CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 199 QUEEN STREET
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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**
	Councillor Norman Beck	**Councillor Trevor MacKinnon**
	Councillor John McAleer	**Councillor Justin Muttart**
Also:	**Brad MacConnell, CAO**	**Michael Ruus, DIG**
	Richard MacEwen, DCS	**Tim Mamye, FC**
	Jessika Corkum-Gorrill, ESM	**Joshua McInnis, UM**
	Wayne Long, EGAM (T/C)	**Sean Coombs, APC**
	Ylber Gashi, PWM	**Amy McQuillan, FM**
	Emilee MacLeod, HRM	**Christopher Drummond, PRAM**
	Isaac Ewuah, FAM	**Anna Keenan, STO**
	Melanie Bailey, SIO	**Stephanie Mitchell, CO**
	Doug Dumais, CEC	**Rory Chaisson, SITO**
	Tracey McLean, PRC	
Regrets:	**Donna Miller-Ayton, PPHM**	

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 Items:

a) One (1) New Business Resolution

Moved by Deputy Mayor Alanna Jankov
Seconded by Councillor Terry Bernard

RESOLVED:

That, effective immediately, the City of Charlottetown appoint Lacey MacLauchlan and Clifford Lee as the City's nominees to the Charlottetown Airport Authority Board of Directors, as recommended by His Worship Mayor Philip Brown.

CARRIED 10-0

b) 2026/2027 City of Charlottetown Operational Budget Review (New Initiatives)

Councillor McAleer, Chair of the Finance, Audit, Tendering & Administration Committee, introduced the item, he thanked Staff and Council for their hard work and dedication in bringing the 2026–27 budget to this point. He noted that while not all new initiatives were recommended, it does not diminish the appreciation for the work of staff; it reflects the realities of a growing community that must continue to live within its means. He then turned the presentation over to the Finance Manager.

The Finance Manager reviewed the New Initiative sheet, which was included the meeting package, provided a brief overview of each item, followed by questions.

New Initiatives

City of Charlottetown - New Initiatives Summary - Operating Budget 2026-27

Department	DH Priority	New Initiative Description	Funding/ Revenue	Annual Operating Cost	Net Cost	Recommended by Senior Leadership (Y/N)	Notes
Environment & Sustainability	1	Restoring Victoria Park: Seasonal Staff	14,000	61,000	47,000	Yes	
Environment & Sustainability	2	Transit Service Expansion	79,010	464,239	385,229	Yes	This is anticipated revenue from fares, not funding
Environment & Sustainability	3	Food Strategy		25,000	25,000	No	
Environment & Sustainability	4	Transit Consulting - Depot Cost Share Solution		25,000	25,000	Yes	
Environment & Sustainability	6	Microgrants Program Expansion		10,000	10,000	Yes	
Environment & Sustainability	7	Private Lands Forestry Program		190,000	190,000	No	
Environment & Sustainability	5	Accesible Taxi Pilot Project		41,902	41,902	Yes	
Economic Development, Tourism and Culture	1	Economic Development Officer FTE		81,721	81,721	Yes	
Government & Strategy	1	New Strategic Plan		138,500	138,500	Yes	This includes consultant cost and cost for one session in FY27
Government & Strategy	2	Community Survey 2026		33,300	33,300	Yes	
Fire	1	Hire Six (6) Firefighter II Career Members		750,000	750,000	No	
Fire	2	Complete Communications System Review		125,000	125,000	Yes	
Fire	3	Records Management System Replacement		75,000	75,000	Yes	
Fire	4	Increase in Volunteer FF Recruitment and Retention Benefits		50,000	50,000	Yes	
Fire	5	Training Officer		130,000	130,000	No	
Information Technology	2	IT Research and Advisory Services		50,000	50,000	Yes	
Information Technology	5	Geospatial strategy		40,000	40,000	No	
Information Technology	1	Cybersecurity/Critical Infrastructure Security		180,000	180,000	Yes	
Information Technology	4	Agenda Management Software		50,000	50,000	No	
Information Technology	3	IT Specialist		85,000	85,000	Yes	
Parks and Recreation	1	Simmons Artificial Turf Field Attendants		20,000	20,000	Yes	
Parks and Recreation	2	Simmons Artificial Turf - Maintenance & Electrical		10,000	10,000	Yes	
Parks and Recreation	3	Full Time Assistant Ice Maker / Maintenance Staff - Simmons		38,850	38,850	Yes	
Police	4	Techical Services Specialist		91,659	91,659	No	
Police	2	Dispatch		74,689	74,689	Yes	
Police	1	Constable - Tech Crime Unit		109,904	109,904	Yes	
Police	3	Records Clerk		56,237	56,237	Yes	
Police	5	Policy and Governance Coordinator		81,722	81,722	No	
Planning & Heritage	1	Bylaw Enforcement Manager		132,815	132,815	Yes	Presented to Council March 10
			$ 93,010	$ 3,221,538	$ 3,128,528		
		Total of SL recommended Initiatives			$ 1,770,147		

There was significant discussion regarding the proposed six (6) career firefighter positions. While some Councillors expressed support for adding the positions, others were not in favour. The Fire Chief provided the rationale, noting that the request is driven by operational needs, including maintaining service levels,

supporting safe staffing requirements, and addressing increasing call volumes and workload pressures within the Fire Department.

Councillors opposed to these six positions raised concerns related to budget pressures and the need to prioritize other initiatives within existing financial constraints. The CAO stressed that the positions were not recommended at this time in order to maintain fiscal balance and ensure that current resources are aligned with broader corporate priorities.

Some Councillors suggested that other new initiatives, such as the New Strategic Plan and/or an IT Specialist position, could be reduced or deferred to accommodate funding for firefighters. In response, the Strategic Initiative Officer provided the rationale for the New Strategic Plan, noting that it is intended to establish clear priorities, guide decision-making, and align resources with the City's long-term goals. She emphasized that the plan serves as a framework to ensure consistency across departments, improve accountability, and respond to emerging community needs. The Senior Information Technology Officer's rationale was that the Specialist role is intended to support increasing technological demands, enhance system reliability and security, and improve internal service delivery. He emphasized that IT support particularly for Fire and Police services places additional demands on the department, highlighting the need for dedicated capacity to maintain critical systems, ensure reliability, and support emergency response operations.

Councillors discussed the possibility of reallocating funding from external or community grants to support the addition of career firefighter positions. Concerns were raised, however, regarding the potential impact such reductions could have on community organizations and the services they provide. No consensus was reached.

Following review and discussion, the Mayor asked Council if they were in favour of the New Initiatives recommendations as presented. Majority (7-3) of Council were supportive of the recommendations as noted above. Councillors Doiron, McCabe, and Tweel expressed that they were not in support, citing the exclusion of six career firefighter positions.

5. Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jankov and seconded by Councillor Ramsay that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting concluded at 7:09 PM.