CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 199 QUEEN STREET
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026 AT 9:00 AM

Mayor Philip Brown presiding

Present:	**Deputy Mayor Alanna Jankov**	**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	**Wayne Long, EGAM**
	Frank Quinn, PRM	**Jessika Corkum Gorrill, ESM**
	Ylber Gashi, PWM	**Chris Stearns, IT**
	Tracey McLean, PRC	
Regrets:	**Councillor Terry Bernard**	**Councillor Mitchell Tweel**

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 by Councillor Ramsay and seconded by Councillor Muttart that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.

4. Stakeholder 2026-2027 Budget Presentations

a) Eastlink Centre (CCCMI) – 9:00 AM
The Mayor welcomed John Abbott, General Manager, and Phil Matusiewicz and asked them to begin the presentation.

Mr. Abbott noted that the Centre is seeing continued growth in demand and usage. The Centre has been attracting more diverse user groups, including Chinese, Japanese, East Indian, and Filipino communities, which is helping keep the facility busy. Events like the Home Show and Makers Market are expanding, contributing to increased revenue. He further noted that after renovations supported through the capital budget, the Centre is now able to rent rooms at premium rates and seeing interest from off-Island clients. The Centre is actively pursuing more entertainment bookings, noting both successes and challenges, but they believe they are on the right path.

In closing, Mr. Abbott stated that the Eastlink Centre request is only a 2% increase in the City's operating subsidy (about $25,000). Revenue expected to increase by 7.5% and expenses expected to increase 4.2%. Projected surplus of around $60,000 but noted uncertainty due to upcoming variables (including major events and construction-related costs). He advised Council that the Scotties Tournament of Hearts (Feb. 2027) is not included in the figures, as overall revenues and expenses are difficult to predict.

Mayor Brown left the meeting at 9:30 am.

b) Bell Aliant Center (CARI) – 9:30 AM
The Deputy Mayor welcomed Alan Wood, General Manager and Peter Taylor, Finance Manager and asked them to begin the presentation.

Mr. Wood emphasized the Centre is currently in the middle of major capital projects and renovation that includes replacement of seating and arena dasher boards and glass, arena refrigeration and dehumidification replacement (2026/2027) and heat pump replacement.

He reported that operating revenue projected to increase 7.2% over last year's budget. Arena revenue expected to increase due to rate increases and more daytime usage. Aquatics revenue expected to increase; driven by acquiring additional space from a tenant moving out and using it for day camps.

In closing, Mr. Wood stated that the Centre's budget request is an operating funding increase of approximately 6% for 2026-2027 compared to 2025-2026.

c) Confederation Centre of the Arts (10:10 AM)
The Deputy Mayor welcomed Steve Bellamy, Chief Executive Officer and asked him to begin the presentation.

Mr. Bellamy indicated his presentation was primarily to provide Council with an update of the ongoing construction project at the Centre, emphasizing how the City's investment has helped advance both funding momentum and construction progress. Following the City's $5 million investment, the Confederation Centre secured an additional $7.5 million in major contributions, including $5.5 million from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, plus two separate $1 million private donations. He added that the Centre was pursuing alternative supports, including discussions about creating a Centennial Buildings Infrastructure Fund with the federal Ministry of Infrastructure.

In closing, Mr. Bellamy conveyed that the performance stage on Victoria Row will be reinstated this year as construction is scheduled to be completed in that area mid-May 2026. He also invited Council to reach out to arrange a tour if interested.

• Council recessed and returned to the Chamber at 11:08 AM. Mayor Brown returned to the meeting at this time.

d) Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce
The Mayor welcomed Bianca McGregor, CEO, and Madeline Biso, Policy Analyst and asked them to begin the presentation.

The Chamber emphasized that micro-businesses (5 employees or fewer) make up a significant portion of their membership and are particularly sensitive to municipal decisions because changes can quickly impact their ability to remain open or grow. PEI is projected to reach a population of 200,000 by 2030, with Charlottetown expected to grow by 3,000–6,000 in the same timeframe, creating both opportunities and pressures on infrastructure.

The Chamber identified three main "pain points" affecting businesses in the greater Charlottetown area 1) housing, 2) parking, and 3) safety and then spoke at length noting on prioritizing timely adoption of the new Zoning & Development Bylaw, reduce regulatory delays and streamline processes to help approve, increase public parking options and increase policing/security presence in the downtown core to support safety for businesses and patrons.

