



Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
August 25&26, 2026
Meeting # 2026-08-26

Council:

Mayor Raymond Quqshuun
Deputy Mayor Christine Porter
Councilor Miriam Aglukkaq
Councilor Samo Takkiruaq
Councilor Salomie Qitsualik

Councilor Stephanie Aaluk
Councilor Susan Hillier
Councilor Peter Akkikungnaq

Staff:

CAO Jennifer Wakegijig
ACAO Lewisa Oppong
Interpreter Tuppittia Qitsualik

1. Call to Order 7:06 pm

Opening Prayer led by Councillor Qitsualik

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda

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

Motion # 2026-08-25-001 carried unanimously

3. Delegate Presentations

a. RCMP Report provided – Officer DJ Elzinga

Discussion: Councilor Hillier referred to the serious ATV accident involving a nurse, and the break0in to the Arctic College site two nights ago. She expressed frustration that Gjoa Haven seems to have no rules – terrible things are happening and no one is being held accountable. Is there more that can be done for education / prevention, and to hold people accountable? Perhaps they can be required to visit the people they hurt, to clean up what they destroyed...? Councilor Takkiruaq mentioned that he can see from his home that young people are racing on the airport runway through the night, often very young people. Councilor Qitsualik, agreeing – many parents are not accountable for their kids and are lying to police.

RCMP Officer comments: Yes, this is a challenge in Gjoa Haven. RCMP finding that many of the crimes are perpetrated by children – small foot prints and finger prints and child-like messes / scrawlings in the arctic college B&E. RCMP are often aware of who was present, but parents will deny their kids were involved, and sometimes it is evident that RCMP is being told things that are not true, to throw them off. "If we want things to change, people have to agree to report what they have seen."

Council discussed potential local "neighbourhood watch" program, which community safety is exploring.

Motion to Accept RCMP Report

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

Motion # 2026-08-25-002 carried unanimously

4. Adoption of Minutes of July 21 – deferred to next meeting

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

6. Reports

a. CAO Report – written report was provided covering

- i. **Water delivery services and dust suppression** – back to usual scheduling for water services. Work planned in near future to improve roads with gravel – will assist with dust suppression. Working on summarizing costs of water main break to prepare request for reimbursement from GN
- ii. **Gravel Quarry and Quarry road** – the quarry is running smoothly and the crew is working hard. The quarry will earn \$600K more than anticipated this year, and an agreement of \$250,000 was secured for the development of the quarry road. Major upgrades were made to the road beyond the bridge. Road upgrades in town will commence shortly.
- iii. **Changes to the elementary school driveway** – there is a well-travelled corner at the turn-in to the school gyms, where an unofficial trail has become the most-used corner. The correct road will need to be used into the future, and fencing and markers will be posted to help people remember, and to avoid accidents from people used to turning in, in the area that is part of the lot for the new 5-plex.
- iv. **Cruise Ships** – We will have 7 in total this year, and we have had two already. Janet King is Mentoring Kourtney Bergen on our cruise ship programming, and Mackenzie Porter will assist as Cruise Ship Coordinator for part of the summer.
- v. **Community Emergency Response Planning** – Mike Rarog from Arctic Response is in the community and assisting our Community Safety department to develop a CERP. We will facilitate meetings with key partners about our shared roles in a community emergency and create a shared plan.

vi. Human Resources –

1. **Finance Director** - we continue to struggle to find the right finance director and we are leaning on Avery Cooper and Nasajit to help us with completing the audit, which will run late. Executive Committee has recommended a motion to engage Phelps Executive Recruitment, to recruit a new finance Director, for a fee of 30% of the final compensation of the director. They guarantee fit for a minimum of one year and will run an additional competition at no cost if the FD resigns or we let them go within one year.

