

Municipality of Waltham

This public sitting of the Council is recorded.

Minutes of a special meeting called in accordance to article 152 of the municipal code being held at the town hall at 6:30 P.M. on January 28th 2026, under the chairmanship of Mayor Jordan Evans with the presence of the following councillors # 1 Mrs. Chantal Fortin, #2 Mr. Francis Turner, #3 Mrs. Holli Lair #4 Mr. Brendan Adam, #5 Mr. Elwood Allard and # 6 Mr. Tyler Rochon

Mrs. Annik Plante Director General is also present.

Opening of the meeting

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Evans stated that she could not continue presiding over the meeting due to feeling unwell and requested that the Pro-Mayor take over. Councillor Allard assumed the role of presiding officer as Pro-Mayor for the remainder of the meeting.

Statement by the mayor (Decorum)

The statement by the Mayor regarding decorum was not delivered, as Mayor Evans was unable to preside over the meeting.

S-01-28-01-26 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by councilor Rochon and seconded by councilor Turner to adopt the agenda as presented.

ADOPTED

S-02-28-01-26 ADOPTION OF THE 2026 BUDGET

Moved by Councillor Rochon and seconded by Councillor Fortin to adopt the agenda as presented.

A vote was requested.

For: Councillor Rochon, Councillor Fortin, Councillor Turner and Councillor Allard

Against: Councillor Adam, Councillor Lair

ADOPTED

- Councillor Adam explained that he opposed the budget because he was unable to remain for the full budget work session due to unacceptable comments made by a fellow Council member. He further stated that, in his view, it was inappropriate for Council to make decisions regarding the amount of money allocated in the budget to the Fire Department without sufficient consideration of alternative options, and that such decisions should be based on concrete data, regardless of whether the project moved forward or not.
- Councillor Lair addressed Council and the public to explain her opposition to the budget. She stated that, in her view, Council did not exercise sufficient due diligence in considering more fiscally responsible options for the expenditure of taxpayers' dollars. She specifically noted that Council chose not to explore a potential grant opportunity that could have significantly reduced costs associated with the fire department. Councillor Lair acknowledged that some members of Council have indicated that fire services regionalization may be inevitable in the future, but expressed concern that Council was unwilling to explore related options at this time. While she recognized the importance of maintaining firefighter morale, she emphasized that Council also has a responsibility to manage public funds prudently.

She clarified that she is in favour of keeping the fire department in Waltham; however, she is not in favour of committing taxpayer funds without thorough consideration of all available options, including grant opportunities that could potentially reduce costs. For these reasons, she stated that she could not support the budget as presented.

1	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM			
2	BUDGET ESTIMATES			
3	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES			
4	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026			
5				
6		2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2026
7				
8	Revenue			
9	Tax revenue	881,057	772,708	65.70%
10	Grants in lieu of taxes	140,128	150,044	10.45%
11	Transfers	200,374	377,393	14.94%
12	Services provided	2,000	2,200	0.15%
13	Assessment of rights	24,500	23,500	1.83%
14	Interest	10,000	8,000	0.75%
15	Appropriation of reserve for elections		1,750	0.00%
16	Appropriation of surplus	82,893		6.18%
17				
18		1,340,952	1,335,595	
19				
20				
21	Operating expenses			
22	General administration	375,426	349,468	28.00%
23	Public security	244,946	188,170	18.27%
24	Transportation	378,302	303,153	28.21%
25	Environmental health	137,482	197,549	10.25%
26	Urban planning and regional development	56,771	59,245	4.23%
27	Recreational and cultural activities	78,325	61,261	5.84%
28	Costs of financing	23,000	21,750	1.72%
29	Investing activities	46,700	155,000	3.48%
30				
31		1,340,952	1,335,595	
32				
33				
34	Surplus (deficit) for the year	0	0	
35				
36				
37				2
38				
39				
40				
41				
42				
43				
44				
45				
46				

