



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Special Meeting of City Council
Agenda

Monday, April 27, 2026

5:00 pm

Video Conference

Meetings may be viewed live on the City's Youtube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SaultSteMarieOntario>

	Pages
1. Land Acknowledgement	
I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.	
2. Adoption of Minutes	4 - 5
Mover Councillor M. Scott Seconder Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen Resolved that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of April 21, 2026 be approved.	
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approve Agenda as Presented	
Mover Councillor C. Gardi Seconder Councillor L. Dufour Resolved that the Agenda for the April 27, 2026 Special City Council Meeting as presented be approved.	
5. Reports of City Departments, Boards and Committees	

5.1	Chief Building Official Appointment	6 - 7
	A report of the CAO is attached for the consideration of Council.	
	The relevant By-law 2026-65 is listed under Agenda item 7.	
5.2	Recount Policy	8 - 9
	A report of the City Clerk is attached for the consideration of Council.	
	The relevant By-law 2026-72 is listed under Agenda item 7.	
6.	Unfinished Business, Notice of Motions and Resolutions Placed on Agenda by Members of Council	
6.1	By-law Blitz	
	Mover Councillor L. Dufour	
	Seconder Councillor M. Bruni	
	Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie has a Building and By-Law Enforcement Task Force that has led several changes to By-Law Enforcement in Sault Ste. Marie, including more officers, vacant buildings by-law and new legal resources; and	
	Whereas, penalties for breaches of the various by-laws continue to be too small to act as an effective deterrent; and	
	Whereas, the level of compliance achieved with vacant/derelict buildings and dirty yards is currently below the level of expectation in the community; and	
	Whereas, the melted snow has revealed significant compliance issues on numerous properties across the City;	
	Now Therefore Be It Resolved that staff bring a report back to the May 4, 2026 Council Meeting on moving to a targeted proactive property-standards, yard maintenance and vacant home by-law blitz, with recommendations on whether additional staffing is required for such a blitz, including the geographic area of such a blitz, which are suggested to be Wellington Street to the water's edge, between Pim Street and West Street;	
	Further Be It Resolved that the Building and By-Law Enforcement Task Force be revived to review and recommend a strategy for effective proactive enforcement blitzes, shorter compliance periods, registration of Orders on title, increases in fines, and any other way that better compliance with existing by-laws can be achieved.	
7.	Consideration and Passing of By-laws	
7.1	By-law 2026-65 (Appointment) Chief Building Official	10 - 10
	A report from the CAO is on the Agenda.	

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Councillor L. Dufour

Resolved that By-law 2026-65 being a by-law to appoint Francois Couture as Chief Building Official and to repeal By-law 2014-251 be passed in open Council this 27th day of April, 2026.

7.2 By-law 2026-72 (Elections) Recount Policy

11 - 12

A report from the City Clerk is on the Agenda.

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Councillor L. Dufour

Resolved that By-law 2026-72 being a by-law to adopt a recount policy for Municipal elections be passed in open Council this 27th day of April, 2026.

8. Adjournment

Mover Councillor C. Gardi

Seconder Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Resolved that this Council shall now adjourn.



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Special Meeting of City Council
Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5:00 pm

Council Chambers and Video Conference

Present: Mayor M. Shoemaker, Councillor M. Bruni, Councillor C. Gardi

By Videoconference: Councillor S. Spina, Councillor L. Dufour, Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen, Councillor R. Zagordo, Councillor S. Kinach

Absent: Councillor S. Hollingsworth, Councillor A. Caputo, Councillor M. Scott

Officials: M. Zuppa, B. Lamming, P. Tonazzo, C. Rumiell, K. Neveu

1. Land Acknowledgement

The meeting opened with a smudging ceremony conducted by K. Neveu.

2. Approve Agenda as Presented

Moved By Councillor M. Bruni

Seconded By Councillor L. Dufour

Resolved that the Agenda for the April 21, 2026 Special City Council Meeting as presented be approved.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

4. Closed Session

Moved By Councillor M. Bruni
Seconded By Councillor L. Dufour

Resolved that this Council move into closed session for the purpose of educating the members (Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Program Overview);

Further Be It Resolved that should the said closed session be adjourned, the Council may reconvene in closed session to continue to discuss the same without the need for a further authorizing resolution.

Municipal Act R.S.O. 2001 – 239 (3.1) education or training.

Carried

5. Adjournment

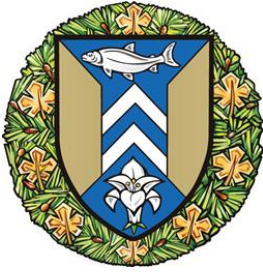
Moved By Councillor M. Bruni
Seconded By Councillor L. Dufour

Resolved that this Council shall now adjourn.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy City Clerk



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie
COUNCIL REPORT

April 27, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Tom Vair, CAO
DEPARTMENT: Chief Administrative Officer
RE: Appointment of Chief Building Official

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to appoint Francois Couture to the Chief Building Official position.

Background

Freddie Pozzebon has provided the City with his intent to retire and conclude his employment with the City.

A public recruitment process was undertaken and a selection committee has selected Francois Couture to be the next Chief Building Official (CBO).

Analysis

The City would like to extend its appreciation to Mr. Pozzebon for his 12 years serving as the CBO and 38 years in total working at the City. Mr. Pozzebon will be greatly missed by the organization, and staff are grateful for his positive interaction with the building community and valuable contributions to the City during his tenure with the City.