Motion to engage Phelps Executive Recruitment to hire a Finance Director

Moved by: Councillor Hillier Seconded by: Councillor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-08-25-003 carried unanimously

2. **Bylaw** – we have hired two bylaw officers – both have criminal records – we have offered them 6-month terms, with a requirement to participate in counselling sessions with NCTS, and an opportunity to access training and mentorship from Arctic Response.

vii. Audit – ongoing delays

With turnover in Finance Directors and outgoing Finance Director having introduced many errors and left many invoices un-entered and unpaid, and with the water meters / water invoicing needing remediation, CAO is seeking a council motion to defer the submission of the final audit to the GN by September 30, 2026

Motion to request extension with Community Services for audit deadline to September 30, 2026

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

Motion # 2026-08-25-004 carried unanimously

Motion to Accept the CAO Update August 20, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Hillier **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-08-25-005 carried unanimously

7. Old Business

a. New Residential and Commercial Subdivisions

- i. Updated Survey Sketches were presented, with changes recommended by the GN Planning and Lands Department.

Motion to approve the updated survey sketches for the new residential and commercial subdivisions as presented

Moved by: Councillor Takkiruq **Seconded by:** Councillor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-08-25-006 carried unanimously

ii. Zoning and Community Plan Bylaw Amendments - First Reading

The new commercial and residential subdivisions will require minor changes to the zoning bylaw, with some lands that were marked as “nuna” re-zoned for residential and industrial purposes. The updates were presented and discussed. Council is keen to move ahead and make these lots available.

Motion to proceed with First Reading of Amendments to the Zoning and Community Plan Bylaw

Moved by: Councillor Takkiruq **Seconded by:** Councillor Aaluk Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-08-25-007 carried unanimously

b. Road Safety – ATV Bylaw – NAM workshop in January

CAO shared results of a survey sent to all 25 Nunavut CAOs. Of the 13 responding CAOs, not one indicated that they were able to effectively enforce their ATV bylaw, and included for reasons, that they had significant turnover in bylaw officers, and that community members did not think the rules were important.

CAO has reached out to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss, and there will be a dedicated workshop, including the RCMP and other special partners, to discuss improvements to enforcement of bylaws like these. CAO suggests deferring updating the ATV bylaw until additional learning can take place at that workshop. Perhaps other Hamlets will be interested in a regional approach to changing the enforcement of these bylaws.

c. Energy Awareness Campaign

Partners at Yukon University, who were in the community last year in support of the "Innovation Symposium" and to do a needs assessment for clean energy awareness are returning to the community in October, to launch an energy awareness campaign that the Hamlet will do in partnership with QEC, encouraging community members to reduce their energy consumption – with valuable prizes, including an electric quad.

The Hamlet has an agreement with NRCAN to deliver this project, and CAO is seeking a motion to enter into a contract with Yukon University's Northern Energy & Innovation Institute (NEI) for the completion of the project for \$140,000.

Motion to utilize targeted NRCAN funds to enter into a \$140,000 contract with NEI (Yukon University) for the launch of an Energy Awareness Campaign.

Moved by: Councillor Takkiruaq Seconded by: Councillor Akkikungnaq

Motion # 2026-08-25-008 carried unanimously

Additional Discussion: Other activities that available clean energy funding will be spent on this year include upgrades to garage doors (we are losing much heat from our municipal garage doors), an energy audit assessing the efficiency of all 18 Hamlet buildings, and helping us to plan additional upgrades (likely insulation and wrap improvements on staff housing, among other investments, which will be identified after the energy audit).

8. New Business

a. Land Application – Qikiqtaq Coop – Lots 19, 20, block 4, plan 4147

Arctic Cooperatives would like to build a new store uptown on these lots, and their application meets all relevant zoning requirements. They are requesting an equity lease, which would be in the amount of \$151,103, and their construction value is estimated at \$18M, and would be completed December 1, 2029.

Motion to approve Qikiqtaq Coop Land Application for Lots 19, 20, Block 4, Plan 4147

Moved by: Councilor M Aglukkaq Seconded by: Councilor Takkiruaq

Motion # 2026-08-25-009 carried unanimously

b. Development Permit – Arctic Fresh Projects Inc. for lots 8, 9, Block 2, Plan 4632

Arctic Fresh has submitted a development permit application for the construction of a 5-plex near the elementary school, that will consist of 5 units, one gathering area and program space, with a construction value of \$13M. It meets all relevant zoning requirements.

