takkiruuq **Seconded by:** Deputy Mayor Porter
Motion # 2025-05-06-002 Carried unanimously
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Mayor Report**
 - i. **Shelter Grand Opening, with several visiting dignitaries.** All councillors encouraged to attend the event at 3:30-5:00 pm at the hall, and invited to lunch at the hall.
 - ii. **Community town hall** – was deferred due to a number of councilors travelling. Requests that councillors prioritize attending to present a single voice of council to community related to the petitions.
 - iii. **CAO Performance Review** – External consultants have been hired based on 3 proposals – and the process will take place in late June / July.
 - b. **Lands HR Update**
 - i. Topsy is leaving on maternity leave next week, and Ida Porter has been hired on an 18-month term. She has previously held the position and is very knowledgeable. We feel confident that things will keep improving.
 - c. **Finance Update**

- i. **Land lease invoices** – we are finally in a position to issue land lease invoices after that has taken consultants and accountants several months to sort out from past errors in filing. Businesses will receive their invoices soon, and the finance Committee will discuss with finance how we will invoice private home-owners with a repayment plan. People who previously paid \$500 per year now owe closer to \$5000, and we can have them repay this over time.
- ii. **Other funds owed to hamlet and revenue possibilities**
 - 1. Mike Rowan (finance consultant) is calculating what is owed to the Hamlet for gravel that has been quarried by many businesses for more than 10, and we never charged them for the gravel. Likely hundreds of thousands of dollars will be invoiced in the next few weeks.
 - 2. We are also working on new quarrying rates, and also taking charge of the use of our dump – we plan to charge businesses tipping fees. There is an existing bylaw that we will update and bring to council and circulate to businesses.
- d. **CAO Update**
 - i. Review of calendar and upcoming events

6. Old Business

- e. **Second Reading of Amended Zoning Bylaw # 225A.**
Following 1st reading at the council meeting on November 12, 2024, and public hearing on March 5, 2025, minor changes were made to draft zoning bylaw amendments, presented in council pre-reading materials.

Motion to undertake 2nd reading of hamlet of Gjoa Haven's Zoning Bylaw Amendment # 225A

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by:** Councillor Hillier
Motion 2025-05-06-003 Carried Unanimously

- f. **Resolution of Lawsuit – Evan Smith**
CAO provided a summary of correspondence with lawyer Chris Buchanan from McLennan Ross regarding a lawsuit pursued by a former employee.

Motion to pay a settlement of \$4,500 to Evan Smith, in order to bring the lawsuit to a low cost resolution, as recommended by legal counsel.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by** Councillor Aaluk
Motion 2025-05-06-004 Carried with one abstention (Councillor Hillier)

7. New Business

- a. **Nunavut Housing Corporation – Development Permit 2025-DP-003 Lot 318-Plan 2224**
NHC is seeking a development permit to build a 4-bedroom modular unit on this lot which is slightly smaller than the lot size requirement in the zoning bylaw. CGS has confirmed that council can still approve the DP – that is does not require a variance.

Motion to approve Development Permit # 2025-DP-003 for the construction of a 4-bedroom modular unit on lot 318 plan 2224.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by** Councillor Takkiruaq
Motion 2025-05-06-005 Carried unanimously

b. First Reading of bylaw # 244 – Business License Bylaw and review of current business licenses in place.

The list of 22 completed business license renewals for 2025-26 was provided for council review

Minor changes are proposed to the business license bylaw, outlined by the CAO. The reason for the change is that GN ED&T no longer requires the level of documentation previously required. In addition, the bylaw indicated that stores were not permitted to be open on Sundays. This restriction has been removed. Those changes are highlighted in yellow.

Motion to conduct first reading of Bylaw # 244 – Business License Bylaw – and repeal bylaw #113

Moved by: Councilor Takkiruq **Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Porter

Discussion to confirm that council motions are only required for new business licenses, not renewals. This is the understanding of the existing bylaw and procedure dating back to the 1980s, and there is no need for council motion for every renewal.

Motion 2025-05-06-006 Carried unanimously

c. Request for Decision – to issue RFP for the Design and Construction of a Snowfence Uptown

A document was presented describing the location and anticipated cost of a snowfence, to shield the neighbourhoods uptown from the heavy snow accumulation. This snow fence has appeared on the community plan for a number of years. Council approved the construction of this snow fence as a priority project on the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) Project list submitted to CGS for 2025-26.

Motion: council directs capital projects manager Tom Matus to issue the RFP on an invitational tender basis to the 6 identified firms, for the design and construction of a snow fence as outlined, uptown, with a targeted date of contract issuance of June 10, 2025, in order that work can begin this construction season.

Moved by: Councillor Hillier **Seconded by** Councillor Aaluk

Motion 2025-05-06-007 carried unanimously

d. Discussion and Motion regarding purchasing additional housing

Insufficient staff housing is a barrier to recruiting and retaining strong employees, including the possibility of an experienced Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, or full time Finance Director living in Gjoa Haven. In Pangnirtung, the CAO has used the rental from transient housing to cover the mortgage costs of staff housing. CAO indicated that she has spoken with three individuals interested in selling their homes, and is seeking a council motion allowing her to proceed with negotiating a sale price and closing date and financing to purchase two of the homes. The finance committee has reviewed the proposed financing recommended by CIBC, through which one home could be staff housing, and the other could be a transient housing unit that would generate revenue to cover the repayment of the loan at a higher rate than staff housing rental rates.

Motion: Council directs the CAO to proceed with inspection and negotiation of the purchase of up to three homes for up to \$900,000 (inclusive of necessary renovations), with financing supported by the rental of rooms in a transient housing unit, to visiting consultants and workers, in a manner that is permitted by the Hamlets Act and not competing with local businesses. Final confirmation of the purchase shall be made by council through an Acquisition bylaw, contingent upon securing ministerial approval of the financing plan.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by** Councillor Hillier

Motion 2025-05-06-008 carried unanimously

- e. **Council Motion to Reduce Frequency of Council Meetings for the Summer**
Motion to have council meetings only once per month in June, July and August in 2025.
Special meetings may be called if required.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by:** Councilor Takkiruaq
Motion # 2025-05-06-009 Carried Unanimously

8. Correspondence

- a. **Letter to Ministers Main and Akeegok**

CAO and Mayor shared letter that has been drafted and sent to Minister Main (Responsible for Power Corporation) and Minister Akeegok (Responsible for CS / Consumer Affairs) regarding seeking support related to quarrying operations, and the potential for contractors to take over local quarrying operations and limit municipal access to our resources and/or increase cost of accessing our own resources.

9. Councilor Concerns

- a. **Deputy Mayor Porter** is happy to be back, having missed many meetings. Wonders what we can do to have driving service or taxi for medical patients to get to and from the airport. Local people charge \$20. Also discussion about daycare closure when Hamlet closes for funerals. People who work at the school suddenly have no childcare – they do not get the time off for funerals.

CAO will keep daycare open for funerals. Driving service under consideration, along with purchase of elder van. We do not have dedicated funds for a driver, but we will explore how other communities do it.

10. Motion To Adjourn at 9:28 pm

Moved by: Councilor Takkiruaq **Seconded by:** Deputy Mayor Porter
Motion # 2025-05-06-010 carried unanimously

Mayor 

CAO 

Date June 24/25