



REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, February 2, 2026

5:00 pm

Council Chambers and Video Conference

Present: Mayor M. Shoemaker, Councillor S. Hollingsworth, Councillor S. Spina (by video), Councillor L. Dufour, Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen, Councillor A. Caputo, Councillor R. Zagordo, Councillor M. Bruni, Councillor S. Kinach, Councillor C. Gardi, Councillor M. Scott

Officials: T. Vair, R. Tyczinski, B. Lamming, S. Schell, J. King, P. Tonazzo, C. Rumiell, D. Perri, N. Thomas, N. Maione, N. Thibault, F. Coccimiglio, T. Anderson, R. Van Staveren, M. Borowicz-Sibenik, M. Zuppa, T. Vecchio, K. Neveu, K. Pulkkinen

1. Land Acknowledgement

The meeting opened with a smudging ceremony conducted by Darrell Boissoneau.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 12, 2026 be approved.

Carried

3. Questions and Information Arising Out of the Minutes and not Otherwise on the Agenda

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

5. Approve Agenda as Presented

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the Agenda for February 2, 2026 City Council Meeting as presented be approved.

Carried.

6. Presentations

6.1 2025 Medal of Merit Recipients

Morley Torgov was in attendance by video.

Clyde Healey was in attendance.

Gary Trembinski Sr.'s family was in attendance.

7. Communications and Routine Reports of City Departments, Boards and Committees – Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that all the items listed under date February 2, 2026 – Agenda item 7 – Consent Agenda be approved as recommended.

Carried

7.1 Correspondence

Correspondence from Mayor Shoemaker to Honourable Natalia Kusendova Bashta, Minister of Long Term Care was received by Council.

7.2 Annual Report of Integrity Commissioner – 2025

The annual report of the Integrity Commissioner was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the 2025 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner be received as information.

Carried

7.3 Purchase of Backhoe from Rental

The report of the Manager of Purchasing was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Purchasing dated February 2, 2026 concerning backhoe equipment purchase as required by Parks Division be received and that the purchase from Toromont Industries Ltd. in the amount of \$185,000 plus HST be approved.

Carried

7.4 Sprinklers and Domestic Water Line Upgrades Phase 2 – Civic Centre

The report of the Manager of Purchasing was received by Council.

The relevant By-law 2026-12 is listed under item 12 of the Minutes.

7.5 RFP for General Insurance Services

The report of the Manager of Purchasing was received by Council.

The relevant By-law 2026-16 is listed under item 12 of the Minutes.

7.6 Municipally Significant Event – 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer

The report of the City Clerk was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the report of the City Clerk dated February 2, 2026 concerning Municipally Significant Event – 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer be received and that Council designate the event as municipally significant and approve waiving fees outlined in the Alcohol Risk Management Policy.

Carried

7.7 Outside Agency Grant Agreements 2026

The report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture was received by Council.

The relevant By-laws 2026-8, 2026-9, 2026-10, and 2026-11 are listed under item 12 of the Minutes.

7.8 Community Safety Zones

The report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering dated February 2, 2026 concerning Community Safety Zones be received and that the recommended amendments be approved.

An amendment to the Traffic By-Law will be brought to Council for approval at a later date.

Carried

7.9 Traffic Bylaw Updates 2026

The report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering dated February 2, 2026 concerning Traffic By-law update be received and that the recommended amendments be approved.

An amendment to the appropriate schedule to the Traffic By-law will be brought to Council for approval at a later date.

Carried

7.10 Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP) – Application for Financial Incentives – 201 South Market Street

The report of the Administrative Clerk – Housing Support was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that the report of the Administrative Clerk – Housing Support dated February 2, 2026 concerning Housing Community Improvement Plan Application for Financial Incentive – 201 South Market Street be received and that Council authorize the Tax Increment Equivalent Grant and Municipal Fees Rebate Program incentives for the residential development at 201 South Market Street and authorize the Plan Administrator to enter into required agreements with the property owner.

Carried

7.11 Annual Accessibility Status Report – Year End 2025

The report of the Accessibility Coordinator was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the report of the Accessibility Coordinator dated February 2, 2026 concerning the annual Accessibility Status Report 2025 be received as information.