Motion to approve Development Permit Application DPA-012-2026 for Lot 8 & 9, block 2, Plan 4362 to permit the development of a group home (transitional housing) subject to the Hamlet's Standard Conditions and in accordance with the plans provided.

Moved by: Councilor Akkikungnaq Seconded by: Councilor Takkiruaq

Motion # 2026-08-25-010 carried unanimously

a. Business License Application – Niuqtuut Orgit Garant inc. is applying for a business license – (by Jackie Kameemalik),. The business provides "specialized exploration drilling services to the mining industry, including surface and underground diamond drilling." The application is complete and verified by our Community Economic Development Officer Trainee.

Motion to approve the Niuqtuut Orbit Gartant inc business license.

Moved by: Councilor Hillier **Seconded by:** Councilor Qitsualik

Motion # 2026-08-25-011 carried unanimously

b. Advancing Capital Projects

i. Municipal Parking Garage Construction in 2026 and 2027 construction seasons

The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven is in receipt of an agreement for over \$8.05M for a new 6 bay parking garage. In a competitive process in 2025, CopperRidge Construction was the successful bidder. The Hamlet then did not receive the funds to proceed with construction. CopperRidge has agreed to maintain the same rates as they quoted in 2025, and TAG Architecture was the successful proponent to serve as project manager.

Motion to enter into contracts for the construction and project management of a new 6-bay parking garage as follows:

- Construction contract with CopperRidge Construction for \$6.685M
- TAG Architecture project management and oversight \$486,920

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

Motion # 2026-08-25-012 carried unanimously

ii. New Recreation Complex

Council has reviewed the preliminary report and sketches from Dillon Consulting, which was not entirely consistent with the input received from the community. In order to advance the project, we wish to engage Nustadia Recreation Inc to provide overall coordination of next steps, including final community engagement, preparation of conceptual drawings and class C estimates (including assistance with engagement of architects), and planning for fund development and operating budget. In addition, we wish to engage DCG Philanthropic, to seek large donations to support the project.

Motion to allocate \$400K from the Municipal Capital Block Funding Agreement to advance a project to create a new recreation multiplex for Gjoa Haven, enter into contracts for planning and fund development for the construction and operation of a new recreation multiplex:

- Nustadia Recreation inc: \$85,000 plus travel costs
- DCG Philanthropic: \$50,000 plus travel costs
- The balance of \$400,000 will be for architectural services and other required expertise

Moved by: Councilor Takirruq **Seconded by:** Councilor Hillier

Motion # 2026-08-25-013 carried unanimously

iii. New Recreation Complex

Council has reviewed the preliminary report and sketches from Dillon Consulting, which was not entirely consistent with the input received from the community. In order to advance the project, we wish to engage Nustadia Recreation Inc to provide overall coordination of next steps, including final community engagement, preparation of conceptual drawings and class C estimates (including assistance

with engagement of architects), and planning for fund development and operating budget. In addition, we wish to engage DCG Philanthropic, to seek large donations to support the project.

Discussion: Council is pleased to see this moving forward. Discussion that inclusion of a swimming pool increases costs significantly, but may be possible to secure funding if we plan to be able to offer marine training (SVOP, scuba diving). It would take several years to train young people (learning to swim, learning to be lifeguards). Operating budget and facility needs to include plans for years of training and support before operating independently, and should include a transient unit with 2-3 bedrooms for lifeguards, coaches etc.

Motion to allocate \$400K from the \$805,000 Municipal Capital Block Funding Agreement to advance a project to create a new recreation multiplex for Gjoa Haven, enter into contracts for planning and fund development for the construction and operation of a new recreation multiplex:

- Nustadia Recreation inc: \$85,000 plus travel costs
- DCG Philanthropic: \$50,000 plus travel costs
- The balance of \$400,000 will be for architectural services and other required expertise

Moved by: Councilor Takirruq **Seconded by:** Councilor Hillier

Motion # 2026-08-25-014 carried unanimously

iv. Morgue Renovations

Over the past three years, much work has gone into advancing the community's desire to renovate the morgue, to make it a more acceptable space for families to identify their deceased loved ones, and for health professionals to do the work they need to do. We are finally close to having authorization from the GN to renovate the morgue, which they consider to be a "surplus storage warehouse" that is no longer in use. It belongs to the GN and is on GN property (not municipal). They have stripped the morgue down to studs, removing asbestos and lead paint, and we expect to receive an agreement to sign, allowing us to use the building as a morgue and renovate it. CAO recommends utilizing up to \$400,000 of this year's \$805,000 MCBF agreement towards renovations of the morgue.