65	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM		
66	BUDGET ESTIMATES		
67	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES		
68	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026		
69			
70		2026 Budget	2025 Budget
71			
72	TAXES		
73	Taxes based on assessment		
74	Taxable valuation - \$112,265,800 /\$100 @ 0.64/\$100 (0.61 for 2025)	718,501	646,008
75	Municipal services		
76	Garbage pickup \$64 for 296 residences (\$150 in 2025)	19,036	44,400
77	Garbage disposal \$155 for 487 properties with buildings (\$128 in 2025)	75,520	60,000
78	Garbage disposal \$80 for 315 vacant lots (\$65 in 2025)	25,200	20,000
79	Fire service fee (\$50)	40,000	
80	Other		
81	Agence 9-1-1	2,800	2,300
82			
83		881,057	772,708
84			
85	GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES		
86	Government of Quebec		
87	Public lands	66,441	76,548
88	Government properties	2,687	2,687
89	Other		
90	Grants in lieu of taxes - Waltham Power and Co.	71,000	70,809
91			
92		140,128	150,044
93			
94	TRANSFERS		
95	Conditional transfers		
96	Road maintenance grant	129,071	129,071
97	Road improvement grant	25,000	25,000
98	Snow removal contract	1,970	1,970
99	Recyc Québec		35,000
100	Special TVQ grant	44,333	36,352
101	TECQ 2024-2028		150,000
102			
103		200,374	377,393
104			
105	SERVICES PROVIDED		
106	Hall rental	2,000	2,200
107			
108		2,000	2,200
109			

110	ASSESSMENT OF RIGHTS			
111	Licenses and permits	8,000	7,000	
112	Dump fees scrap metal	1,500	1,500	
113	Transfer duties	15,000	15,000	
114				
115		24,500	23,500	
116				
117	INTEREST			
118	Interest on arrears	10,000	8,000	
119				

129	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM			
130	BUDGET ESTIMATES			
131	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES			
132	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026			
133				
134		2026 Budget	2025 Budget	
135				
136	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
137	Legislation			
138	Mayor and Councillors - remuneration	27,315	26,469	
139	Mayor and Councillors - allowance	13,658	13,234	
140	Mayor and Councillors - employer's share	1,494	1,986	
141	Mayor and Councillors - travel and convention	5,000	5,000	
142	Mayor and Councillors - code books	300	300	
143	Mayor allocation - telephone		600	
144	Mayor and Councillors - supplies	200	200	
145		47,967	47,788	
146				
147	Election			
148	Wages, benefits, public notices and supplies	5,000	7,000	
149				
150	Financial and administrative management			
151	Administrative salaries and benefits	136,958	131,655	
152	Cell phone - director	600	600	
153	Audit fee	19,000	19,000	
154	Office supplies	3,500	3,000	
155	Bond insurance	225	225	
156	Telephone	2,800	2,500	
157	Postage	6,000	3,500	
158	Public notices	2,500	2,000	
159	Travel and convention- secretary	4,000	3,000	4
160	Association fees	600	600	
161	Secretary's bond	200	200	
162	Other professional services	26,454	23,890	
163	Insurance on office and contents	625	625	
164	Office software	10,500	5,000	
165	Office maintenance	1,000	1,000	
166	Office equipment	3,000	1,000	
167	Office hydro	500	500	
168	Copier rental and copies	2,500	1,800	

169	Web site	500	3,000	
170		221,462	203,095	
171				
172				
173	Assessment			
174	M.R.C. Pontiac	32,828	32,985	
175				
176	Other			
177	M.R.C. Pontiac	46,219	37,026	
178	FQM fees	1,200	1,274	
179	Legal fees	8,000	8,000	
180	Errors and omissions insurance	1,100	1,125	
181	Liability insurance	5,800	5,350	
182	Ciber attack insurance	850	825	
183	Goodwill gestures Tourist association	5,000	5,000	
184		68,169	58,600	
185				
186		375,426	349,468	
187				
188				
189				
190				
191				
192				