Carried

8. Reports of City Departments, Boards and Committees

8.1 Administration

8.2 Corporate Services

8.3 Community Development and Enterprise Services

8.3.1 Community Builders Construction – Economic Growth Community Improvement Plan Application

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Business Development dated February 2, 2026 concerning the proposal by Community Builders Construction be received and that Council approve a one-time grant of \$300,000 (\$150,000 in 2026 and \$150,000 in 2027) over a two-year term through the Economic Growth Community Improvement Plan to support the expansion project proposed by Community Builders Construction conditional upon the following:

1. Confirmation that external funding sources outlined in the application are secured;
2. Demonstration that job creation and trainee engagement targets are substantially met; and
3. Evidence of ongoing collaboration with local employers and community stakeholders.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

8.4 Public Works and Engineering Services

8.5 Fire Services

8.6 Legal

8.7 Planning

8.8 Boards and Committees

9. Unfinished Business, Notice of Motions and Resolutions Placed on Agenda by Members of Council

9.1 Accessibility of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Moved by: Councillor M. Scott

Seconded by: Councillor A. Caputo

Whereas severe allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis are a significant public health concern, with more than 3 million Canadians, or just over 7% of the population, affected by food allergies; and

Whereas anaphylaxis can be triggered by factors common in municipal spaces beyond food, including environmental causes such as insect stings and bites and exercise-induced anaphylaxis; and

Whereas a survey by Food Allergy Canada indicates that while many Canadians report food allergies, not all individuals have consistent medical follow-up or carry their prescribed epinephrine auto-injectors at all times; and

Whereas up to 15% of anaphylaxis cases result in a biphasic response, where symptoms return after initially resolving, often requiring a second dose of epinephrine within 5 to 10 minutes meaning a single personal device carried by an individual may be insufficient to save their life; and

Whereas the tragic death of 14-year old Malakai Flores in British Columbia has highlighted the critical gap in public safety regarding allergy readiness and has led to his family advocating for “Malakai’s Bill” which requests municipalities and governments to treat epinephrine with the same accessibility standards as Narcan and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs); and

Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie is committed to the health and safety of all residents and visitors utilizing its public facilities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that City Council requests staff to prepare a report regarding the feasibility, cost, potential liability, and implementation plan for equipping all public City facilities with stock epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens).

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

9.2 Green Economy

Moved by: Councillor C. Gardi
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Whereas Sault Ste. Marie is transitioning into a global leader in low-carbon manufacturing through Algoma Steel’s shift to Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology; and

Whereas the City’s unique geographic position and existing industrial base provide a competitive advantage in "Industrial Symbiosis", where the waste products of one sector serve as the raw materials for another; and

Whereas the 2026 provincial and federal budget cycles have prioritized the *Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT)* and the *Green Municipal Fund (GMF)* for projects that decarbonize heavy industry and expand the bio-economy;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that City Council request that a "2026 Green Innovation Roadmap" be developed jointly by Economic Development and Sustainability staff, with support from Engineering, as needed, focusing on the following two high-growth pillars:

- *Industrial Symbiosis and Waste-to-Value*: Investigating the feasibility of a District Energy Network to capture industrial waste heat from local manufacturing to provide low-cost heating for municipal buildings, greenhouses, or high-density housing;

- *The Forest Bio-economy Bridge*: Partnering with local forestry leaders and research centres to accelerate the production of Bio-carbon (to replace coal in industrial processes) and *Mass Timber* (to support sustainable construction and housing

Further Be It Resolved that the City’s Economic Development team be directed to prioritize "Green Logistics" at the planned expanded Port, specifically targeting the movement of bio-products and critical minerals essential to the EV supply chain; and

That the development and implementation of the 2026 Green Innovation Roadmap explicitly supports and advances Council's unanimously approved 2020 commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, ensuring that proposed initiatives contribute to long-term emissions reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable economic growth; and

That staff identify and apply for specific funding through the *NOHFC Invest North – Innovation Program* and the *FCM Community Energy Systems* stream to offset the costs of these feasibility studies.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

10. Committee of the Whole for the Purpose of Such Matters as are Referred to it by the Council by Resolution

11. Adoption of Report of the Committee of the Whole

12. Consideration and Passing of By-laws

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that all By-laws under item 12 of the Agenda under date February 2, 2026 be approved.

