CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 199 QUEEN STREET
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 AT 5:00 PM

Mayor Philip Brown presiding

Present:	**Deputy Mayor Alanna Jankov**	**Councillor Terry Bernard**
	Councillor Mitchell Tweel	**Councillor Kevin Ramsay**
	Councillor Bob Doiron (T/C)	**Councillor Julie McCabe (T/C)**
	Councillor Norman Beck	**Councillor Trevor MacKinnon**
	Councillor John McAleer	**Councillor Justin Muttart**
Also:	**Brad MacConnell, CAO**	**Michael Ruus, DIG**
	Richard MacEwen, DCS	**Frank Quinn, PRM**
	Tim Mamye, FC	**Jessika Corkum-Gorrill, ESM**
	Joshua McInnis, UM	**Wayne Long, EGAM (T/C)**
	Ylber Gashi, PWM	**Donna Miller-Ayton, PPHM**
	Shane Jones, BIM	**Amy McQuillan, FM**
	Sean Coombs, APC	**Isaac Ewuah, FAM**
	Emilee MacLeod, HRM	**Anna Keenan, STO**
	Melanie Bailey, SIO	**Charlotte Nicholson, TO (T/C)**
	Doug Dumais, CEC	**Stephanie Mitchell, CO**
	Rory Chaisson, IT	**Tracey McLean, PRC**

T/C indicates attended via teleconference.

- The Mayor acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq First Nation.

1. Call to Order
Mayor Brown called the meeting to order.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
No conflicts were declared.

3. Approval of Agenda
Moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.

4. Discussion Item:

a) 2026/2027 City of Charlottetown Operational Budget Review
The Mayor asked Amy McQuillan, Finance Manager, to provide an overview of both the City and Water & Sewer Corporation operational budgets. The Finance Manager indicated the City's operating expenses for 2026–2027 is ~$99.43M and Water & Sewer Utility is just over $17M. She noted that department managers would provide more in-depth breakdowns, if required.

Economic Development, Tourism & Culture ($5.8M Budget)
Councillor Bernard, Chair of ET & CD Committee, reported a status quo budget but with an increase of $200,000 tied specifically to the City hosting the Scottie Tournament of Hearts in 2027.
In response to a question of an increase in the Tourism Accommodation Levy, Councillor Bernard indicated the levy is industry-funded for marketing, not a direct taxpayer cost.

…/2

City Government/Strategic Priorities/Communications ($4.8M Budget)
~5% increase from last year's budget. Strategic Planning work, CAO Innovation Task Force and general corporate cost are the key drivers in the increase.

Staff clarified that the new council will ultimately lead and finalize the strategic plan; however, the ground work would take place beforehand.

Environment & Sustainability/Transit ($6.8M Budget)
2025-2026 budget was $4.3M; the increase is primarily due to the new transit contract.

Finance, Audit & Fiscal Services ($27.3M Budget)
The Finance Manager noted general drivers of rising costs are due to an increase in depreciation and interest expenses linked to recent long-term debt taken on by the City. She further noted the finance department is currently understaffed but the budget assumes the department will be fully staffed in 2026–2027.

Fire Services ($6.5M Budget)
Status quo budget with minimal change.

Human Resources ($1.6M Budget)
Increase in budget mainly driven by contract negotiations and payroll software costs.

Some Councillors thought particular line items were unclear or too broadly categorized and requested more transparency/detail.

Parks & Recreation ($5.97M Budget)
Primarily a status quo budget, with inflationary adjustments built in.

Planning & Heritage ($3.1M Budget)
Concerns raised related to staffing shortages, recruitment challenges and impact on development and revenue. It was noted the Planning department is not unique and that other City departments are also struggling t hire.

Police Services ($15.6M Budget)
Budget slightly down in forecast due to vacant positions (assumes positions will be filled). Like other City departments, Police Services is encountering staffing and recruitment challenges.

Public Works & Municipal Buildings ($21M Budget)
Increase in budget mainly due to under-expenditures in prior year and vacant positions (believe to be fully staffed going forward).

Water & Sewer Services ($17M Budget)
Water & Sewer Corporation is structured as a utility (rate-supported, not tax-supported). Revenues and expenses are largely balanced.

Following the completion of department operational budget reviews, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned (until March 23, 2026) to allow Council sufficient time to review the proposed New Initiatives. Moved by Councillor Beck and seconded by Councillor Tweel. Carried 5-4 with Councillors MacKinnon, Muttart, Ramsay and Tweel opposed.

5. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.