

Municipality of Waltham

This public sitting of the Council is recorded.

Minutes of a regular meeting held at the usual place and time on May 6th 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, #4 Mr. Brendan Adam, #5 Mr. Elwood Allard and # 6 Mr. Tyler Rochon
Absent: Mrs. Ramona Marion

Mrs. Annik Plante Director General is also present.

Statement by the mayor (Decorum)

01-06-05-25 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Adopted

02-06-05-25 ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

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

Adopted

VISITORS:

Four visitors were present at the meeting, and a question period was held to address their concerns.

- Mrs. Shirley Durocher, a resident of Chemin du Traversier, brought forward an ongoing issue regarding flooding near the end of the road that leads to her residence. She requested that the Municipality consider raising the end portion of the road by approximately three feet over a distance of 150 feet to help mitigate flood impacts in that area. Mayor Godin acknowledged the concern and assured Mrs. Durocher that the Road Committee, along with the Town Foreman, would visit the site to assess the situation and explore potential solutions.
- Mr. Clarke, a resident of Dempsey Road, raised two issues: He requested that the Town Foreman inspect the road shoulder near his property, which he believes may require maintenance or reinforcement.
- He also pointed out that beavers have felled several trees near the public boat dock, which may pose a safety or access concern. Mayor Godin responded that the Town Foreman will be asked to examine the situation and take appropriate action as needed.

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COMMITTEES REPORT

- **Arena:** No new updates were reported.
- **Transfer Site:**
 - ✓ Garbage Bin Enclosure at the Transfer Site:
Although Councillor Marion is absent from tonight's meeting, she has asked that council be made aware of the poor condition of the wooden enclosure surrounding the household garbage bin at the transfer site. The structure is falling apart and requires maintenance. Council has asked the Town Foreman to verify the situation and provide recommendations.

- ✓ Sanitation Concern Due to Bird Droppings at the Transfer Site:
Councillor Marion also wished to highlight the excessive accumulation of bird droppings around the bins, which poses an unsanitary and potentially hazardous condition for the transfer site attendant, particularly during cleanup. In light of the fact that there is no water or electricity at the site, council has requested that the Director General contact the Fire Department to see if they could assist with a proactive cleaning using their pumper truck.

- **Road Committee:**

The mayor informed the Road Committee that Jason Larivière has raised concerns regarding a culvert in front of his property, which he claims cause water to back up onto his land.

Timmy, the Town Foreman, clarified that there are actually two distinct culvert issues:

- ✓ **The first culvert** is located where water crosses from the highway onto Mr. Larivière’s property. This issue has been ongoing since 2019 and falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ). Mr. Larivière will need to submit a formal complaint through the MTQ website to initiate a case file and allow proper follow-up by the Ministry.
- ✓ **The second culvert**, as mentioned by Councillor Godin, is located directly on Mr. Larivière’s property. Mr. Larivière expressed concern to Councillor Godin that this culvert was not draining properly. Following an on-site inspection by Councillor Godin and Timmy, it was determined that the Municipality will clean out the culvert. However, if the culvert is found to be damaged and requires replacement, the cost of replacement will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Mayor’s report:

- Mayor Godin reported that she attended a meeting with Résidence Meilleur. During this meeting, it was announced that Karolann Fleming has been hired as the new administrative assistant, which is expected to help improve the overall administrative efficiency of the organization.
- Mayor Godin also participated in three meetings with the CSI at the MRC Pontiac over the past month.
- In addition, she attended a regional **Flood Prevention Meeting**
- Mayor Godin also informed council that **Annie Vaillancourt**, the long-standing accountant at the MRC Pontiac, will be leaving her position for a new employment opportunity.

03-06-05-25 ABOLITION OF THE RÉNORÉGION PROGRAM

The Municipality of Waltham urges the Government of Québec to urgently reconsider its decision.

