

Municipality of Waltham

This public sitting of the Council is recorded.

Minutes of a regular meeting held at the usual place and time on September 2nd 2025, under the chairmanship of Her Worship Mayor Mrs. Odette Godin with the presence of the following councillors # 1 Mrs. Brenda Landry, #2 Mr. Leonard Godin, #3 Mrs. Ramona Marion #4 Mr. Brendan Adam, #5 Mr. Elwood Allard and # 6 Mr. Tyler Rochon

Mrs. Annik Plante Director General is also present.

Statement by the mayor (Decorum)

The Director General proceeded with the reading of Article 159 of the Municipal Code.

01-02-09-25 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by councillor Marion and seconded by councillor Rochon to adopt the agenda as presented.

Adopted

02-02-09-25 ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

Moved by councillor Godin and seconded by councillor Adam, to accept last month minutes as deposited.

Adopted

03-02-09-25 FIRE DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

WHEREAS Mayor Godin requested that the matter concerning the Fire Department be placed on the agenda prior to the question period;

WHEREAS Mayor Godin expressed her desire that Council adopt a resolution to increase firefighter salaries to \$20 per hour, effective immediately;

WHEREAS Mayor Godin has proclaimed September as Firefighter Recruitment Month and encourages all interested individuals to submit applications;

WHEREAS Fire Chief Larry Perry has officially resigned, necessitating the posting of the position and the search for a qualified replacement;

MOVED BY: Councillor Godin and **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Landry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Waltham approves an increase in firefighter salaries to \$20 per hour, effective immediately.
2. The Municipality of Waltham declares September as Firefighter Recruitment Month and directs the Director General to make a public announcement regarding this initiative.

Adopted

04-02-09-25 – FIRE CHIEF POSITION RECRUITMENT

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham has received and accepted the retirement letter of Fire Chief Larry Perry on June 5th, 2025;

WHEREAS Fire Chief Larry Perry has officially resigned, necessitating the posting of the position and the search for a qualified replacement;

MOVED BY: Councillor Godin and **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Marion

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Waltham authorizes the posting of the Fire Chief position and directs the Director General to prepare and publish the official job announcement to seek a qualified candidate.

Councillor Allard records that he is opposed to seeking a candidate to replace Fire Chief Larry Perry.

Adopted

VISITORS: 20 visitors are present and a question period is organized.

- Mr. Dan Mousseau voiced his concerns during the public meeting by reading a letter regarding the Fire Department. He expressed particular concern about an offer received from the Municipality of Mansfield that referenced the possibility of dissolving the Waltham Fire Department.

Mayor Godin clarified that no decision has been made, reaffirming that the Waltham Fire Department remains fully operational and that the Municipality is not presently considering any changes to its fire services. However, the Municipality is actively recruiting new firefighters to strengthen the department.

Mr. Mousseau concluded by announcing that he is officially joining the Waltham Fire Department.

- Mrs. Jordan Evans submitted a petition to Council requesting the preservation of the Waltham Fire Department.
- Mrs. Shirley Desrocher expressed her appreciation to the Municipality for the work that was recently completed on Traversier Road, noting that she was very pleased with the improvements.
- Mr. John Evans inquired whether the scheduled public information session on September 11th would be open to the public and if a question period would be included. Mayor Godin confirmed that it is a public meeting and that a question period will indeed take place.

Mr. Evans further expressed concern that, should the Municipality ever close the Fire Department, residents' home insurance premiums could increase since the next closest department is more than 8 km away. Mayor Godin reassured him that there has never been any discussion or intention of closing the Waltham Fire Station. She emphasized that any future decisions regarding the Fire Department will not involve the closure of the station in the Municipality of Waltham.

- Mrs. Megan Rochon expressed that she was pleased to see Council's decision to raise the hourly salary for firefighters.

Mrs. Megan Rochon inquired about the purpose of the upcoming meeting concerning the Fire Department, questioning why residents were being urged to attend if no discussions regarding the department had taken place. Mayor Godin responded that the meeting had been requested by the Fire Department.

- Mrs. Jordan Evans expressed that she would like to suggest questions for Council members to address during the public information session on September 11th. Some Council members accepted the question sheets. Mayor Godin responded that these questions should be asked during the September 11th meeting, where the appropriate individuals would be available to provide answers.

COMMITTEES REPORT

- **Arena:** No new updates were reported. However, Councillor Landry mentioned that she has received a meeting request from the Arena Committee.
- **Transfer Site:** No new updates were reported.
- **Road Committee:** Councillor Godin mentioned that the brushing around the Municipality signs has been well done.
Councillor Allard noted that the fire sign on Rochon Road is not well placed and suggested it should be visible from Waltham-Chapeau Road. Timmy will inspect the area to determine what can be done.
Councillor Allard also proposed that a fire sign be installed near the ball field.
Councillor Rochon indicated that brushing is needed in the ditches along Waltham-Chapeau Road near residents' driveways. Unfortunately, as this is a MTQ road, the Municipality is not permitted to perform brushing at the driveway entrances.
- **RA Committee:** No new updates were reported.
- **Intermunicipal Committee:** Councillor Adam mentioned that he had been informed or suggested by another municipality that, in order for the Isle des Allumette to make an offer regarding the Fire Department, Waltham would need to pass a resolution.
Mayor Godin clarified that such a resolution would only be required if the municipality were actively seeking a merger. The municipality was not requesting offers. Brendan added that it had been suggested Waltham asked Mansfield for an offer; it was clarified that this was not the case. Waltham was not actively pursuing a merger but was approached with an unsolicited offer from Mansfield.
- **Fire Department:** Councillor Godin reported no updates or communications at this time.

