Province of Québec

Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes

Regular meeting of the Municipal Council of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes held January 14th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Office.

The meeting is open to the public and present are his Worship Mayor Corey Spence and Councillors Mariette Sallafranque, Patrick Fleming, Ivan Schryer, Brian Adam and Robert Chafe.

Alicia Jones, Director General, is in attendance.

Councillor Nancy McGuire is absent.

* + 1. **Opening of meeting**

Mayor Spence welcomes everyone and declares the meeting to be open at 7:00 pm.

1. **Roll call**

All present.

1. **Recording of the sitting**

The current meeting is being audio recorded for administrative purposes.

**4. Adoption of agenda**

001-25/01 Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor McGuire, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Adopted

**5. Adoption of minutes**

002-25/01 Moved by Councillor Chafe, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to approve the minutes from the last regular Council meeting of December 3rd, 2024 as presented.

Adopted

003-25/01 Moved by Councillor Sallafranque, seconded by Councillor Fleming, to approve the minutes from the Special meeting for Adoption of the 2025 Budget held on December 10th, 2024 as presented.

Adopted

**6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**7. Statement of the Mayor**

The Mayor makes his Statement.

**8. Questions from the public**

None.

**9. Correspondence**

None.

**10. Items to Discuss**

004-25/01 *Annual Contributions & Donations*

Moved by Councillor Chafe, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque to approve the additional annual contributions to the local non-profit organizations and annual donations as follows:

Résidence Meilleur $ 7,500

Res. Meilleur (Tax) $ 6,300 (max)

DWKS Bursary $ 500

ESSC Bursary $ 500

Pontiac Scholarship Fund $ 1,000

CHIP FM member $ 120

Adopted

005-25/01 *ADMQ/FQM/CAMA*

Moved by Councillor Adam, seconded by Councillor Schryer, to approve the memberships and conferences expenses for the ADMQ, the FQM and the CAMA for the 2025 year, as discussed.

Adopted

006-25/01 *Legal retainer*

Moved by Councillor Fleming, seconded by Councillor Schryer, to retain the services of Beaudry-Bertrand as legal counsel for the Municipality, as discussed.

Adopted

*Notice of Motion*

A notice of motion is given by Councillor Adam and a draft ByLaw is presented for the ByLaw regarding Municipal Taxation for the year 2025.

007-25/01 *Accounting services*

Moved by Councillor Schryer, seconded by Councillor Sallafranque, to retain the services of Gerard Labelle, Accountant and Simon Thibault, Auditor, for the 2025 fiscal year; as discussed.

Adopted

008-25/01 *MRC Project – Participatory Budget projects*

WHEREAS the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes wishes to promote citizen engagement and encourage active participation from residents in financing local quality-of-life improvement projects;

WHEREAS the MRC Pontiac has allocated a budget of $30,000 for participatory budgeting projects, with equal contributions from participating municipalities;

WHEREAS the MRC Pontiac has defined intervention priorities for the region, including: tourism, culture and heritage, economic growth, agriculture, socio-community, sports and recreation, and the environment;

WHEREAS the objectives of the participatory budgeting policy include improving living environments and involving citizens in decision-making regarding local public expenditures;

WHEREAS the municipal council has expressed interest in participating;

It is moved by Councillor Sallafranque, seconded by Councillor Fleming, and resolved to participate in the Participatory Budgeting program presented by the MRCPontiac.

It is further resolved that the municipality will allocate a contribution of $10,000 from its 2025 regular operating budget to participate in the participatory budgeting program.

Finally, it is resolved that the municipality will participate by offering in one (1) Call for Projects: the entire municipal contribution will be allocated to financing the projects selected in the framework of a single call for projects.

Adopted

**11. Review of monthly payables**

The list of accounts payables upto mid-January is reviewed.

**12. Questions from the public**

None.

**13. Varia**

* *Arena has shared information with Council regarding the hardness of the water at UPSC*

09-25/01 *Final report - Local roads assistance – PPA grant*

Moved by Councillor Schryer, seconded by Councillor Fleming, it is unanimously resolved and carried that the Council of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes approves the expenses relating to the improvement work carried out and the inherent eligible costs mentioned on form V-0321, for the annual Road improvement grant (members grant) in accordance with the requirements of the Ministère des Transports du Québec, and authorizes the Director General to complete and sign the final report.

