



**Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Meeting # 2026-05-13**

Council:

Mayor Raymond Quqshuun
Councilor Miriam Aglukkaq
Councilor Peter Akkikungnaq

Councilor Salomie Qitsualik
Councilor Willy Aglukkaq
Councilor Stephanie Aaluk
Councilor Susan Hillie

Staff:

Executive Secretary Catherine Anguttitauruq-Rogers
CAO Jennifer Wakegijig

9 guests were in attendance and filmed parts of the council meeting

They are creating a film called Myth & Memory about life in Gjoa Haven, told by a group of young women in the community. The program is funded by Uvagut TV, the indigenous Screen Office and the Canadian Media Fund, and will be on Uvagut TB when it is finished next year. The guests included: Kadence Kikoak, Mitik Jayko-Noliayok, Hazel Lee, Iris Ng, Mike Filippov, Nyla Innuksuk, Vinette Qirnirq, Stuart Henderson and Javiera Quintana

1. Call to Order 7:10pm

Opening Prayer led by Councillor Qitsualik

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-05-13-001 carried unanimously

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

4. Delegates

- a. **RCMP Report** – Detachment Commanding Officer, Kaelyn Draeger presented the report for April. Mayor thanked Officer Draeger for their support during the power outage and other struggles this winter, and noted that it was very helpful. Officer Draeger replied that the Hamlet had provided strong leadership at that time, bringing partners together to plan a response.

Motion to accept RCMP Report for April 2026

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

Motion # 2026-05-13-002 carried unanimously

b. **Boyd Chislett – Auditor, Baker Tilley**

- i. Explained that he was in town to conduct the audit of the books for fiscal year 2025-26 and offered to answer any questions.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. **Motion to adopt the minutes of Regular council meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

Moved by: Councillor W Aglukkaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-05-13-003 carried unanimously

6. Reports

- a. **Healthy Living Department: Director of Healthy Living Emelia Jayko** provided an update about recreation and wellness programming
- i. Recreation
 1. 4 days of activities planned on Hamlet Day weekend, including indoor games, a dance, a feast, and concert by Beatrice Deer
 2. 7 days of spring games planned later in the month
 3. Schedule of regular programs has changed – no facilities open on Mondays, as there is a food bank at the Sewing Centre on Mondays at 4pm
 - ii. Wellness
 1. Food bank at wellness centre at 4pm
 2. Elders lunch programs are Thursday and Friday 1-3pm
 3. Elders Radio Shows on Wednesdays
 4. Bi-weekly soup kitchen
 5. Moms & Tots Tuesdays, Prenatal Program Wednesdays

Motion to accept the Healthy Living Department Report

Councillor Qitsualik said she was thankful for the amount of elders' activities, and that the youth, moms and tots and elders programs are running.

Moved by: Councilor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-05-13-004 carried unanimously

- b. **Shelters Report, Director Margaret Neeveacheak-Steele** provided an update for council, indicating that they have purchased materials for cultural and skill building activities (sewing, sled making), to support routine, engagement and wellbeing of the clients. They have been having long trips. She noted challenges with staff shortages, and the occasional need to respond to crises due to the complex needs of the clients. One shelter is at full capacity and one is operating at near capacity, and they have had to turn people away for a shortage of beds.
- Questions were asked about the short staffing, and what plans are in place for people to complete programs and be discharged from the shelters. Margaret indicated that they did create more full time and less part time positions, but that attendance continues to be a problem. Concern was raised about how we will staff a larger facility that is coming.
- Mayor Quqshuun shared that he is thankful that people are getting needed help, but concerned that if the men are just staying at the men's shelter permanently, how might we help the other people that will have challenges.
- Margaret is working with a therapist / mentor and they are developing a "tiered pathways" program for differently levels of support, and helping clients plan for a future outside of the shelters.
- Motion to accept the Shelter Services Department Report**
- Moved by:** Councilor Aaluk **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik
- Motion # 2026-05-13-005 carried unanimously**

c. CAO Report

- i. Review of council calendar and upcoming activities, including visit from Governor General's Leadership Conference delegates and a dinner with council.
- ii. Water Main Break – by the end of March, we had already spent \$300 on consulting services related to the water main break. We continue to spend about \$40,000 per week, running an extra shift of drivers, and on extra fuel, and additional consulting invoices will come in. There is still no date set for the repair of the water main. We anticipate that the water main repair and all of the costs associated with the break will cost close to \$2M

