

**Town of Amherst
Capital Budget
Minutes**

Date: February 27, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor Rob Small
Deputy Mayor Charlie Chambers
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Nic Furlong
Councillor Terry McManaman
Councillor Dwayne Ripley
Councillor Kathy Wells

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Kim Jones, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Economic Development
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Krista Crossman, Director, Human Resources
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Densie Smith, Finance Manager
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

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1. **Call to Order**
Mayor Small called the meeting to order.
 - 1.1 **Territorial Acknowledgement**
Mayor Small gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.
 2. **2026-27 Capital Budget**
The Chief Administrative Officer presented the 2026-27 capital budget.
 3. **Water**
Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Water section, as included in the agenda package.
 4. **Equipment**
Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Equipment section, as included in the agenda package.
 5. **Buildings/Land**
Moved By Deputy Mayor Chambers
Seconded By Councillor McManaman
That the proposed budget amount for the Victoria Square Bandstand replacement be approved however staff were directed to come back to Council with a plan for Victoria Park and the street lighting along this section of Victoria Street prior to spending these funds.

MOTION CARRIED

Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Buildings/Land section, as included in the agenda package, provided staff adhere to the motion and present Council with a plan for Victoria Park and the street lighting along this section of Victoria Street prior to spending the funds budgeted for that project.

6. Operations

Further to the RFD to widen, curb and asphalt overlay Brown Street and Mosher Street in accordance with the provisions in the New Residential Subdivisions Streets Policy and these streets now being at 50% occupancy, Councillor Davidson asked if there are other areas that are now at 50% occupancy that need to have this work completed. The CAO did not believe so however he will have staff investigate this.

Councillor Davidson indicated there are streets that should be considered for capital paving not listed in the capital paving RFD, such as Townshend Avenue from Charles to Willow Street, and Lamy Street, and asked if some of them could be added. Councillor Furlong agreed, as did Councillor Ripley, who thought more focus should be on high traffic areas and that more money should be budgeted for capital paving. The CAO was asked to come back with further information and be prepared for further discussion.

Further to the RFD for sidewalk replacement, the Director of Operations was asked to confirm what paving/sidewalk work was done on Queen Street last year, and what is left to be done. Councillor Ripley asked why the sidewalk on Academy Street has never been completed. The CAO replied he will have to look at the Active Transportation and Accessibility Plans and report back to Council.

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

To pull Marshview Drive Phase 3 from the proposed capital budget and use this money for further capital paving.

MOTION CARRIED

Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Operations section, as included in the agenda package, except for Marshview Drive Phase 3 as noted in the above motion, and to prepare a report for Council suggesting other streets for capital paving.

7. Fire

Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Fire section, as included in the agenda package.

8. Police

Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Police section, as included in the agenda package.

9. Recreation

Staff were directed to continue investigating the issues with the stadium sound system during the slow summer months to make sure all connections are secure and working as they should be.

Council agreed to approve the budget for Decorative Lighting however they would like a more definitive plan to be brought back to Council as part of the Victoria Square discussion before the funds are spent.

Councillor Wells requested staff investigate the installation of refillable water stations in order to have accessible water at our parks.

Council unanimously agreed to all the recommendations in the Recreation section, as included in the agenda package.

10. **Capital Years 2-5**
11. **Vehicle / Equipment Replacement Plan**
12. **Rating Factors**
 - 12.1 **Model for Determining Street Treatment**
 - 12.2 **PASER Street Ratings and Sidewalk Ratings**
13. **Reserve Balances**
14. **Policies**
 - 14.1 **Sidewalk Inspection and Maintenance Policy**
 - 14.2 **Street Inspection and Maintenance Policy**
 - 14.3 **Street Rating System Policy**

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That the capital budget as presented, including the motions above for any changes, be forwarded to a future Council meeting for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

Staff reviewed the Strategic Priorities Matrix Financing Analysis with Council. Information item only at this time, a future meeting will be scheduled to make a decision.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

Rob Small
Mayor