Adopted

010-25/01 *Cellular coverage*

WHEREAS cellular coverage remains insufficient in many regions of Quebec, limiting access to an essential service for residents and visitors;

WHEREAS the Quebec government is committed to deploying complete cellular coverage throughout the province by October 2026, recognizing its importance to citizens' quality of life and socio-economic development, particularly in a context where automation is becoming an essential solution to the labour shortage;

WHEREAS reliable cellular services are essential to guarantee access to information, health services and public safety interventions, and that deficient coverage compromises the safety of people in areas with limited coverage or on the move, particularly in the event of an emergency requiring rapid intervention by first responders;

WHEREAS Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) procedure CPC-2-0-17 imposes license conditions on cellular service providers (CSPs), including mandatory roaming, tower sharing and the prohibition of site exclusivity, in order to promote network access for subscribers of another CSP when service is available;

WHEREAS this same procedure does not oblige CSPs to seek service from another provider in the event of non-existent coverage in a given region, thus limiting the scope of the measure;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the CRTC grant substantial subsidies to telecommunications companies for the construction of new cellular infrastructures to improve coverage in the regions;

WHEREAS despite the presence of more than 8,500 cellular towers in Quebec, the exclusive use of these towers by a single CSP limits access for other providers and constitutes a major obstacle to the deployment of optimal cellular coverage for the entire population;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Fleming, seconded by Councillor Chafe:

- TO ASK the Liberal Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Bloc Québécois :

To include in their electoral platforms for the next federal election the obligation for all cellular service companies to enter into roaming agreements so that cellular service customers, regardless of their provider, can benefit from the presence of cellular sites in the region where they are located;

- TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the Quebec Minister of Finance, Mr. Eric Girard, who is responsible for fulfilling the government's commitment to provide cellular service throughout the inhabited territory in the present mandate;

- TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the heads of the telecommunications companies, namely BCE (Bell), Videotron, Rogers, TELUS and Cogeco.

Adopted

011-25/01 *Billing for Sûreté du Québec services*

WHEREAS the municipalities served by the Sûreté du Québec have just received their invoices for the year 2025;

WHEREAS the average increase announced is 6.47%, but that the increases for several municipalities are much higher, even considerable;

WHEREAS the 2025 invoicing marks the end of the transitional period leading to a 50-50 sharing of the invoice for Sûreté du Québec services between the Government and municipalities. This period was characterized by the establishment of a 7% increase ceiling and a 2% floor;

WHEREAS during negotiations on the new formula in 2019, the Ministère de la Sécurité Publique had assured its municipal partners that increases would be around 3% per year once the transitional period was over, and that this formula would protect the municipal world from increases of the nature announced for 2025;

WHEREAS the inflation rate is now less than 2%;

WHEREAS the media have recently reported on the management of police overtime in the regions, which is putting considerable pressure on the overall cost of Sûreté du Québec services billed to municipalities;

WHEREAS the legitimate questions raised by many elected officials concerning the real impact of the number of unfilled police positions and the significant use of overtime, whereas an effective police service requires stability and a long-term community presence;

WHEREAS the imprudent increase in Sûreté du Québec costs and their impact on the invoicing imposed on municipalities;

WHEREAS the municipal world is not involved in determining the working conditions of police officers and the management of the Sûreté du Québec;

WHEREAS the total amount invoiced to municipalities for 2025 is over $444.8 million, a considerable amount that should give municipalities a say in the management of these services.

It is proposed by Councillor Fleming, seconded by Councillor Adam, that the Municipality of L’ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES ask the Minister of Public Security, Mr. François Bonnardel:

* To mandate an external firm to analyze the management of the Sûreté du Québec, following the example of the process carried out with municipal transport companies, which led to the identification of possible solutions to save several hundred million dollars;
* Maintain a ceiling and a floor on invoice increases in both the permanent and transitional formulas, until such time as the analysis has identified ways of controlling the uncontrolled rise in the cost of Sûreté du Québec services.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Public Security, Mr. François Bonnardel, to the MNA for the Pontiac riding, André Fortin, to the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, Ms. Johanne Beausoleil, and to the President of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), Mr. Jacques Demers.

Adopted

**14. In camera session**

Not required.

**15. Date of next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at the Municipal office.

**16. Closing of meeting**

012-25/01 Moved by Councillor Sallafranque and seconded by Councillor Adam that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35pm.

Adopted

Director General / Clerk-treasurer Mayor

I, *Corey Spence, Mayor*, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signature by me of all the resolutions it contains, according to section 142 (2) of the Municipal Code.

*La version française est la version officielle - The French version is the official version*