Mayor's report:

- Mayor Godin reported that over the past month, she participated in several meetings and community events. She attended **four Human Resources meetings** at the MRC Pontiac.
- Mayor Godin attended a **CSP meeting**.
- Mayor Godin attended a **Council of Mayors meeting** at the MRC Pontiac.
- Mayor Godin attended a **CSI meeting** at the MRC Pontiac.

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05-02-09-25 AUTHORIZE SUBDIVISION

Moved by councilor Godin and seconded by councilor Landry that the municipality of Waltham accept the subdivision plan prepared by Hubert Carpentier Arpenteur- Géomètre under its minutes 20187.

Adopted

06-02-09-25 AUTHORIZE SUBDIVISION

Moved by Councillor Rochon and seconded by Councillor Adam that the

Municipality of Waltham authorize the Municipal Inspector to approve the upcoming subdivision prepared by Steve Tremblay, Arpenteur Géomètre, for the Grace Carroll Succession, as indicated in the minutes noted on the plan.

Councillor Allard abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Adopted

07-02-09-25 INSTALLATION OF FIRE SIGN NEAR MUNICIPAL BALL FIELD

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham recognizes the importance of clearly marking fire safety locations;

IT IS PROPOSED BY councillor Allard and SECONDED BY councillor Adam AND RESOLVED

THAT the municipal council authorizes the creation and installation of a fire sign near the municipal ball field.

Adopted

Before concluding the meeting, the Director General shared the following communications with council members:

- **Mutation:** There are no property mutations to report for this month.
- **Fire Report:**

The Waltham Fire Department responded to four incidents during the month of August:

- **August 11, 2025 – Findly Lake**
A call was received reporting a small brush fire near Finlay Lake. Because the lake is not accessible by road, the Waltham Fire Department was unable to respond with firefighting equipment. SOPFEU was immediately contacted through 911, and GPS coordinates were provided. SOPFEU confirmed that the fire was caused by lightning.
- **August 17, 2025 – 14 P.E.L. Road**
A tree branch made contact with a hydro cable, causing the branch to ignite. The branch burned off the tree and fell to the ground. The area was still damp from rain earlier in the day. The Waltham Fire Department surveyed the area for safety and applied additional water to the surrounding grass and forested areas to ensure that there was no risk of fire spreading.
- **August 24, 2025- Waltham Boulevard**
A Nissan SUV was observed off the highway in the eastbound lane, completely on the side of the road. The vehicle was fully engulfed in flames.
- **August 27, 2025- 915 Chemin Chapeau -Waltham**
A call was received regarding a resident who had started an outdoor fire in their backyard. The Waltham Fire Department determined that the fire pit did not comply with the Burning By-law requirements. The fire was extinguished by the department.

Water Rescue Training Feedback – Waltham Rescue Boat

Mayor Godin brought forward an email received by the Municipality from the water rescue training instructor regarding the use of the Waltham rescue boat. The boat had been lent to the Municipality of Otter Lake for water rescue training exercises on the weekends of August 9th and 23rd.

The course instructor, Stéphane Dubreuil, provided feedback noting that the boat is very small, making water rescue techniques challenging. Specifically, once a third responder was on board, there was very little room to work, and accommodating a rescued victim inside the boat was difficult due to the limited space.

Additionally, the boat had to be reinflated during the day to maintain its shape, raising concerns about its condition and overall reliability for this type of training scenario.

Mayor Godin wanted to ensure that Council is aware of this feedback to take it into consideration moving forward. Mr. Thomas Dubreuil, who was present at the meeting, also confirmed that the rescue boat is smaller than most others used by other municipalities.

Councillor Allard left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

- The Director General informed Council that the October public meeting will need to be rescheduled, as after October 3rd there will be no sitting Council due to the municipal election on November 2nd, during which a new Council will be elected. The meeting will now be held on October 1st, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- The new website is nearing readiness to go live; however, a number of issues have been identified by the Mayor and Director General regarding the projected website. Several aspects do not meet expectations or municipal standards, and at this stage, we are not comfortable making it live. It has been requested that the draft link be sent to all council members, and they have been asked to review it and provide feedback. To address these concerns, we have a dedicated work session scheduled before our public meeting to review and discuss the website in detail.

The Director General shared several correspondences and relevant information with Council:

- The Municipality received an invitation from the Pontiac Journal to attend the Reader’s Choice Awards on September 18, 2025, at the Pontiac Conference Center in Fort-Coulonge. Mayor Godin and Councillor Landry will attend this event to represent the Municipality.
- The Municipality received an invitation to SADC’s 40th Anniversary, to be held on September 12, 2025, in Mansfield. The invitation was forwarded to Council members so they may RSVP if they wish to attend.

Under Varia:

- Councillor Adam raised a concern regarding the lack of signage at the dead-end intersection of Principale and Perry Street. He stated that no sign had been installed because a resident had complained that many vehicles were turning into their driveway. After verification by the Director General, it was confirmed that the dead-end is clearly indicated at the stop signs.

08-02-09-25 PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Moved by councillor Godin and seconded by councillor Rochon to pay the bills of the month in the amount of \$ 21 897.25

Adopted

Certificate of availability

I, Annik Plante, Director General of the Municipality of Waltham, certify that there are funds available for the expenses approved above. Given at Waltham, on the 2nd day of September 2025.

Annik Plante
Director General/Secretary Treasurer

09-02-09-25 CLOSED

Moved by councillor Rochon and seconded by councillor Adam to close the meeting at 8: 47 P.M.

Adopted

Mayor Mrs. Odette Godin

Director General/Secretary Treasure Mrs. Annik Plante
