MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **MR# 2026017**
DATE: November 24, 2026
RE: Amherst Town Council Highlights – November 23, 2026

AMHERST, Nova Scotia – Town Council held its regular November meeting on Monday night to address items including:

Appointment of Members of Council to External Boards, Committees and Commissions Policy
Council approved amendments to its policy governing appointments to external boards, committees and commissions, removing the Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter and appointing Mayor Small to the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee in place of Councillor Ripley, in accordance with the new regional emergency management agreement.

Temporary Borrowing Resolution
Council approved a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount not exceeding $1,782,241 to be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs for Ministerial approval. Temporary borrowing resolutions (TBRs) are used as temporary financing for capital projects. This TBR includes: $210,000 for storm sewer – replace/reline culvert in Amherst Fire Department parking lot; $500,000 for storm sewer – West Victoria Street, concrete box culvert; and, $1,072,241 for the Beacon Street accessible playground.

Water Rate Study
Council approved an application to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board for adjustments to Amherst Water Utility rates and regulations, based on a recent water rate study. The proposed changes would result in an increase of approximately $5.66 per quarter for an average Amherst household with a 5/8-inch water line in 2027/28. The Town last applied for a water rate adjustment in 2021. Even with the proposed increases, Amherst is expected to maintain the third-lowest water rates in Nova Scotia.

Eastward Energy Incorporated Municipal Operating Access Agreement
Council approved minor editorial and housekeeping changes to the Municipal Operating Access Agreement with Eastward Energy Incorporated, which is reviewed by both parties every five years, and protects both the Town and Eastward Energy by setting out responsibilities for installation and maintenance of natural gas infrastructure such as: liabilities, costs, damage to infrastructure, safety, construction coordination, and sharing information about future work.

Canadian Race Relations Foundation Hate Training
Per a recent recommendation from the Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (AIDE) Committee that references the AIDE Strategic Plan and an Anti-Hate Crime Training session that was held at the Amherst Police Department in March, Council directed staff to investigate the feasibility of hosting another Canadian Race Relations Foundation Hate Training session.

Development Agreement First Reading – 16 Prince Arthur Street
Council gave First Reading of the development agreement for 16 Prince Arthur Street to permit a 9-unit apartment building and scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Capital Budget Amendment – Bill Riley Bust
Council approved an amendment to the 2026/27 general capital budget in the amount of $30,000 including applicable taxes for the commissioning of a head bust for the late James William “Billy” Riley to be funded from the Operating Reserves. This project celebrates an important part of Nova Scotia’s history by recognizing the first Black Nova Scotian to play in the National Hockey League.

Land Use Bylaw / Municipal Planning Strategy Proposed Amendments
A letter was received from Nova Scotia Public Health on November 13 to provide clarity on several points raised in a motion passed by Council at the October 26, 2026 regular meeting. Council accepted the November 13 letter from Public Health, and the CAO is no longer required to seek clarification from various provincial departments regarding Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw amendments under consideration regarding homeless shelters.

Find the full November 23, 2026 agenda package here.

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