1. Council questions about how these costs will be covered, and whether the GN will cover them. CAO indication that she is in discussion with the ADM at Community Services, and they are aware that we do not have sufficient resources to cover these costs, and seem to be willing to assist with these costs. They have asked us to summarize the anticipated outlay so that financial support can be clearly discussed and requested. Nasaijiit bookkeeping services is working on this for us.
- iii. Council Minutes and Hamlet Bylaws are being put on the Hamlet website www.gjoahaven.ca
- iv. Mental Health Services are now available to all councillors and staff, through Northern Counselling and Therapeutic Services. Emelia Jayko is the point of contact if you are not sure how to make an appointment, or need a private place to take your appointment.
- v. Water deliveries continue to be limited on weekends. CAO exploring options to move to shift work – 4 days on, 3 days off, so that we can have all drivers work one weekend day. Approaching Union with options.

Councillor M Aglukkaq mentioned being pleased about the availability of therapists, and also the importance of traditional teachings and elder counselling – that we can all work together to help people.

Motion to accept the CAO report

Moved by: Councillor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Takkiruq

Motion # 2026-05-13-006 carried unanimously

7. New Business

- a. **Motion:** *In anticipation of Government of Nunavut Financial Support to cover the high costs for the assessment and repair of the water main (expected to exceed \$1.5M) and the additional costs (labour, fuel) associated with running two shifts of drivers per day, council moves to utilize existing funds in Land Reserve bank account to cash manage these costs.*

Moved by: Councillor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-05-007 Carried (5 in favour, Councillor W Aglukkaq abstained)

b. Land Development Permits

- a. Variance DPA-002-2026 Nunavut Housing Corporation Construction of a 3-Bedroom Unit
Motion to approve the variance for reduced interior side yard setbacks from 6m to 5m on one side and 4.5m on the other for Lot 143, Plan 1141

Moved by: Councillor W Aglukkaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-05-008 carried unanimously

8. Correspondence

- a. **Letter from B2Gold** - hosting a recruitment event in Gjoa Haven June 25. 2026

9. Councilor Concerns

a. Councillor W Aglukkaq

- i. Asking why the arena was closed in recent weeks – people from other communities were not pleased that our tournament was cancelled.
CAO: The plumbing / pipes were damaged during the power outage, and with each leaking pipe found and repaired, they identified more.... Walls were opened

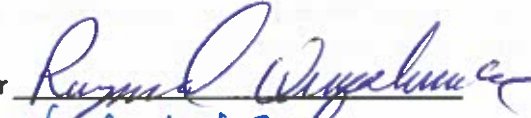
up and although we raced to have everything ready for the tournament, it was not possible to open in time.

- ii. Grateful for the people that helped with the recent search, that included children on the land with no shelter. His son Oliver was able to help. People need to bring gear when travelling and asked to discuss ideas. There is an opportunity to bring two cabins on the land between Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak
 - iii. Council directed the CAO to write a letter for the Mayor's signature – to the Mayor of Taloyoak and the two communities' HTAs, to collaborate on promoting better
- b. **Councillor Salomie Qitsualik**
- i. Concerned about safety on the land – and recent issue involving a child between Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak - council should inform people about taking their gear.
- c. **Councillor Peter Akkikungnaq**
- i. Suggested it may be helpful to have a starlink dish and cabins / markers between Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak

10. Motion To Adjourn at 10:05

Moved by: Councillor Qitsualik Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Porter

Motion # 2026-05-13-009 Carried Unanimously

Mayor 

CAO 

Date  June 30/26