

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

July 22, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Jerry Brandt, Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Rod Blakelock and Wendy Whitwell; Delegations: Danika Hammond, Recreation Co-ordinator and Doug Godin, Chief Building Official; Guests: Alice Hewitt, Nieves Guijarro and Grace McCoy; Staff: Charlene Watt, Clerk and Dave Gray, CAO.

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.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the zoning by-law amendment public meeting to amend permitted uses in the M Zone held on July 8, 2025 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the zoning by-law amendment public meeting to amend permitted uses in the CH/MH Zone held on July 8, 2025 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 8, 2025 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATIONS:

Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator presented a report on the status and success of programs at the Katrine Community Centre. The Gala will be held November 22, 2025. Future swimming lesson programs with certificates are being investigated. Council reviewed a summary report on Heritage Festival 2025 and discussed recommendations. Accessibility, layout of the attractions, selection of vendors and clarifying roles for volunteers were discussed. Planning of Heritage Festival will be discussed during the KCC's month meetings next year.

Doug Godin, CBO presented a report to Council on the department's inspection processes with details on possible reasons for a failed inspection on his monthly report. The CBO also presented a staff report recommending authority be granted to the Township of Armour under the Building Code Act for the administration and enforcement of the Ontario Building Code, specifically as it relates to sewage systems for all properties within the Township. Council passed a resolution supporting the recommendation and directed the CBO submit a formal request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Council requested an annual statistics report from NBMCA that provided details on new septic permits as well as re-inspections within the Township.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL: None

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed consent applications B-032/25 and B-033/25, Plan M632, Lot 10, 123E Nicolias Drive. Council discussed the applications and passed a resolution supporting the applications with conditions.

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APPLICATIONS: cont'd.

Council reviewed a site plan application for Plan M675, Lot 9, Millie's Way from Pavitar Preet Singh Chauhan. Council passed a resolution authorizing the municipal planner to proceed with drafting the site plan agreement.

Council reviewed a site plan application for Concession 5, Part Lot 17, 943 Relative Road from Daniel Bowering and Leslie Kataric and passed a resolution authorizing the municipal planner to proceed with drafting the site plan agreement.

Council reviewed a site plan application for Concession 5, Part Lot 11, known municipally as 39 Mag View Drive from by Jeffrey Baker and passed a resolution authorizing the municipal planner to proceed with drafting the site plan agreement.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #47-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Jeffrey Baker with respect to Part of Lot 11, Concession 5 fronting on the Magnetawan River was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #48-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with William Robert Charles Johnstone with respect to Lot 24 of Plan M237; Part of Road Allowance in Front of Part Lot 21 Concession 4 Armour Part 10 42R-7266; known municipally as 868 Skyline Drive on the east shore of Three Mile Lake was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the July 2, 2025 TRI Council Informal Sub-Committee meeting. Discussions included a new library agreement and the new library build. A generic clause to allow for additional partnerships was suggested. The next meeting will be held August 5, 2025.

Council reviewed a report from the ACED Board requesting support in principle for the 2025 ACED signage plan applications. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a report from the Mayor providing a progress update on the status of preparing for the future in the Almaguin Highlands. The report included short-term realities, medium-term preparation and long-term visions. The successful initiatives for the last six months were detailed. The report will be posted to the website. Focus area #2 was discussed with an opportunity to create a new park with municipal trails.

Council reviewed the MAHC Political Leaders Forum minutes from the July 12, 2025 meeting. The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2025.

A verbal report was given on the July 16, 2025 Library Board meeting by the Library's CEO.

A verbal report was given on the July 17, 2025 Agricultural Society meeting. It was questioned if Armour Township had sent their annual \$3,000 donation. The CAO will investigate and advise the municipal representative.

A verbal report was given on the July 21, 2025 Historical society meeting. The minutes will be included in the next agenda package. A verbal update was given on the status of the red building construction.

A verbal report was given on the Magnetawan River vessel project by the Mag River Nature Hub. An old coast guard vessel is planned to run an education program while cruising along the river.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from FONOM requesting support petitioning the provincial and federal governments to make the resolution of the softwood lumber dispute a top priority in ongoing bilateral trade discussions with the United States, to work directly with forestry stakeholders and municipalities to develop and implement support measures that protect workers, communities, and local economies and to publicly acknowledge the urgency of this issue for rural and Northern Ontario and commit to coordinated and concrete actions to support the forest sector. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a resolution from FONOM requesting support for making the NORDS (Northern Ontario Resource Development Support) Pilot Program permanent and to expand eligibility. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a media release from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit advising that the West Nile Virus was found in an East Ferris crow on July 8, 2025.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that Ontario is protecting against illegal hunting practices.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that Ontario is investing \$7.5 million to help businesses go digital. The new funding will also help retailers access the tools and technologies needed to boost productivity and sales.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that Ontario is protecting communities by expanding correctional facilities and adding 150 beds through new modular builds. The Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold, the Cecil Facer Youth Centre in Sudbury and the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton will be expanded to create 150 new beds and give frontline staff the space they need to do their jobs safely.