Mr. Couture has served in numerous roles within the City Building department during his over 17 years with the City. Starting as a Building Inspector, then promoted to the Coordinator of Plans Examinations position, and most recently serving as the Manager of Building and By-Law Enforcement. He is also a member of the Ontario Building Officials Association serving six years on the Board and one year as President.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This is an operational matter not articulated in the corporate Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

The relevant By-law 2026-65 appears elsewhere the Agenda.

Chief Building Official Appointment

April 27, 2026

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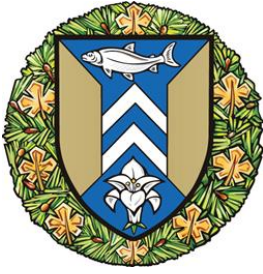
Respectfully submitted,

Tom Vair

CAO

705.759.5348

cao.vair@cityssm.on.ca



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie
COUNCIL REPORT

April 27, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Rachel Tyczinski, City Clerk
DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
RE: Municipal Election 2026 – Recount Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request approval of a recount policy for the 2026 municipal election.

Background

A report appeared on the April 13, 2026 Council Agenda recommending that no recount policy be adopted for the 2026 municipal election, and that any recount(s) instead be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, that is when:

- a. the votes for two or more candidates who receive the same number of votes and cannot both or all be declared elected to office;
- b. of the votes on a by-law, if the votes for the affirmative and negative are equal;
- c. of the votes for two or more answers to a question, if the votes are equal

In addition, section 57(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that a Council or local board may require a recount within 30 days after the Clerk's declaration of results.

A motion from the floor on April 13, 2026 passed as follows:

Resolved that the report of the City Clerk dated April 13, 2026 concerning Recount Policy – 2026 Municipal Election be received and that a recount be required where there are 15 votes or less between a successful candidate and the next candidate.

Analysis

The *Municipal Elections Act* requires that a recount policy be passed by by-law prior to May 1 in a regular election year (where a municipality decides to have a policy).

The policy has been drafted so that it addresses a recount for the Mayor and members of Council only.

Municipal Election 2026 – Recount Policy

April 17, 2026

Page 2.

Detailed processes as to how a recount is conducted will be included in the Clerk's Election Procedures.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with adopting a recount policy.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This is an operational matter not articulated in the Strategic Plan.

There is no climate change impact.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

The relevant By-law 2026-72 appears elsewhere on the Agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Tyczinski

City Clerk

705.759.5391

r.tyczinski@cityssm.on.ca

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

BY-LAW 2026-65

APPOINTMENTS: A by-law to appoint Francois Couture as Chief Building Official and to repeal By-law 2014-251.

THE COUNCIL of The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie pursuant to the *Building Code Act, 1992*, SO 1992, c 23 **ENACTS** as follows:

1. **APPOINTMENT – CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Francois Couture is hereby appointed Chief Building Official.

2. **BY-LAW 2014-251 REPEALED**

By-law 2014-251 is hereby repealed.

3. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This by-law becomes effective on May 1, 2026.

PASSED in open Council this 27th day of April, 2026.

MAYOR – MATTHEW SHOEMAKER

DEPUTY CITY CLERK – MADISON ZUPPA

Ms \\CITYDATA\Departments\cityhall\LegalDept\Legal\Staff\COUNCIL\BY-LAWS\2026\2026-65 Appointment CBO.docx

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

BY-LAW 2026-72

ELECTIONS: A by-law to adopt a recount policy for Municipal elections.

THE COUNCIL of The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, 2001 and amendments thereto enacts as follows:

1. **RECOUNT POLICY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IS ADOPTED**

The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie adopts the recount policy for Municipal elections for the City of Sault Ste. Marie in the form of Schedule “A” attached hereto.

2. **SCHEDULE “A”**

Schedule “A” hereto forms part of this by-law.

3. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This by-law takes effect on the day of its final passing.

PASSED in open Council this 27th day of April, 2026.

MAYOR – MATTHEW SHOEMAKER

DEPUTY CITY CLERK – MADISON ZUPPA



Subject: Recount Policy – Municipal Elections
Service Area: City Clerk
Source: City Council By-law 2026-72
Date: April 27, 2026

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria that will require the completion of an automatic recount in accordance with section 56 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended.

Applications:

The City of Sault Ste. Marie recognizes that elections conducted with integrity are fundamental to a democratic society. The results of an election must instill confidence among candidates, electors and administrators and accurately reflect the votes cast. When questions exist as to the accuracy of the results, a recount will provide certainty that the results are correct.

In accordance with section 56(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the Clerk shall hold a recount:

- a) of the votes for two or more candidates who receive the same number of votes and cannot both or all be declared elected to the office;
- b) of the votes on a by-law, if the votes for the affirmative and negative are equal;
- c) of the votes for two or more answers to a question, if the votes are equal.

Section 56(3) further provides that a municipality may, by by-law, adopt a policy with respect to circumstances in which the municipality requires the Clerk to hold a recount of the votes cast in an election.

This policy applies to the offices of:

- Mayor; and
- Municipal Councillors

Scope:

In addition to a recount conducted under section 56(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* if the number of votes separating candidates from being elected to an office is a variance of fifteen (15) votes or less, the Clerk shall hold a recount of the votes for the candidate(s) in question.

A recount under sections 56, 57, or 58 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* shall be conducted in the same manner as the original count whether manually or by vote-counting equipment.