



**Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Minutes of Special Council Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2026
Meeting # 2026-02-12**

Council:

Mayor Raymond Quqshuun
Deputy Mayor Christine Porter
Councilor Susan Hillier
Councilor W Aglukkaq

Councilor M Aglukkaq
Councilor Samuel Takkiruaq
Councilor Peter Akkikungnaq
Councilor Salomie Qitsualik
Councilor Stephanie Aaluk

Staff:

CAO Jennifer Wakegijig
ACAO Lewisa Oppong

1. Call to Order 7:10 pm

Opening Prayer led by Councilor Qitsualik

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Councilor Hillier **Seconded by:** Councilor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-02-12-001 carried unanimously

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

4. Reports

a. CAO Update and Q&A

i. Council Calendar for February and March – CAO reviewed the calendar for the weeks ahead – a meeting about the CAO performance review next week, and a need for a special finance meeting to review outstanding monthly financial reports and the 2026-27 budget.

ii. Water Treatment System – Water Main Repair

CAO provided an update – with some storms and vehicle issues, the PW department has now begun running two shifts per day, to keep up with water deliveries. PW Director Steve Hodges has resigned, and staff have been working hard to keep everything going. TIN has indicated that it may now be several more weeks until the water main is repaired and Boil Water Advisory remains in place.

iii. Public Works Challenges

1. Fleet maintenance and risk – running two shifts per day, and with the visiting mechanic from Kugluktuk having left, the apprentice is working hard, but struggling to keep up. Running our trucks for 16+ hours per day, they are at risk of failing, and it could cause a state of

emergency. We are proposing purchasing an additional water truck by air freight, to reduce the risk of a heightened crisis.

2. **Marijuana use in vehicles** – without a specific policy in place describing the standard that the Hamlet uses to determine whether someone can be disciplined if they are thought to be smoking Marijuana, the Hamlet is not able to take action on some employees that are believed to be operating vehicles or working, while under the influence of marijuana. One HEO was recently terminated, after he admitted to the RCMP that he had smoked marijuana before getting behind the wheel of our truck, and having an accident. We are requesting council support to implement a new policy. There is a broader HR policy manual coming soon, but we would like to implement this policy right away and take action for the safety of the community.
3. **New Vehicle Use Agreement** - another reason so many of our vehicles (including pick up trucks) are down, is that we have more vehicles and more drivers, and not all of them are consistently plugging in the trucks, or adequately warming them up. We are also implementing a new form that anyone that drives a Hamlet vehicle must sign, to ensure they understand expectations for the maintenance of Hamlet vehicles.
4. **HR – Public Works Director and Mechanic** – it has been a real struggle for several weeks without a PW Director of Mechanic, at the worst possible time. These positions are now posted.

5. New Business

- a. **Motion to adopt the Drug and Alcohol Policy presented, which has been fully vetted by our legal and HR advisors.**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Porter **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik
Motion # 2026-02-12-002 carried unanimously

- b. **Three Readings of Bylaw # 250 – Acquisition Bylaw – Water Truck by Air Freight**

First Reading of Bylaw # 250

Moved by: Councillor Hillier **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik
Motion # 2026-02-12-003 carried unanimously

Discussion: council members asked the CAO what funds would be used to purchase this water truck, and to pay for the \$400,000 USD. Might declaring an emergency cause another level of government to make this investment instead of the hamlet? The CAO indicated that in discussions with Nunavut Emergency Services and Community Services, we have determined that we are not in a position to declare a state of emergency, since we are able to continue to deliver water, and we do have \$2,000,000 in reserve funds specifically for purchasing

water and sewer vehicles. For these reasons, our understanding is that there are no other agencies that would make this purchase for us. They have, however, indicated that this would be an allowable purchase, even with the high cost of air freight, from our water / sewer vehicle replacement reserve.

Second Reading of Bylaw # 250 – Acquisition of Water Truck by Air Freight

Moved by: Councillor Takkiruaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-02-12-004 carried unanimously

Third Reading of Bylaw # 250 – Acquisition of Water Truck by Air Freight

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

Motion # 2026-02-12-005 carried unanimously

Bylaw # 250 is enacted

6. Motion To Adjourn at 8:40pm

Moved by: Councilor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councilor Takkiruaq

Motion # 2026-02-12-006 carried unanimously

Mayor Cham

CAO Indira

Date March 31, 2026