

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**MINUTES**

May 26, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, and Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Absent: Councillor Wendy Whitwell; Delegations: Austin Toth and Leah Toth; and Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator; Guests: Alice Hewitt, Jenn Hutzal, Scott Collyer, Jeffrey Hayes, Mike Sanderson, Tara Vestering and Nieves Guijarro; Staff: Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk and Dave Gray, Chief Administrative Officer.

**VIDEO RECORDING DISCLAIMER:**

Participants were informed that the meeting will be recorded to provide a record of discussions and agreements held within the meeting. By staying in the meeting, virtually or in-person, participants consented to being recorded. Participants also agreed to recordings being posted to YouTube or other distribution services.

**INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Council acknowledged the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and recognized the historical and contemporary contributions of the local First Nations and the peoples of Turtle Island.

**AMENDED AGENDA:**

Council passed a resolution approving the amended agenda to include a closed session.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the public meeting held on May 26, 2026 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the Council meeting held on May 26, 2026 were approved as circulated.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:**

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

**DELEGATIONS:**

Council received a delegation from Austin Toth and Leah Toth regarding a petition supporting the retention of the Cancer Clinic/Oncology Clinic at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital Site. The delegation outlined the importance of maintaining equitable access to cancer treatment services for residents of the Almaguin Highlands and East Parry Sound area, noting that many patients already travel significant distances to receive initial assessment and treatment in Barrie or Sudbury before becoming eligible for ongoing treatment closer to home in Huntsville. Concerns were raised regarding the potential relocation of the clinic to Bracebridge, including increased travel distances, winter driving conditions, the impacts of treatment side effects, and challenges associated with public transportation for immunocompromised patients. The delegation emphasized that the current Huntsville location is functioning effectively and provides accessible, specialized care for regional cancer patients. A submission letter from Jody MacPherson, employee of Huntsville Hospital was read expressing the importance of keeping the service in Huntsville. Following discussion, Council passed a resolution supporting the retention of the Cancer Clinic/Oncology Clinic at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital site and further directed Staff to allow the collection of signatures through a copy of the petition made available to the public at the municipal office.

Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator presented an Annual Report providing comparison details between 2024 and 2025 for programs and use of the Katrine Community Centre. The Annual Report highlighted strong community engagement and use of the Katrine Community Centre. The report noted 289 days of facility use in 2025, increased upstairs and downstairs rentals compared to 2024, and over 4,193 program

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**DELEGATIONS: cont'd.**

and event impressions. Recreation programming and fundraising generated significant revenue, with total revenue reported at \$126,456.67, including \$25,458.45 in fundraising revenue and \$18,776.94 in program revenue. Additional highlights included 726 volunteer hours contributed, support for youth athletics, successful community events and fundraising initiatives, and strong social media engagement with over 1.2 million views across platforms. Questions were asked and answered. Council commended the Recreation Co-ordinator on the success of the facility rentals and programs. The next Armour Recreation Advisory Committee meeting will be held in September 2026.

**ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:** None

**APPLICATIONS:**

Council reviewed an application for a site plan agreement from 1000613806 Ontario Inc. (Vestering), 390 Kent Road, Plan 199, Lot 16. Council passed a resolution accepting the application and requested the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement.

**BY-LAWS:** None

**REPORTS:**

Council reviewed the minutes from the April 2, 2026 AHHC meeting.

Council reviewed reports from the Arena Manager. Staff completed a 2025–2026 ice season with 2,100 rental hours and strong facility use, are now focused on maintenance and capital upgrades including condenser installation and hall floor resurfacing, and are preparing for the summer ice season beginning June 28, 2026. Council reviewed a staff report providing quotes from Near North Industrial and Punter Property Management Services for the manufacturing and replacement of arena man-gate latches, addressing ongoing safety and maintenance concerns within the approved 2026 capital budget. Council reviewed another report outlining the ARBFMA's longstanding practice of providing no-charge or reduced-rate facility use to community groups, schools, recreation programs, and public skating initiatives, noting that while these programs create significant value for local residents, they also carry operational costs for staffing, utilities, maintenance, and supplies; the report detailed the 2025 usage, rebates, and financial impacts associated with organizations such as local minor hockey, the Agricultural Society, Cadets, seniors and recreation programs, schools, elections, and public skating, which alone represented over 235 hours of ice time with a net community subsidy of approximately \$16,267 after sponsorships and admissions.

Council reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the May 18, 2026 Historical Society meeting. Fundraising ideas were a point of focus.

Council reviewed the Eastholme, Home for the Aged Spring 2026 Newsletter.

The TRI Sub Committee meeting of May 19, 2026 was cancelled. At this time our partners have not expressed concerns with the draft Arena or Landfill shared services agreements so we should be able to pass resolutions after the next TRI Council meeting at each of our Councils to move forward with both agreements. It has been confirmed that the Katrine Community Centre has been reserved for Armour to host the next TRI Council meeting on June 22, 2026.