Motion to allocate \$400,000 from the \$805,000 Municipal Capital Block Funding Agreement to the renovation of the Gjoa Haven morgue, and to engage NIC Construction for this work, as they were the successful proponent in an invitational tender in 2025.

Moved by: Councilor Qitsualik **Seconded by:** Councilor Takkiruq

Motion # 2026-08-25-014 carried unanimously

Motion to Adjourn for the Evening (9:58pm) and continue the meeting tomorrow evening.

Moved by: Councilor Hillier Seconded by: Councilor Qitsualik

Motion # 4046-08-25-011 carried Unanimously.

Resumption of council meeting – Wednesday, August 26, 2026

In attendance

- Mayor Quqshuun, Deputy Mayor Porter
- Councilors M Aglukkaq, Qitsualik, Takkiruq, Aaluk, Hillier, and Akkikungnaq
- CAO Jennifer Wakegijig, ACAO Lewisa Oppong, Executive Secretary Catherine Anguttitauruq-Rogers, Interpreter Tuppittia Qitsualik

Call to Order – 7:16pm

New Business – Continued

v. Advancing Additional Projects

CAO presented an update on all ICSP projects, many of which have advanced or have been completed. Motions passed yesterday regarding a recreation complex, the morgue and 6-bay garage will support major advancements. A project manager is needed for these projects, and several others (cemetery, footpath from uptown to downtown, new boat launch) would benefit from research and development by a dedicated project manager, other than the CAO, who lacks time to invest properly in this planning. Kilikvak Kabloona, former NTI CEO, is available on a consulting basis, and wishes to make contributions to smaller NU communities with the experience and networks she has developed at NTI. A small contract is proposed that would be covered under the Hamlet's contracted services in our core operating budget, and is expected to easily cover itself in the funds secured and projects advanced by this consultant.

Council discussion: This is a good opportunity for Gjoa Haven – perhaps she can bring her skills to the community if she travels here - in addition to helping with these projects, maybe she can mentor youth.

Motion to engage Kilikvak Kabloona as a Project Manager and Fund Development consultant for approximately 1.5 days per week, until the end of March, for a contract not to exceed \$75,000 plus relevant travel costs.

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

Motion # 2026-08-26-001 carried unanimously

vi. Organizational Chart Changes

1. Matching Wages for Recreation and Wellness Coordinators

In the current collective agreement, wellness coordinators earn a few dollars less per hour than recreation coordinators but they do a similar job. The wellness funders have agreed to an increase in wages for wellness coordinators. This motion will need to be presented to the Union, and is likely to be accepted.

Motion to increase the wages for Wellness Coordinators to match the rate of pay for Recreation Coordinators in the Hamlet pay grid.

Moved by: Council Akkikungnaq **Seconded by:** Councilor Takkiruq

Motion # 2026-08-26-002 carried unanimously

2. New Lead Mechanic Position (heavy and light duty certified)

The Hamlet has struggled to engage a qualified mechanic who is reliable and takes pride in their work, and has the leadership skills needed to oversee our fleet and our team. With our current wage, we have typically only been able to recruit entry-level heavy duty mechanics, who may not be skilled at repairing pick-up trucks and other smaller mobile equipment. The Public Works Director proposes creating a lead mechanic position with a significantly higher wage, to attract the kind of candidate we need at this time. They would be required to have a minimum of 5 years of experience supervising other mechanics and apprentices to be eligible for this rate of pay / position.

Motion to create a Lead Mechanic position in the organizational chart, required to be dual-certified (heavy and light duty), with a minimum of 5 years of experience supervising others and with a rate of pay of \$70 per hour, plus regular union benefits (settlement allowance, VTA) and staff housing, if recruited from out of town.

