

**Amherst Town Council
Special Meeting
Minutes**

Date: March 4, 2022
Time: 12:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Lisa Emery
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Leon Landry

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Greg Jones, Director of Fire Services
Kim Jones, Director of Corporate Communications and Community Well
Being / Municipal Clerk
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. REQUEST FOR DECISION

2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Policy Repeal

Moved by Councillor Landry

Seconded by Councillor Emery

To go in-camera, as per MGA 22(2)(g) legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Davidson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Christie

To return to the open session.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Landry

Seconded by Councillor Fawthrop

To go in-camera, as per MGA 22(2)(c) personnel matters.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Emery

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Christie

To return to the open session.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baker

Seconded by Councillor Emery

That Council repeal the Covid 19 Vaccination Policy #4500-08.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop

That Council, in consultation with Nova Scotia Public Health, repeal the Covid 19 Vaccination Policy #4500-08 on or before April 14, 2022.

There being no seconder the amended Motion Failed

Original motion carried 6-1 Fawthrop nay vote

DEPARTMENT: All Town of Amherst Employees, Council, Board and Committee Members

TITLE: COVID 19 VACCINATION POLICY

Minutes reference date: October 14, 2021

PURPOSE:

The Town of Amherst is committed to providing a safe working environment for our employees, Council and members of the public with whom we interact with regularly. Protective measures within the workplace are the responsibility of the employer. The purpose of this policy is to provide the Town of Amherst's expectations and requirements of staff, Council, volunteers, Board and committee members with respects to COVID-19 vaccination requirements so as to protect all workers and the public we serve.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. The Town of Amherst will require all employees, Council, volunteers, Board and committee members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination by December 15, 2021. Proof of vaccination records will be kept confidential and used only as required to administer the Policy.
2. The Policy applies to all Town of Amherst employees, Council, volunteers, Board and committee members regardless of workplace or worksite location, including those who are remote working.
3. Those who cannot be vaccinated based on an approved written medical exemption may request an exemption through the town's human resources officer, by providing the appropriate documentation from a qualified medical professional as determined by the Province of Nova Scotia. If the exemption is validated and accepted by the CAO, those people must participate in the Rapid Testing Program, and wear masks on an ongoing basis. At-home testing kits will be available at no cost to employees who are granted an exemption.
4. Any persons who fail to comply with any of the requirements by December 15, 2021 will be placed on an immediate unpaid leave of absence and may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
5. Based on operational needs, positions vacated by the unpaid leaves of absence may be temporarily filled.


DEFINITIONS

- "fully vaccinated" means receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 1 dose vaccine series such as Janssen plus 14 days, or 2 doses of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series such as Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca plus 14 days, or a complete series of any other World Health Organization authorized series of COVID-19 vaccine such as Sinopharm or Sinovac plus 14 days.
- "not fully vaccinated" means no receipt of any vaccine dose or receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series such as Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca plus 14 days.
- "vaccine" means a vaccine against COVID-19 that has been approved by either the Public Health Agency of Canada or the World Health Organization.

3. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Christie
To adjourn the meeting.**

Motion Carried



Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk



David Kogon, MD
Mayor