Carried

12.1 By-laws before Council to be passed which do not require more than a simple majority

12.1.1 By-law 2026-8 (Agreement) Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre Grant

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-Law 2026-8 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and The Ontario Bushplane Heritage and Forest Fire Educational Centre o/a Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre for a grant in the amount of Two Hundred and Five Thousand (\$205,000) Dollars to assist with the collection, preservation and exhibits of bushplanes and related material to promote public understanding of their historic significance, as well as to serve as a centre for research and information on bushplane and forest fire fighting heritage be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.2 By-law 2026-9 (Agreement) 49th Field Regiment R.C.A. Historical Society Grant

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-9 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and Sault Ste. Marie and 49th Field Regiment R.C.A. Historical Society for a grant up to Two Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$290,000) Dollars to assist with the collection, preservation, study and exhibits of the history of the people and the development of Sault Ste. Marie and immediate surrounding area be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.3 By-law 2026-10 (Agreement) The Art Gallery of Algoma Grant

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-10 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and The Art Gallery of Algoma for a grant in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty (\$328,550) Dollars to assist with the provision

of art and culture to the residents of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and other visitors be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.4 By-law 2026-11 (Agreement) Soo Arena Association (Pee Wee) Grant

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-Law 2026-11 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and Soo Arena Association (o/a Soo Pee Wee Arena) for the City to provide a grant to the Recipient equal to the total municipal and education property tax be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.5 By-law 2026-12 (Engineering) Civic Centre Sprinklers and Water Line Upgrades Phase 2

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-12 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and S. & T. Electrical Contractors Limited for existing Sprinklers and Domestic Water Line Upgrades, Phase 2 at the Civic Centre, 99 Foster Drive, as required by Building Services Division – Public Works and Engineering be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.6 By-law 2026-13 (Zoning) 140 Black Road and 815 McNabb Street (Suncor Energy Inc. c/o Blair Gagnon)

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour
Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-13 being a by-law to amend Sault Ste. Marie Zoning By-laws 2005-150 and 2005-151 concerning lands located at 140 Black Road (PT LT 1 CON 3 ST. MARY'S PT 2, 4 1R1880 EXCEPT PT 1 1R7561 & PT 1 1R11687, T/W T306610; SAULT STE. MARIE) and 815 McNabb Street (PT LT 1 CON 3 ST. MARY'S PT 1 1R1880 EXCEPT PT 2 1R11687; SAULT STE. MARIE) (Suncor Energy Inc. c/o Blair Gagnon) be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.7 By-law 2026-14 (Development Control) 815 McNabb Street and 140 Black Road (Suncor Energy Inc. c/o Blair Gagnon)

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-14 being a by-law to designate the lands located at 815 McNabb Street (PT LT 1 CON 3 ST. MARY'S PT 1 1R1880 EXCEPT PT 2 1R11687; SAULT STE. MARIE) and 140 Black Road (PT LT 1 CON 3 ST. MARY'S PT 2, 4 1R1880 EXCEPT PT 1 1R7561 & PT 1 1R11687, T/W T306610; SAULT STE. MARIE) an area of site plan control (Suncor Energy Inc. c/o Blair Gagnon) be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.8 By-law 2026-15 (Zoning) 460 Old Garden River Road (Brian Meredith and Estate of Fairy Ila Mae Meredith)

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-15 being a by-law to amend Sault Ste. Marie Zoning By-laws 2005-150 and 2005-151 concerning lands located at 460 Old Garden River Road (LT 31 RCP H731 TARENTORUS T/W & S/T T248503; SAULT STE. MARIE) (Brian Meredith and the Estate of Fairy Ila Mae Meredith) be passed in open Council this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Carried

12.1.9 By-law 2026-16 (Agreement) General Insurance Services (Intact Public Entities Inc.)

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that By-law 2026-16 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and Intact Public Entities Inc. for General Insurance Services for a term of five (5) years commencing February 28, 2026, with an automatic extension for an additional two (2) years unless notice of termination provided.

Carried

12.2 By-laws before Council for FIRST and SECOND reading which do not require more than a simple majority

12.3 By-laws before Council for THIRD reading which do not require more than a simple majority

13. Questions By, New Business From, or Addresses by Members of Council Concerning Matters Not Otherwise on the Agenda

14. Closed Session

15. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that this Council now adjourn.

Carried

Mayor

City Clerk