



**Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 30, 2026
Meeting # 2026-06-30**

Council:

Mayor Raymond Quqshuun
Councilor Miriam Aglukkaq
Councilor Peter Akkikungnaq
Councilor Salomie Qitsualik
Councilor Samuel Takkiruaq

Staff:

CAO Jennifer Wakegijig
ACAO Lewisa Oppong
ACAO Trainee Amber Eleehetook
Interpreter Jacob Keanik

1. Call to Order 7:14pm

Opening Prayer led by Councillor M Aglukkaq

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-001 carried unanimously

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

4. Delegates

- a. RCMP Report** – Acting Detachment Commanding Officer, DJ Elzinga presented the report for May. Councilor Qitsualik asked what more can be done about the people who go out on medical travel and come home with alcohol in their bags. Children are frightened of their parents and relatives that are intoxicated. Would like to see it looked into further. Officer Elzinga indicated that the RCMP are often not notified about alcohol being in the community until people are drunk, and the alcohol has already been consumed. He suggested that alcohol also comes in by mail. He said that the standard of evidence needed to investigate or open bags is very high and they don't usually get strong enough information to search bags or mail.

Motion to accept RCMP Report for May 2026

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-002 carried unanimously

b. Community Safety Liaison – Sam Tutanuak

- i. A new bylaw officer is starting with the Hamlet on July 3 – Robert Pooyatak
- ii. Dog registration has been launched and 58 dogs are registered in town
- iii. In May, Vets Without Borders visited, and trained health workers, performed vaccinations, and informed the community of available animal telehealth services.
- iv. SAR – 8 recent searches, all successfully resolved. SAR had 18 Jerry cans for gas, and none were returned. In-reach program also re-launched. Steps planned to have people leave a valuable item with Bylaw/CSL when equipment is being borrowed, to ensure it is returned. Challenge in getting active group of SAR volunteers going, or to participate in meetings.
- v. Fire – there were two recent fires, including the housing office. Fire Chief and volunteers responded quickly. Fire Chief Ed Nuliyayok attend Fire Inspector Training in March, and is

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

Motion to accept CSL Report

Moved by: Councilor Qitsualik **Seconded by:** Councilor M Aglukkaq

Motion # 2026-06-30-003 carried unanimously

5. Adoption of Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes of Regular council meeting May 13, 2026

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

Discussion – concerns about people fishing and driving vehicles on Swan Lake, and need to protect the drinking water. CAO indicated that this is part of the assessment being completed by the GN and we are awaiting their recommendations. Concerns were raised about the lake beside the new quarry as well, as it is popular for hauling ice and drinking water. Mayor responded that there were community meetings, meetings with HTA board, and there was no opposition to proceeding with quarrying – and now two years later, we have NIRB approval and quarry is in place and going ahead.

Motion # 2026-06-30-004 carried unanimously

Motion to adopt the minutes of Regular council meeting May 26, 2026

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

Discussion regarding cemeteries, and plans this summer to assess the current cemetery land, and get recommendations for the new committee to review related to possible drainage and other improvements.

Motion # 2026-06-30-005 carried unanimously

Motion to adopt the minutes of Special council meeting June 2, 2026

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-006 carried unanimously

Motion to adopt the minutes of Special council meeting June 22, 2026

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-007 carried unanimously

6. Reports

a. CAO Update (written update provided in package and presented)

Review of council calendar and upcoming events

Things moving in the right direction - summer students working hard, CEDO Trainee receiving training and progressing, boil water advisory will soon be lifted, quarry is running and produced \$50,000 in gravel on the first day. NCTS counselling, mental health services now available for all staff, land lease invoices going out soon, contribution received to build 6-bay garage

Issues of concern – water metering has not been consistent for several months, and we will need to issue averaged invoices. This has affected the completion of our audit and we are implementing new procedures so this will no longer happen. Also, we have discovered that our former FD was not sufficiently experienced / knowledgeable for his role – failing to post \$2M in invoices to the financial system, resulting in inaccurate statements for most of last year, and resulting in challenges in decision-making . We now have a new FD and Nasaijiit bookkeeping services overseeing our Finance Department, to ensure that we finally achieve consistent and accurate record-keeping and

reporting. We have also had cash flow challenges, related to some large agreements not yet received, AND extra spending related to the water main break.

Looking ahead – there is progress coming, lifted boil water advisory, new neighbourhoods being developed, improvements to the cemetery and playgrounds, potential collaboration with Taloyoak on land safety, planning for new recreation complex, and planning for more regular / improved communications with the community

Motion to accept the CAO Update

Moved by: Councillor Qitsualik **Seconded by:** Councillor M Aglukkaq

Motion # 2026-06-30-008 carried unanimously

b. Nattilik Heritage Society Update

Councillor Akkikungnaq said that the NHS is moving ahead, but needs support. The staff are trying to do what they need to do, but sometimes are waiting for more support from their management. CAO read out written update from NHS Manager. Board will be setting new rates for NHS tours. They have some spaces available now for rentals. A beautiful floor map has been installed with place names and graphic topography.

c. Public Works Committee Update

Mayor Quqshuun provided update from committee. Gravel quarry is moving along, and will help with roads and new residential lots. The road to the quarry between the bridge and the new quarry is being built and the first section should be complete by mid July. The Boil Water Advisory should be lifted soon. Currently there are two water trucks down – affecting the ability to focus on dust control, but dust control is expected to be in the next two weeks. Garbage boxes continue to be built and distributed around town. Repairs are planned for the garage doors in all of our garages. Many are 50 years old, and not holding in heat.

Discussion about Swan Lake – and need to communicate with the community about protecting our drinking water. Cigarette butts, skidoos and quads driving over the ice, carcasses left there. “We have to inform the community that the lake needs to be kept clean.” Maybe council should require that recreational activities be stopped on the lake.

d. Clean Energy Program update

CAO explained that the Research and Innovation Projects Coordinator is going on maternity leave. During her absence, the main investments will be in two areas: 1) An energy efficiency campaign this winter, in partnership with Yukon University and 2) energy efficiency improvements to Hamlet facilities (improving garage doors, an energy assessment of our facilities, to identify investments that will save costs. Also, when we have employees on staff who have the “Energy Catalyst” certification that is issued through training by the Government of Canada, we are eligible to apply for large contributions. CAO will explore having additional staff take this training.

7. Old Business

a. Review of Letter to Mayor Panigayak, regarding collaboration on land safety.

Council Directed the CAO to send the letter, as presented, to Mayor Panigayak, and to the HTA presidents of both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, and to cc the MLA.

b. Next Steps in Planning for a Recreation Complex

CAO presented slides from Dillon consulting, regarding the condition assessment of the arena and recreation hall, and opportunities to renovate them and build a section in between, to meet the needs identified through community meetings. Final feedback to Dillon Consulting was discussed. CAO indicated that there was a philanthropic group at the FCM conference that may be able to secure large donations to cover the Hamlet's portion of the costs of construction. Council directed the CAO to pursue these options.

c. Revised Community Economic Development Officer Salary and Budget totalling \$142,100.49

The Department of Community Services informed the CAO of changes to what they will fund for CEDOs, including a lower cost for office rental than in previous years. In addition, they will no longer fund a remote CEDO position, and the CS funds will instead cover the wages of trainee Kourtney Bergen.

Motion to approve the revised CEDO Salary and budget, totalling \$142,100.49, as presented.

Moved by: Councillor M Aglukkaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Takkiruaq

Motion # 2026-06-30-009 carried unanimously

d. Final Survey Sketches for 2 New Subdivisions

As previously discussed and approved, the Lands Dept will be undertaking surveying for the development of a new residential subdivision and a new industrial subdivision. Final survey sketches were presented for council approval

Motion to approve survey sketches GJOA-415(40-2)26-001 and GJOA-415(40-2)26-002 as presented

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-010 carried unanimously

8. New Business

a. First Reading of Bylaw # 254 – All-terrain Vehicle Bylaw

Mayor explained that by undergoing first reading, the bylaw is being tabled for discussion by the community, so that the community safety department can fine-tune the bylaw, in collaboration with the RCMP and other partners, to finalize a bylaw that can be enforced and improve the safety of our community.

Motion to undertake First Reading of Bylaw # 254 – All-Terrain Vehicle Bylaw

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

Motion # 2026-06-30-011 carried unanimously

9. Councilor Concerns

a. Councillor M Aglukkaq

- i. Concerned about the location of elders' housing, and their ability to get transportation to downtown.
- ii. Concerned that there is no longer a health committee, which should be led by the Department of Health.

b. Councillor Takkiruaq – no comments / concerns today.

10. Motion To Adjourn at 9:55

Moved by: Councillor Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik
Motion # 2026-06-30-012 Carried Unanimously

Mayor Raymond Akkikungnaq

CAO Walegije

Date July 23, 2026