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WHEREAS the Société d’habitation du Québec (SHQ) confirmed, two days after the tabling of the 2025–2026 Québec government budget, the termination of the RénoRégion program, which is an essential program to help the most financially vulnerable owner-occupants in our communities—often seniors or single-parent families living in rural areas—to correct major defects in their modest homes;

WHEREAS this program has allowed thousands of people to remain in their homes, in areas that are also affected by the housing crisis and where there is no affordable housing or low-rent housing units available;

- WHEREAS** more than one thousand families are currently on the waiting lists of Québec’s regional county municipalities (MRCs);
- WHEREAS** the Fédération Québécoise des municipalités (FQM) called on the Premier of Québec, Mr. François Legault, on March 27 to take action on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens and families by urgently addressing this situation;
- WHEREAS** this request has gone unanswered, and the 24- and 36-unit modular apartment projects promoted since then by the Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. France-Élaine Duranceau, in some Québec cities cannot meet the needs of rural regions;
- WHEREAS** although the RénoRégion program cost the Québec government less than \$18 million annually—representing only 0.0001% of total expenditures—the Minister has justified its cancellation on the grounds of sound public financial management;
- WHEREAS** the average grant under the program was \$19,309, a fraction of the actual construction cost of the new housing units promoted by the Minister;
- WHEREAS** the FQM submitted a series of proposals last year, at the request of the SHQ, to improve the efficiency of the program and make it more accessible in order to better meet needs throughout Québec;
- WHEREAS** the SHQ was expected to launch an enhanced version of the RénoRégion program in 2025 following its consultations;
- WHEREAS** the abolition of this program harms the most vulnerable members of our communities;

IT IS PROPOSED by the municipal councillor Rochon and seconded by councillor Adam,
AND unanimously RESOLVED,

THAT the Premier of Québec, Mr. François Legault, and the Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. France-Élaine Duranceau:

- **IMMEDIATELY REINSTATE** the RénoRégion program for the 2025–2026 fiscal year and commit to ensuring its long-term funding;
- **COMPLETE** the enhancement process of the program to ensure greater accessibility across all regions of Québec.

That this resolution be promptly sent to the following individuals:

- Mr. François Legault, Premier of Québec
- Ms. France-Élaine Duranceau, Minister responsible for Housing
- Mr. Eric Girard, Minister of Finance
- Mr. Sébastien Schneeberger, MNA for Drummond–Bois-Francis, Chair of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain of the National Assembly
- Ms. Virginie Dufour, MNA for Mille-Îles, Official Opposition Critic for Housing
- Ms. Christine Labrie, MNA for Sherbrooke, Second Opposition Group Critic for Housing
- Ms. Catherine Gentilcore, MNA for Terrebonne, Third Opposition Group Critic for Housing
- Mr. Jean Martel, President and CEO of the Société d’habitation du Québec
- Your local MNA [Insert name and electoral district]
- Mr. Jacques Demers, President of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités

**04-06-05-25 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF “PLAYS IN THE PARK” –
PONTIAC COMMUNITY PLAYERS**

- WHEREAS

the Pontiac Community Players is launching a new cultural initiative entitled *Plays in the Park*, consisting of five outdoor theatrical performances in five communities across the Pontiac during August 2025;
- WHEREAS

the objective of this initiative is to make live theatre accessible and enjoyable for all residents by presenting free public performances in local parks and recreation spaces;
- WHEREAS

the performances will be fully insured, require minimal infrastructure, and will be open to the public with donations benefiting both future arts programming and a local non-profit organization;
- WHEREAS

the Municipality of Waltham recognizes the cultural and community value of such events and wishes to promote the arts and community engagement within its jurisdiction;
- WHEREAS

the Pontiac Community Players are seeking flat outdoor spaces with access to electricity and proximity to washroom facilities, where residents can gather with chairs or blankets to enjoy a performance;

IT IS PROPOSED by the municipal councillor Landry and seconded by councillor Rochon,
AND unanimously RESOLVED,

- THAT

the Council of the Municipality of Waltham hereby supports the *Plays in the Park* initiative and expresses its interest in hosting one of the five performances in August 2025;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Waltham commits to collaborating with the Pontiac Community Players by designating Paul Ryan Park as the official venue for the performance, and by providing logistical support as needed to help ensure the smooth execution and overall success of the event.