193	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM			
194	BUDGET ESTIMATES			
195	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES			
196	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026			
197				
198		2026 Budget	2025 Budget	
199				
200	PUBLIC SECURITY			
201	Police protection			
202	Government of Quebec	64,755	62,309	
203				
204	Fire protection			
205	Firemen remuneration	28,119	27,300	
206	Fire chief	21,115	20,500	5
207	Employer's share	1,865	7,170	
208	Insurance on firemen	400		
209	Fire supplies	500	5,000	
210	Banquet	1,680	1,600	
211	Public notices	500	200	
212	Fire hall - light and heat	7,300	4,100	
213	Fire hall - maintenance	2,000	1,000	
214	Fire hall - insurance	1,600	1,575	
215	Pager fees	4,500	9,000	
216	Fire vehicles - fuel	2,000	2,000	

217	Fire vehicles - insurance	3,500	3,100	
218	Fire vehicles - licenses	4,100	3,900	
219	Fire vehicles - maintenance	10,000	8,000	
220	Training and course fees	24,000	5,000	
221	Telephone	2,800	2,800	
222	Fire chief cellulaire	700	700	
223	Equipment maintenance/bunker cleaning	4,800	4,800	
224	Communication license/ Software	1,000	200	
225	Agence 9-1-1	2,800	2,300	
226	M.R.C. Pontiac - fire protection share	10,485	6,310	
227	Equipment and clothing	8,000	5,000	
228	Travel expense	150		
229	Inter-municipal agreement - Mansfield	8,800		
230	Radio repeater service (MRC Pontiac)	500		
231	18 radios	16,200		
232	Tower rental and repeater cost	3,384		
233	Fire service plan	500		
234		173,298	121,555	
235				
236	Civil protection			
237	Services	225	225	
238	Emergency plan	3,200	1,050	
239		3,425	1,275	
240				
241	Other			
242	M.R.C. Pontiac - animal control	3,468	3,031	
243				
244		244,946	188,170	
256				

257	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM				
258	BUDGET ESTIMATES				
259	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES				
260	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026				
261					
262		2026 Budget	2025 Budget		
263					
264	TRANSPORTATION				
265	Municipal roads				
266	Equipment rental	15,000	15,000	6	
267	Grading contract	35,000	32,000		
268	Gravel and stone	15,000	15,000		
269	Asphalt patching	5,000	5,000		
270	Dust suppressant	5,500	5,500		
271	Street sweeping	2,000	1,500		
272	Grant expense	5,000	5,000		
273	Tools and supplies	5,000	5,000		
274	Overhead - line 420	106,602	42,827		
275		194,102	126,827		
276					
277	Snow removal				

278	Snow removal contract	160,000	157,126
279			
280	Street lighting		
281	Electricity	8,200	8,200
282	Maintenance	15,000	10,000
283		23,200	18,200
284			
285	Traffic		
286	Road signs and survey	1,000	1,000
287			
288		378,302	303,153
289			
290	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH		
291	Domestic garbage		
292	Collection		
293	Overhead - line 421	19,036	32,944
294			
295	Disposal		
296	Direct wages - 50%	5,356	4,831
297	Employer's share - 50%	670	588
298	M.R.C. Pontiac - share for waste management	12,186	10,073
299	Transfer site maintenance and improvements	1,500	1,000
300	Insurance	100	100
301	Cell phone	500	450
302	Waste transportation	80,408	80,000
303	Overhead - line 422	0	6,589
304		100,720	103,631
305	Recycling		
306	Direct wages - 50%	5,356	4,831
307	Employer's share - 50%	670	588
308	Pickup	10,000	28,000
309	Other services (Laurentide)	1,200	1,200
310	Recycling supplies	500	
311	Overhead - line 423	0	26,355
312		17,726	60,974
313			
314		137,482	197,549
315			

321	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM			7
322	BUDGET ESTIMATES			
323	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES			
324	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026			
325				
326		2026 Budget	2025 Budget	
327				
328	URBAN PLANNING			
329	Urban planning			
330	M.R.C. Pontiac - urbanism share	21,440	26,304	
331	Municipal inspector	28,510	26,384	