A verbal report was given on the ACED Housing Task Force meeting of May 19, 2026. Updates from both the Provincial and Federal governments were provided to the committee. A roundtable discussion was held regarding housing-related updates and

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**REPORTS: cont'd.**

issues within each participating municipality. The committee discussed next steps, including ongoing work by the DSSAB on a Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Members expressed interest in utilizing this work to avoid duplication of efforts. Discussion also included potential opportunities to support the project moving forward, including the possibility of securing funding for an intern position. Committee representatives will connect with DSSAB and other applicable organizations to gather additional information and report back to the committee. No date has been established for the next meeting; however, it is anticipated to take place in the fall.

A verbal report was given on the May 20, 2026 Library Board meeting.

A verbal report was given on the May 21, 2026 Agricultural Society meeting.

A verbal report was given on the May 23, 2026 HazMat Day. Community participation was steady throughout the day.

A verbal report was given on the Almaguin Community Hatchery Program for 2026 and all of its successes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Council reviewed a letter from the Municipality of Huron Shores supporting the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in petitioning the Province to reconsider the use of lighter-grade oils for chip-and-tar surface treatment. Council was advised that the Township's Roads Supervisor is supportive of the resolution. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a media release advising that June is Seniors Month. Council passed a resolution proclaiming June as Seniors' Month.

Council reviewed and discussed a resolution from The County of Prince Edward requesting that the Provincial Government explore the feasibility of a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax. Council did not support the request.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province is expanding adult correctional capacity to keep dangerous offenders behind bars.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province has completed one of Canada's largest battery energy storage system projects. The Napanee BESS will power up to 250,000 homes during peak hydro demand.

Council reviewed a public meeting notice for a proposed zoning by-law amendment to amend definitions in the by-law by the Township of McMurrich/Monteith.

Council reviewed the agenda for the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association's May 29, 2026 meeting.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province is cracking down on illegal truck yards. Proposed changes to the Planning Act will allow municipalities to impose fines for misuse of lands.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed a submission from Robert Miller, Land Use Planning Services regarding the passing of Zoning By-law Amendment 30-2026 providing his opinion on errors in the By-law and Schedule A. Council discussed the letter. While professional planning opinions may differ, the Township already retains qualified planning expertise through Planscape and does not require reassessment of their professional work after

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the completion of the formal approval process and Council's support. No direction was given by Council regarding the matter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: cont'd.**

Council reviewed a resolution from the Town of Kearney supporting the retention of the Cancer Clinic/Oncology Clinic at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital.

Council reviewed a Memorandum of Oral Decision delivered by A. Mason on April 29, 2026 and order of the Ontario Land Tribunal in response to the Case Management Conference appeal by PowerBank Corporation concerning the refusal by the Township of applications for the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for the lithium battery energy storage system located at 219 Peggs Mountain Road. A one-day merit hearing will take place on July 9, 2026 by video conference.

The CAO presented a staff report providing Council with an update on the 2026 spring flooding event, the significant weather event response, and the draft After-Action Report, advising that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT) is coordinating with staff from Burk's Falls, Armour, and Ryerson to conduct community visits to assess local impacts, with the CAO contacting affected residents and business operators to participate and noting that the findings will help inform potential provincial response measures; staff have also met with MMAH representatives to review flood-related expenses incurred to date and will continue assessing eligibility for assistance through the Municipal Disaster Relief Assistance (MDRA) program. Council was further advised that staff are reviewing suggestions raised during the April 18 public meeting, including temporarily waiving demolition permit fees in flood zones, expediting demolition and rebuilding permit and inspection processes, and continuing the waiver of landfill tipping fees for flood-related materials. The Significant Weather Event Declaration remains in effect while road repairs and property restoration continue, including road restorations, rehabilitation or replacement of materials and features at Doe Lake Park, and removal of flood debris from the Doe Lake Road Bridge was conducted on May 25, 2026. To date, known flood-related costs total \$79,472.49, including culverts, gravel, overtime, disposal bins, trucking services, and sandbags, with \$16,156.82 paid to date, while additional estimated costs for CSA-approved playground mulch and picnic tables or benches are under review and final road restoration estimates are still pending. The report also noted that the threshold for consideration of an MDRA claim is \$99,013.35, representing 3% of own-purpose taxation. The CAO advised Council that the purpose of the After-Action Report was to provide a final report to Council and the Emergency Management Program Committee regarding the 2026 spring flood event, and to present recommendations aimed at improving efficiencies within the Emergency Plan, the operations of the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG), and supporting agencies, as well as recommendations for prevention, mitigation, and preparedness for future flooding events. Council directed staff to investigate reduced building permit fees for the demolition and reconstruction of dwellings within floodplain areas impacted by the Spring 2026 flooding, including consideration through the site plan control application process. Council also discussed the potential implementation of disposal bins at the landfill to facilitate the diversion of demolition materials.