Adopted

**05-06-05-25 PURCHASE OF TWO RADIOS FOR THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

- WHEREAS

the Municipality of Waltham recognizes the importance of maintaining reliable and up-to-date communication equipment for the safety and efficiency of its Fire Department;

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- WHEREAS

the current base and vehicle radios are outdated and no longer meet the operational needs of the Fire Department;
- WHEREAS

the replacement of these radios will enhance emergency response capacity, improve communication between personnel, and ensure compliance with safety and interoperability standards;

IT IS PROPOSED by the municipal councillor Adam and seconded by councillor Godin,
AND unanimously RESOLVED,

THAT the Municipality of Waltham authorize the purchase of **two new radios** for the Fire Department: **one base radio** and **one vehicle radio**, to replace the existing outdated units;

THAT the radios be purchased from **CTM in Gatineau**, in the amount of **\$2,723.66 plus applicable taxes**;

THAT the Director General be authorized to proceed with the purchase and coordinate the installation and operational setup of the new radios.

Adopted

06-06-05-25 PURCHASE AND LENDING OF RADON TEST KITS

WHEREAS radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can accumulate in homes and pose serious long-term health risks, including lung cancer;

WHEREAS testing for radon is the only way to determine whether a property contains elevated levels of this gas;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham is committed to promoting public health and safety by encouraging residents to test for radon in their homes;

IT IS PROPOSED by the municipal councillor Landry and seconded by councillor Adam,
AND unanimously RESOLVED,

THAT the Municipality of Waltham authorize the purchase of four (4) radon test kits at a cost of \$49.99 plus tax per kit;

THAT the kits be made available to residents of Waltham through a loan program administered by the Municipality;

THAT resident borrowing a kit be required to pay a \$50 deposit, which will be fully refunded upon return of the test kit in good condition and within the prescribed loan period;

THAT the Director General be authorized to proceed with the purchase of the kits and to develop and manage the lending process, including a tracking and deposit system.

Adopted

Before concluding the meeting, the Director General shared the following communications with council members: 5

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

The Fire Department responded to **two incidents this month**, both occurring at the same address:

1. **April 18, 2025 – Structure Fire at the Residence of Daniel and Lynn Amyotte**
A major fire broke out at the Amyotte residence, resulting in a **complete loss of the property**. The fire originated in the **detached garage**. Despite efforts to contain the blaze, the extent of the damage rendered the residence unsalvageable.

2. **April 19, 2025 – Rekindle at the Amyotte Residence**

In the early morning hours following the initial fire, the department was dispatched to the same location due to a **rekindle**. Fortunately, this incident was **minor** in comparison and was **quickly brought under control**, with no further damage reported beyond what had already occurred.

- The Director General informed council that the water softener system at the Town Hall is no longer functioning and needs to be replaced. She will obtain two estimates and present them at the next public meeting for council’s consideration.

Under Varia:

- the Director General provided council with an update on the water and flood situation. On Black River Road, approximately 6 inches of water had been observed at KM 12. While the “Road Closed” signage has been removed, a “Flooded Road” sign remains in place as a precautionary measure to ensure public safety. On Chemin du Traversier, water is still present on portions of the roadway; however, no structural damage has been reported to date.
- The Director General also noted that road sweeping operations have commenced throughout the municipality.
- Additionally, council was informed that the seasonal employee began work on April 22nd and is currently assisting with regular maintenance and upkeep tasks.
- Mayor Godin raised the idea of exploring the possibility of enlarging the municipal gravel pit to support future infrastructure and maintenance needs. The Director General will consult with the municipal building inspector to determine the necessary steps and regulatory requirements to initiate this process.

07-06-0-25 PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Moved by councillor Godin and seconded by councillor Landry to pay the bills of the month in the amount of \$42 188.33.

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 6th day of May 2025.

Annik Plante
Director General/Secretary Treasurer

08-06-05-25 CLOSED

Moved by councillor Allard and seconded by councillor Rochon to close⁶
the meeting at 8: 22 P.M.

Adopted

Mayor Mrs. Odette Godin

Director General/Secretary Treasure Mrs. Annik Plante