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

Motion # 2026-08-26-003 carried unanimously

9. Correspondence

a. Letter from Natilik Heritage Society Requesting Donations for Umiyaqtut Festival

A letter was presented, which was received August 24, requesting that the Hamlet contribute cash for cash prizes, in-kind facility rental, and other prizes as a contribution to the festival, that is not yet advertised and taking place in two weeks.

Council Discussion:

- The festival used to be 10 days of activities, and this year seems to be only 4 evenings
- The school has been requesting to know the dates of the festival for several months, so that school curriculum (especially local history, Franklin ships) could be planned around the festival.
- Council and the NHS board has met in the past about the hamlet's desire to collaborate with the NHS and support its success, and indicated to them that we can support each other by preparing budgets that support each other's services. For example, if they apply for funds for the festival, they can include the costs of facility rental.
- Councilors that have tried to connect with the NHS frequently have no response, invite NHS staff to meetings and they do not respond or attend.
- Council members that participate on the NHS board indicated that they continue to have concerns about the NHS.

Motion to write a letter to the Natilik Heritage Society, agreeing to provide Hamlet snowy owl merchandise and facilities in kind, but that funding is not available for unbudgeted events, and clarifying that the hamlet's budget is set in April, that the Hamlet would be pleased to collaborate in support of a successful annual festival, and assist with securing funds, with more advanced planning and improved collaboration.

Moved by: Councilor Hillier Seconded by Councilor M Aglukkaq
Motion #2026-08-26-004 carried with 6 yes votes and one abstention
(councilor Akkikungnaq)

10. Council Concerns

a. Councilor M Aglukkaq

Happy to hear the cemetery project is moving ahead.

Regarding the young people out late at night – we need to make them come home, and send them to school. To many children have no supervision and fight and get into trouble.

Youth need work / income after school. Perhaps the Hamlet can create some small jobs for those youth that wander around picking up butts – they could be given counselling, while also being paid, and experience some small success – a job to let them accomplish something.

b. Mayor Quqshuun

Thank you – our youth need guidance to have a good life. Through radio, and elders talking in the community. Mayor would like to have others speaking on radio with him – youth need support, not discipline. There have been some bad accidents – mayor would like to set up radio shows and phone ins. Thankfully we have two new bylaw officers again and they will be starting night shifts, which should help. But bylaw can't keep the streets calm alone – we need to find other ways too.

c. Councilor Aaluk

So many incidents with kids driving Hondas recklessly– there were serious accidents two nights in a row, and the next day it just starts all over again. Elders are staying up all night worrying with the many incidents, and loud driving late at night. People don't want to tell the RCMP the truth even though they know who it is. We should start fining parents – not \$10 but \$100, \$150 before they can have their vehicle back. This is scary.

d. Councilor Takkirug

Concerns about road repair – especially between the elementary school and the CAP buildings. There is also a pipe showing on the road in the corner near the school. We need to maintain the roads and culverts.

e. Deputy Mayor Porter

Serious incidents are becoming more and more common. No one seems to be doing anything, but they are blaming the Hamlet. Parents should be responsible, and protect their kids and their community. No one is doing anything about young drivers.

Recommends that in May, when it starts warming up, offer prizes and give road safety training, have a story-writing contest (with large prizes – ipad, bike, gift card) to help slow down quad accidents.

Another concern is people who are evicted from public housing. People who were evicted are just moved to another over-crowded home, where other community members are all affected. Evictions solve the Housing Authority's problem, but then create a problem for the family and community. They have no choice but to take them in. the idea of Nunavut was that we were going to help eachother.

Council Directed the CAO to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature to the minister responsible for housing, and to copy the MLA.

Additional concern – regarding mental illness. There is not much support, and people are sent south. Sometimes a person with mental illness seems stable, and suddenly becomes dangerous.

11. Motion To Adjourn at 9:20pm

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

Motion # 2026-08-26-005 Carried Unanimously

Mayor Charles R
CAO Wakegijj
Date September 9, 1016