Council reviewed a letter from AMO to the MOECP providing recommendations for amendments to the Blue Box Regulation and the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016.

Council reviewed a submission from AMO to the Standing Committee on Heritage Infrastructure and Cultural Policy concerning Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025. AMO recommends amendments to adjust the unanimous consent requirements to a vote by at least 2/3 of Council and to provide a range of penalties that align with the Education Act in 2023.

Council reviewed a media release promoting the Almaguin Summer Star Party on August 11 and August 12, 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed an invitation from the Township of Perry to tour the newly completed Live Fire Training Unit on July 31, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Rod Ward and Councillors Wendy Whitwell and Jerry Brandt plan to attend.

Council reviewed an invitation from MMAH to save the date to attend the 2025 Northeastern Municipal Council Workshop.

Council discussed agenda items for the August 2025 TRI Council meeting and requested that the TRI Council's Informal Sub-Committee meetings, a status update on the new fire hall build and the new library agreement be included.

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RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #229 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the zoning by-law amendment public meeting to amend permitted uses in the M Zone held on July 8, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #230 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the zoning by-law amendment public meeting to amend permitted uses in the CH/MH Zone held on July 8, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #231 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on July 8, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #232 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby supports and directs that a formal request be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to delegate authority to the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Armour under the Building Code Act for the administration and enforcement of the Ontario Building Code, specifically as it relates to sewage systems for all properties within the Township of Armour;

And That Council confirms the Township of Armour has fully qualified and capable municipal staff to undertake and fulfill the responsibilities of this delegated authority. Carried

Resolution #233 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby support the severance applications B-032/25 & B-033/25, Part Lot 22, Concession 10, Plan M632, Lot 10, 123 E Nicolia Drive submitted by Richard Hodge subject to the following conditions:

- That the applicant convey the required cash in lieu of parkland dedication to the Township of Armour as per the current by-law.
- That, should consent approval for the retained parcel be requested by the applicant, whether upon application or by amendment to the conditions/approval, then the requirement for cash-in-lieu shall apply to the retained parcel as well. Carried

Resolution #234 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for site plan approval, submitted by Pavitar Preet Singh Chauhan, Plan #M675, Lot 9, fronting onto Millie's Way, and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement. Carried

Resolution #235 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for site plan approval, submitted by Daniel Bowering and Lesley Kataric, Concession 5, Part Lot 17, known municipally as 943 Relative Road, and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement. Carried

Resolution #236 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for site plan approval, submitted by Jeffrey Baker, Concession 5, Part Lot 11, known municipally as 39 Mag View Drive, and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement. Carried

Resolution #237 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #47-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Jeffrey Baker with respect to Part of Lot 11, Concession 5 fronting on the Magnetawan River and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #238 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #48-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with William Robert Charles Johnstone with respect to Lot 24 of Plan M237; Part of Road Allowance in Front of Part Lot 21 Concession 4 Armour Part 10 42R-7266; known municipally as 868 Skyline Drive on the east shore of Three Mile Lake and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #239 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; WHEREAS The Township of Armour has adopted and supported the implementation of the 2018 Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan and the 2021 Almaguin Brand Strategy which call for the establishment of a unified regional brand;

AND WHEREAS The Township of Armour recognizes the importance of aligning physical and digital elements within the collective brand strategy throughout the Almaguin Highlands Region as well as the efforts of the ACED to implement the Brand Strategy;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project will enhance the use of the regional brand while promoting recreational, tourism, and business activity throughout the region;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Members' contribution to the project shall be funded through the ACED reserve;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Township of Armour hereby declare their support in principle for the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project as well as associated applications for financial assistance to complete the project. Carried

Resolution #240 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

AND WHEREAS the funding provided through the NORDS pilot was very well received by the municipal sector, as it delivered timely and much-needed financial support to many communities across the North;

AND WHEREAS the program has allowed municipalities, such as the City of North Bay, to strategically stack multi-year allocations in order to support large-scale infrastructure initiatives critical to community development and economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the NORDS pilot program has clearly demonstrated its value and effectiveness in helping Northern municipalities address the infrastructure challenges tied to resource development and extraction;

AND WHEREAS rural and northern municipalities are also facing infrastructure degradation resulting from the increasing size and frequency of agricultural machinery and activity, which is currently outside the scope of the pilot;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province consider expanding program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities.

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd:

AND FURTHER THAT municipalities be encouraged to continue utilizing the ability to stack NORDS allocations over multiple years to support the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects. Carried

Resolution #241 – Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports FONOM in urging both the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to:

1. Make the resolution of the softwood lumber dispute a top priority in ongoing bilateral trade discussions with the United States;
2. Work directly with forestry stakeholders and municipalities to develop and implement support measures that protect workers, communities, and local economies;
3. Publicly acknowledge the urgency of this issue for rural and Northern Ontario and commit to coordinated and concrete actions to support the forest sector. Carried

Resolution #242 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:15 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for August 12, 2025. Carried

Original signed by Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original signed by Charlene Watt

Charlene Watt, Clerk