332	Employer's share	3,721	3,958	
333	Telephone	600	600	
334	Inspector travel allowance	1,500	1,500	
335	Inspector training	500		
336	Public notice	500	500	
337		56,771	59,245	
338				
339	RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES			
340	Town hall			
341	Maintenance	6,000	500	
342	Heat	5,500	3,000	
343	Electricity	5,000	3,700	
344	Cleaning wages	4,500	4,500	
345	Cleaning benefits	500	425	
346	Cleaning supplies	700	400	
347	Insurance	4,000	3,750	
348	Propane	4,000	1,350	
349	Overhead expense - line 424	7,614	6,589	
350		37,814	24,214	
351				
352	Dock			
353	Lease and insurance / repairs	450	450	
354				
355	Parks and playgrounds			
356	Maintenance and supplies/flags`	3,500	3,500	
357	Electricity	2,300	1,400	
358	Insurance	225	225	
359	Overhead - line 425	19,036	16,472	
360		25,061	21,597	
361				
362	Other			
363	Financial assistance to Recreation Association	5,000	5,000	
364	Waltham Angler's Association	1,000	1,000	
365	Upper Pontiac Sports Complex	5,000	5,000	
366	West Pontiac Connects	1,000	1,000	
367	Résidence Meilleur	2,500	2,500	
368	Robert Chartrand Memorial Tournament	500	500	
369		15,000	15,000	
370				
371		78,325	61,261	
372				
373	COSTS OF FINANCING			8
374	Interest on temporary loans / bank charges	23,000	21,750	
375				
376		23,000	21,750	
377				
378	APPROPRIATIONS			
379	Investing activities			
380	Fire equipment	6,100	5,000	
381	TECQ 2024-2028		150,000	
382	New communication system	40,600		
383		46,700	155,000	

385	THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM		
386	BUDGET ESTIMATES		
387	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES		
388	PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026		
389			
390		2026 Budget	2025 Budget
391			
392	OVERHEAD EXPENSE		
393	Salaries and benefits		
394	Town employees - salaries	89,711	81,500
395	Telephone	500	450
396	Clothing allowance	1,000	1,000
397	Employer's share	12,986	12,225
398	Pension plan - 6%	3,926	3,900
399	Group insurance	4,000	2,400
400	Safety equipment(Epipen)	155	1,500
401			
402	Sub-total	112,278	102,975
403			
404	Vehicles, garage and salt shed		
405	Vehicles - fuel	10,100	9,000
406	Vehicles - maintenance	22,000	12,000
407	Vehicles - insurance	1,200	1,100
408	Vehicles - licenses	1,500	1,500
409	Garage and salt shed - hydro	1,500	1,500
410	Garage and salt shed - heat	1,000	1,000
411	Garage and salt shed - insurance	710	700
412	Garage maintenance	2,000	2,000
413			
414	Sub-total	40,010	28,800
415			
416	Total overhead	152,288	131,775
417			
418			9
419	Overhead distributed to:		
420	Municipal roads – 70% (was 32.5%)	106,602	42,827
421	Garbage collection - 12.5% (was 25%)	19,036	32,944
422	Garbage disposal - 0% (was 5%)	0	6,589
423	Recycling - 0% (was 20%)	0	26,355
424	Town hall - 5%	7,614	6,589
425	Parks and playgrounds - 12.5%	19,036	16,472
426			
427	Total overhead distributed	152,288	131,775
428			

VISITORS: 11 visitors are present and a question period is organized.

- Questions were received regarding municipal service fees and how the amounts were calculated. The Director General explained that the garbage pickup fee is calculated by dividing the total cost of the service by the number of residents receiving that service, and that the same method applies to the garbage disposal fee.
- A question was asked regarding the cost of the new radio. The Director General provided the amount and indicated the appropriate budget line where the expense is allocated.
- A question was asked whether the salary of the existing Fire Chief would be the same as that of the new Fire Chief, considering his over 50 years of experience. Council indicated that this matter is still under review.

Mayor Evans had removed herself from the meeting due to not feeling well; however, the discussion regarding the 2026–2027–2028 PTI (Three-Year Capital Plan) was still brought forward. Council will review the matter at a later date and present it at a future meeting.

S-03-28-01-26 Closed

Moved by councillor Rochon and seconded by councillor Lair to close the meeting at 6:57 P.M.

ADOPTED

Pro Mayor Mr. Elwood Allard

Director General/Secretary Treasure Mrs. Annik Plante
