

Municipality of Waltham

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

Mrs. Annik Plante Director General is also present.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALLARD
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ADAM

THAT the Council meeting of the Municipality of Waltham held on April 28th, 2026, be hereby called to order at 7 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR (Decorum)

S2-01-28-04-26 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHON
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LAIR

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Adopted

VISITORS/ FIRST QUESTION PERIOD:

No questions were asked during the first question period.

S2-02-28-04-26 SUPPORT FOR WEST PONTIAC CONNECTS (FRR3 FUNDING APPLICATION)

WHEREAS West Pontiac Connects (WPC) plays an important role in the Upper Pontiac region by delivering valuable community services, supporting seniors, and contributing to the social and economic well-being of residents across multiple municipalities;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham recognizes the organization's continued efforts to identify local needs through surveys, consultations, and community-based activities, as well as its commitment to strengthening regional collaboration;

WHEREAS West Pontiac Connects is applying for funding under the FRR3 program to support the development of a comprehensive marketing and business plan aimed at securing sustainable, long-term funding for staffing and the continuation of essential services;

WHEREAS Council acknowledges the challenges faced since changes to federal and provincial, funding programs and recognizes the importance of supporting organizations that provide accessible services to the community;

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WHEREAS Council considers this initiative to be beneficial to the residents of the Upper Pontiac region and aligned with the Municipality's objectives of supporting community well-being;

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALLARD
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LAIR

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Waltham formally supports West Pontiac Connects in its application to the FRR3 funding program;

THAT Council authorizes the Director General to sign and transmit a letter of support confirming this endorsement;

Adopted

**S2-03-28-04-26 SUPPORT FOR THE UPPER PONTIAC SPORTS COMPLEX –
(FRR3 FUNDING APPLICATION)**

WHEREAS the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex located in the Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, is an important recreational facility serving residents of the Upper Pontiac region, including Waltham;

WHEREAS the project to replace the ice plant condensing unit (cooling tower) and associated components is necessary to ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of the facility;

WHEREAS this project contributes to community well-being, recreation, and regional development;

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHON
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LAIR**

THAT The Council of the Municipality of Waltham supports the Upper Pontiac Sports Complex in its application for funding under the Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR3) program.

THAT Council authorizes the Director General to sign and transmit a letter of support confirming this endorsement.

THAT the Municipality recognizes the importance of this project for the vitality and quality of life of residents in the Upper Pontiac region and encourages funding partners to give it favorable consideration.

Adopted

**S2-04-28-04-26 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION AND PROJECT
AUTHORIZATION**

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham wishes to carry out the project entitled "Waltham Business Directory Board";

WHEREAS the Project aligns with the Municipality's priorities and objectives and contributes to the development and well-being of the community;

WHEREAS financial assistance is available under the *Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR)* program, administered by the MRC of Pontiac;

WHEREAS the Municipality wishes to submit an application for financial assistance for the said Project, in accordance with the prescribed terms and deadlines;

WHEREAS the Municipality must formally commit to assuming its share of the Project funding and designate a person responsible for its management and implementation;

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHON
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ADAM**

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THAT The Municipality authorizes the submission of an application for financial assistance for the Project entitled "Waltham Business Directory Board" under the *Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR)* program 2.

THAT The Municipality commits to investing an amount of 568.52 \$, representing 10% of the eligible project costs, from its municipal funds as its financial contribution toward the completion of the Project.

THAT the Municipality designate Annik Plante Director General as the person responsible for the Project, with full authority, for and on behalf of the Municipality, to:

- Ensure the management and implementation of the Project;
- Sign the financial assistance application and any related amendments;
- Sign any contracts, agreements, attestations, or documents required for the completion of the Project;
- Sign all reporting documents and submissions required by the funding authority, up to the full completion of the Project.

Adopted

S2-05-28-04-26 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION AND PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS the Municipality of Waltham wishes to carry out the project entitled “Commemorative Mural – Waltham Fire Hall”;

WHEREAS the Project aligns with the Municipality’s priorities and objectives and contributes to the development and well-being of the community;

WHEREAS financial assistance is available under the *Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR)* program, administered by the MRC of Pontiac;

WHEREAS the Municipality wishes to submit an application for financial assistance for the said Project, in accordance with the prescribed terms and deadlines;

WHEREAS the Municipality must formally commit to assuming its share of the Project funding and designate a person responsible for its management and implementation;

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHON
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALLARD

THAT The Municipality authorizes the submission of an application for financial assistance for the Project entitled Commemorative Mural – Waltham Fire Hall under the *Fonds régions et ruralité (FRR)* program 2.

THAT The Municipality commits to investing an amount of 802.30 \$, representing 10% of the eligible project costs, from its municipal funds as its financial contribution toward the completion of the Project.