Council discussed the notice from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) advising of proposed amendments under the Planning Act that would empower the Town of Kearney to become the approval authority for plans of subdivision and condominium applications, as well as consent and validation certificate matters, effective August 1, 2026. The proposed changes will transfer these land-use planning authorities from the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board to the Town of Kearney Council, allowing the municipality to make decisions directly on land division matters within its boundaries. MMAH noted that while administrative responsibilities would shift to the Town of Kearney, no significant net change in overall administrative costs is anticipated, as application fees currently recover planning-related expenses. Council expressed concerns as the current regional planning

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structure provides consistency, shared expertise, and coordinated decision-making across member municipalities, which is especially important in rural and interconnected communities within the Almaguin and Parry Sound regions. Removing Kearney from the Planning Board approval framework may weaken regional collaboration, create inconsistencies in planning interpretation and application, and reduce the efficiencies achieved through shared planning resources and professional oversight. The Mayor will consider submitting a comment to MMAH.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed a report from Councillor Rod Blakelock requesting support in asking the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to improve and expand rest stops and traveller services along Highways 11 and 17. Council passed a resolution and requested it be circulated to FONOM, NOMA, AMO, local MPs and MPPs, the Premier of Ontario and Ontario Municipalities.

Council reviewed resolutions from the Township of Ryerson and the Township of Perry approving the appointment of Deputy Mayor Glenn Miller as a representative for Area 4 for the Eastholme Board of Management for the remainder of the Council term. Council passed a resolution supporting the appointment of Deputy Mayor, Glenn Miller.

Council reviewed a media release from East Parry Sound Community Support Services advising of their new website.

Council reviewed the draft TRI Council agenda for the June 22, 2026 meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

The purpose of the closed meeting under Section 239(b), (e), (f) and (k) of the Municipal Act was to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality. A resolution was passed to move into closed session at 9:07 p.m.

A resolution was passed to move out of the closed session at 9:41 p.m. and reconvened in open session. The Mayor reported on the items that were discussed in the closed session.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #2026-150a - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept and approve the amended agenda for the May 26, 2026 Council meeting. Carried

Resolution #2026-151 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the public meeting held on May 12, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-152 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on May 12, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-153 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Armour wishes to thank Austin Toth for his delegation and presentation to Council;

AND FURTHER THAT Council supports the retention of the Cancer Clinic / Oncology Clinic at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital site;

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AND FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to allow the collection of signatures via a copy of the petition available to the public at the municipal office;

AND FURTHER THAT Council send a letter of support to MPP Graydon Smith and appropriate members. Carried

Resolution #2026-154 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis: That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts the application for site plan approval, submitted by 1000613806 Ontario Inc. (Vestering), Plan #199, Lot 16, described as 390 Kent Road, and requests the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement. Carried

Resolution #2026-155 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of Huron Shores and the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands that the Ministry of the Environment reconsider the use of lighter-grade oils for chip-and-tar surface treatment, or develop a suitable alternative, in recognition of the reduced durability and increased maintenance costs experienced by municipalities. Carried

Resolution #2026-156 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; WHEREAS seniors make valuable contributions to the Township of Armour through their experience, volunteerism, leadership, and involvement in the community; and

WHEREAS June is recognized across Ontario as Seniors Month to celebrate and honour older adults;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour hereby proclaims June 2026 as "Seniors Month" in the Township of Armour and encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the contributions of seniors in our community. Carried

Resolution #2026-157 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports The County of Prince Edward and requests that the Government of Ontario amend the Municipal Act, 2001 to grant Ontario municipalities the permissive authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax" or similar levy to encourage the productive use of long-term vacant retail properties. **Defeated**

Resolution #2026-158 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 are critical transportation corridors connecting Northern Ontario communities and supporting national trade, tourism, emergency response, and economic development; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario residents, travellers, commercial drivers, and emergency services rely on safe and accessible year-round highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS many stretches of Highways 11 and 17 lack sufficient rest areas, washroom facilities, truck parking, warming centres, fuel access, and safe pull-off locations, particularly in remote areas of Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS inadequate rest stop infrastructure contributes to driver fatigue, safety concerns, limited accessibility, and challenges for tourism and commercial transportation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour calls upon the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize the development of new and upgraded highway rest stops and traveller infrastructure along Highways 11 and 17 across Northern Ontario; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such infrastructure include year-round washrooms, safe parking areas, commercial truck parking, warming shelters, electric vehicle charging stations, fuel access, tourism information, and improved emergency communication services where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario work collaboratively with Northern municipalities, FONOM, NOMA, Indigenous communities, and industry stakeholders to identify priority locations for investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to FONOM, NOMA, AMO, local MPPs and MPs, the Premier of Ontario, and Ontario municipalities. Carried

Resolution #2026-159 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the appointment of Deputy Mayor, Glenn Miller to the Eastholme Board of Management for Area 4 comprised of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson, Town of Kearney and Township of Perry. Carried

Resolution #2026-160 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 9:07 p.m. under Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act to discuss: (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Resolution #2026-162 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 9:41 p.m. and report. Carried

Resolution #2026-163 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:42 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for June 9, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor or the Clerk. Carried

Original signed by Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original signed by Charlene Watt

Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk