

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

December 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, and Wendy Whitwell; Councillor Dorothy Haggart-Davis attended via Zoom; Delegations: Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, CEMC and Health and Safety Coordinator, David Creasor, Roads Supervisor, Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator and Village of Burk's Falls Councillor Ryan Baptiste; Guests: Charlene Linstead, Hanna Baker, Lila Baptiste, Alice Hewitt, Carl Martin, Rowan Hildebrand, Grace McCoy, Terry Sharer, Darcy Prentice and Ana Cultraro; Staff: Dave Gray, CAO, and Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk.

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 MEETINGS

The minutes of the regular meeting held on November 25, 2025 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the special council meeting held on December 4, 2025 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

Councillor Jerry Brandt declared a pecuniary interest on agenda item #10, Accounts for Approval. The expense includes a Christmas bonus to his wife as she is the Historical Society's President.

DELEGATIONS:

Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, presented her December 2025 report and an updated bag tally. Council reviewed a staff report regarding the awarding of the RFP for the landfill's annual monitoring and reporting. Council passed a resolution to award the site monitoring contract per the recommendation in the report.

Amy Tilley, Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), presented a comprehensive report on the Municipal Emergency Control Group training session and exercise conducted on September 24, 2025. Council reviewed and discussed the report, including the key observations, outcomes, and recommendations arising from the exercise, and passed a resolution formally acknowledging receipt of the report and expressing appreciation for the CEMC's efforts.

Amy Tilley, Health and Safety Coordinator, presented the annual updates to the municipality's Health and Safety policies, as required under legislative and organizational standards. Following a review and discussion of the proposed policies, Council passed a resolution approving the documents as presented.

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented his December 2025 report and his 2026 draft capital budget. A winter roads operations update was provided. Council passed a resolution approving the 2026 roads capital budget.

Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator, provided Council with an update on recent and upcoming recreation activities, including program participation, community events, and operational matters discussed at the December 1, 2025 meeting. Highlights included successes with the Annual Gala, Christmas Market, and Seniors Dinner,

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DELEGATIONS: cont'd.

planning for upcoming programs such as the Winter Karnival, March Break Day Camp, and workshops, as well as ongoing support for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to promote early literacy across the region. Operational considerations were also reviewed, including the need to replace the kitchen stove and oven to improve safety and maintenance, and staff continue to explore ways to enhance participation and program delivery in 2026. It was recommended that the gas line be examined by a technician. Council passed a resolution approving a donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Ryan Baptiste, Councillor for the Village of Burk's Falls, attended as a delegation to request financial support for local youth participating in the Muskoka Hornets Hardball program. Councillor Baptiste outlined the benefits of the program and noted that the requested donation would assist with team-related costs, helping ensure that youth from the area can continue to participate in the upcoming season. Council passed a resolution approving a donation.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

The list of accounts for December 2025 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed a request from the owners of 78 Skyline Drive to purchase a portion of the shore road allowance fronting the property on Three Mile Lake. Council passed a resolution supporting the partial sale of the shore road allowance.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #70-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its November 2025 meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #71-2025 being a by-law to regulate the use of corporate resources for election purposes and repeal By-law #49-2021 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #72-2025 being a by-law to appoint an integrity commissioner and to repeal By-law #63-2022 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #73-2025 being a by-law to enter into a road maintenance agreement with the Township of Ryerson and repeal By-law #28-2022 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #74-2025 being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of Armour and the Almaguin District Snowmobile Club for the use of municipal property and unopened road allowances was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the December 2025 Planning Report and the year end statistics.

Council reviewed the December 2025 Building Report.

Council reviewed a report from NBMCA providing statistics regarding on-site sewage inspections within the Township for the years 2022 – 2025.

Council reviewed the Library Board's November 19, 2025 agenda and CEO's October 2025 report.

A verbal report was given on the November 26, 2025 Planning Board meeting. The Town of Kearney has provided notice to withdraw from the Board.

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REPORTS: cont'd.

Council reviewed the November 27, 2025 ACED's Director's Report and October 23, 2025 minutes. A resolution was passed supporting the appointment of Courtney Metcalf as the Director of Economic Development and directed staff to proceed with issuing an employment offer letter.

A verbal report was given on the AHHC Buildings and Space Sub-Committee meeting of November 28, 2025. The committee's scope and functions were discussed including the short-to-midterm action items.