THAT the Municipality designate Annik Plante Director General as the person responsible for the Project, with full authority, for and on behalf of the Municipality, to:

- Ensure the management and implementation of the Project;
- Sign the financial assistance application and any related amendments;
- Sign any contracts, agreements, attestations, or documents required for the completion of the Project;
- Sign all reporting documents and submissions required by the funding authority, up to the full completion of the Project.

Adopted
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MAYOR’S UPDATE – FLOODING AND STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mayor Jordan Evans provided an update regarding the flooding situation within the Municipality. The Municipality remains under a state of emergency, although water levels have begun to stabilize and decrease in certain areas. Some roads remain closed due to safety concerns, and ongoing assessments are being conducted to determine when access can safely be restored. The Mayor advised that the Municipality continue to closely monitor conditions and coordinate with relevant partners and emergency services. At this time, no widespread residential distress has been reported. Residents are encouraged to continue respecting all road closures and safety advisories.

The Mayor also acknowledged the efforts and cooperation of the Fire Chief, firefighters, municipal staff, partner agencies, and residents throughout the emergency.

At the request of Mayor Jordan Evans, Director General Annik Plante provided an update regarding the ongoing flooding situation within the Municipality. Water levels had stabilized at the time of the update, with some areas showing signs of improvement and reopening. Several road closures remained in effect due to water levels and safety concerns, including portions of Traversier Road and Black River Road. Access to Trout Lake Road from the Waltham side had been restored following the reopening of a section of Black River Road. Residents in affected areas were reported to be stable and prepared, with no new concerns identified. The Municipality continues to monitor conditions closely and reminded residents to maintain flood protection measures and respect all safety advisories and road closures. The Director General also advised that sand and sandbags remained available to residents at the ball field and municipal garage as needed.

Council discussed the current flooding situation affecting the Municipality and the associated risks to public safety, infrastructure, and emergency access. Following the update provided by administration, Council acknowledged that conditions remain dynamic and require continued close monitoring.

After consideration, Council agreed that the circumstances warranted the declaration of a state of emergency in order to ensure appropriate response measures, coordination with emergency services, and the protection of residents and property.

S2-06-28-04-26 - DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS Section 42 of the *Civil Protection Act* (CQLR, c. S-2.3) provides that a local municipality may declare a state of emergency, in all or part of its territory, when a major disaster, actual or imminent, requires immediate action to protect human life, health or physical integrity, and that such action cannot be adequately carried out within the scope of its usual operating procedures or under an applicable civil protection plan;

WHEREAS the 2026 spring flood is significantly increasing water levels in the Ottawa River and Black River, and forecasts, indicate sustained or rising water levels in the coming days;

WHEREAS current conditions within the Municipality include ongoing road closures, water present on multiple roadways, residents who are isolated or at risk of isolation, and limited or unreliable access to certain dwellings;

WHEREAS these conditions create situations where emergency services may be unable to safely or effectively reach all affected areas;

WHEREAS the situation remains unstable, with the potential for further deterioration due to anticipated increases in water levels;

WHEREAS these circumstances require immediate coordination and response measures beyond the Municipality's normal operational capacity;

WHEREAS the Municipality considers that it cannot adequately carry out the actions required to protect human life, health, or physical integrity within the scope of its usual operating procedures or under an applicable civil protection plan;

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ADAM
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHON

THAT a state of emergency be declared for all or part of the territory of the Municipality for an initial period of ten (10) days due to flooding caused by the 2026 spring flood;

THAT *the Mayor, EVANS, and the Director General, ANNIK PLANTE*, be authorized to exercise the following powers as prescribed under Section 47 of the Civil Protection Act:

1. Control access to roads or the affected territory or subject them to specific conditions;
2. Grant, for the time deemed necessary for the rapid and efficient implementation of response measures, authorizations or exemptions in areas under municipal jurisdiction;
3. Order, where no other means of protection are available, the evacuation of persons from all or part of the affected territory as determined, or, upon the advice of the public health authority, their confinement, and ensure, if they lack resources, their accommodation, food, clothing, and safety;

4. Require the assistance of any citizen capable of supporting deployed personnel;
5. Incur expenses and enter into contracts deemed necessary.

Adopted

VISITORS/ SECOND QUESTION PERIOD:

- A resident inquired about fire service coverage beyond the Black River Bridge. Mayor Jordan Evans advised that no decision has been made at this time, and that the matter remains under ongoing discussion.
- A resident inquired whether government assistance is available for individuals affected by flood-related damages.

The Director General responded that assistance programs are available for residents impacted by flooding. Residents were encouraged to contact the municipal office for more information and guidance on available support programs.

S2-07-28-04-26 CLOSED

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALLARD
AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ADAM

THAT the meeting be close at **7:49 p.m.**

Adopted

Mayor Mrs. Jordan Evans

Director General/Secretary Treasure Mrs. Annik Plante