In closing, the Chamber was not requesting direct funding for the Chamber itself but rather providing business community feedback to inform Council of specific capital and operational budget priorities, particularly around housing, safety/security, parking, and infrastructure.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor encouraged the Chamber to invite their membership to provide feedback during the upcoming public consultations on the Zoning and Development Bylaw and the Heritage Preservation Bylaw.

• Council recessed for lunch at 11:53 AM and returned to the Chamber at 12:30 PM.

• Councillors MacKinnon and McAleer left the meeting prior to the next presentation.

e) Downtown Charlottetown Inc. (DCI) 12:30 PM
The Mayor welcomed Dawn Alan, DCI and Aaron Hansen, CADC and asked them to begin the presentation.

Ms. Alan and Mr. Hansen emphasized the importance of continued investment in the downtown core, with a focus on streetscape revitalization, accessibility, and long-term economic growth. Highlighted was the Province House Historic District project (initiated in 2021), a multi-year streetscape initiative intended to improve the downtown core and support a vibrant, thriving city centre. The plan is designed to be phased over several years to reduce disruption while improving both function and appearance downtown, including better walkability and accessibility.

In closing, DCI/CADC requested that Council allocate funding (~$312,077) for Phase One design in 2026, focusing on Sydney Street which would see installation of a central trench drain, removal of curb/gutter and full replacement of streetscape elements. They also requested a liaison from the City's Public Works Department to help collaborate and keep the community engaged and informed throughout the project.

f) T3 Transit (12:52 PM)
The Mayor welcomed Mike Cassidy, Transit Operator and asked him to begin the presentation.

Mr. Cassidy noted T3 Transit's fleet modernization, funding history, and upcoming capital planning needs, with a focus on maintaining operational efficiencies and preparing for future facility expansion. He highlighted that Charlottetown and regional partners have made significant progress in modernizing the fleet, including six new buses in 2021, three new buses in 2024, three new buses in 2025 and 10 new buses expected in 2026; however, he emphasized that all these buses are or will be diesel (not electric). Mr. Cassidy cautioned that upcoming funding is much tighter, stating the region is expected to receive only $2.8 million over the next 10 years, which limits major expansion opportunities.

In closing, Mr. Cassidy's primary request for the upcoming fiscal year was for funding/support to complete a proper plan for facility expansion and in 2027, T3 Transit expects to return with a request of approximately $1.5 million to add three bays to the existing facility on Mt. Edward Road.

g) Pat & the Elephant (1:30 PM)
The Mayor welcomed Margaret Shanahan, Manager and Ron Gillespie, Assistant Manager and asked them to begin the presentation.

Mr. Gillespie outlined the organization's role in providing accessible, non-emergency transportation services across Charlottetown and PEI. Pat and the Elephant accessible transport service has serviced Charlottetown for 50 Years. In 2025, they completed over 27,000 calls with over 20,000 in Charlottetown. The non-emergency stretcher service accommodates all seniors' homes in Charlottetown. 11 vehicles operate 7 days a wk./365 days/yr, with a rotating driver staff of 23.

Mr. Gillespie indicated that their biggest costs are labour, vehicle maintenance and fuel. As well, they have outgrown their current facility and are actively looking for a new home in the city.

In closing, the 2026/2027 request is status quo from the 2025/2026 budget ($60,000).

h) The Guild

The Mayor welcomed Brian Markham, General Manager and asked him to begin the presentation.

Mr. Markham indicated that community engagement has increased significantly supported by recent organizational changes and a dedicated full-time staff. He further indicated that, with City investment, The Guild has been able to rebrand, expand sponsorship development and strengthen job security for artists and cultural workers. Stable operating funding has enabled the Guild to provide more paid opportunities for artists, complete a strategic plan, strengthen both long and short term rentals and bar revenue.

Mr. Markam noted on pressures that continue due to infrastructure costs/building limitations and difficulty developing a reserve fund. The Guild has several planned initiatives in 2026 that include launching a capital campaign, developing an endowment fund, expanding sponsorship opportunities and broadening federal grant applications.

In closing, the request was operational funding of $117,000, equal to the Province's contribution, plus annual portion of property tax grant in the amount of $19,587.94.

Council to take all requests from today under advisement during the 2026/2027 budget deliberations.

5. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Muttart and seconded by Councillor Ramsay that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting concluded at 2:13 PM.