A verbal report was given on the December 11, 2025 DSSAB meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a support request from FONOM calling for a co-ordinated, nation-building approach to modernizing Highways 11 and 17. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a letter from the City of Brantford requesting their support in asking the Province to consider directing all publicly funded school boards in Ontario to schedule a Professional Activity Day on the date of the municipal election in each election year. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a letter from the Municipality of Calvin requesting support in petitioning the Provincial and Federal levels of Government in calling for stronger homeowner self-defence protections, Criminal Code reforms, formal recognition of home invasion as a distinct offence, and improved policing response times in rural and northern Ontario. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a letter from the City of Welland requesting support in petitioning the Provincial government to strengthen laws protecting children from violent offenders. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a letter from AMO and the Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario advising of pending changes to the OMERS Pension Plan governance. Council passed a resolution petitioning the Province to reconsider the OMERS governance changes introduced through Bill 68. Council also endorsed AMO's call to protect sponsor appointment authority, ensure the independence and resourcing of the Sponsors Council, and limit ministerial regulation-making powers.

Council reviewed a request to support the U13 Local Almaguin Ice Devils for local youth participating in the 2026 Silver Stick International Finals Tournament. Council passed a resolution approving a donation.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Municipality of Magnetawan regarding the Province of Ontario's Invest Ready—Certified Site Designation grant funding criteria. Council expressed agreement with Magnetawan's position that alternative servicing methods commonly used in rural and northern communities should be recognized as eligible infrastructure and that municipalities without municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems should not be excluded from provincial support. Council passed a resolution urging the Province to revise its criteria accordingly.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the Province is protecting Ontario by keeping criminals behind bars. The Province will be introducing legislation to help keep dangerous and repeat offenders off the streets.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the Province of Ontario and Marten Falls First Nation have signed a historic agreement to unlock the Ring of Fire.

Council reviewed a notice from Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team announcing a community helpline, designed to assist residents in navigating available services in our communities.

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont'd.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the Province is putting Near North District School Board under Provincial supervision. A ministry review confirmed dysfunction and mismanagement that have eroded public confidence.

Council reviewed a news release from MAHC advising that the respiratory outbreak has ended on the North Wing at the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital.

Council reviewed a media release from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change advising of a new colour-coded weather alert system in Canada. The system will place emphasis on the potential impact a severe weather event may have in an area.

Council reviewed the November 2025 Labour Focus and the October 2025 Monthly Jobs report from The Labour Market Group.

Council reviewed a letter from MOEP providing an update on the proposed environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure. If implemented, this regulation would replace the current Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA).

Council reviewed a news release from MAHC providing an update to hospitals' masking requirements.

Council reviewed a memo from the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response advising that Ontario has modernized its emergency management framework through the passage of Bill 25, the Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025, which amends the EMCPA to strengthen provincial coordination, clarify roles, enhance community capacity, and enable flexible, collaborative municipal emergency management programs, with some amendments already in effect and others phased in later.

Council reviewed a letter from the Ministry of Finance advising Ontario will maintain stable property assessments and education tax rates for 2026 while introducing streamlined reporting, clearer remittance rules, simplified payment-in-lieu distribution, and optional municipal tax reductions for affordable rental housing, all aimed at ensuring taxpayer affordability, administrative efficiency, and continued stakeholder collaboration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Ryerson supporting the Regional Fire Committee's MOU for the burn building.

Council discussed correspondence from MTO in response to a proposed multi-use path along Highway 50 to Commercial Drive. The ministry does not build or maintain sidewalks or multi-use paths along provincial highways but can collaborate with municipalities—either through a municipally funded, ministry-approved encroachment permit process completed within a year, or by including a cost-shared pathway in the next major highway rehabilitation in about 10 years. Council passed a resolution directing staff to undertake a review of the anticipated costs, requirements, and associated considerations and requested the findings be reported back to Council for consideration.

Council reviewed a public submission in response to the PowerBank's Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications. The email included a *Council's Guide to Battery Energy Storage Projects in Canada* by KICLEI.

Council reviewed an Ontario CodeNews circulation advising that MMAH has posted notices on the Environmental Registry of Ontario and Regulatory Registry to propose administrative changes to the Ontario Building Code and transfer the enforcement authority of on-site sewage systems from NBMCA to the Township of Armour.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a resolution from the Village of South River advising that the municipality will not be participating in ACED for 2026 and 2027.

Council reviewed a staff report from the Clerk outlining amendments to the Groundskeeper contract effective 2026 and presenting options for the maintenance level of the Watt Farm House Heritage Centre hayfield, and subsequently passed a resolution awarding the contract and selecting the preferred maintenance option.

Council reviewed a staff report from the Administrative Assistant – Building/Planning recommending the award of the RFP for Municipal Planner Consulting Services, and subsequently passed a resolution appointing Planscape Inc. as the Township's planning consultant effective January 1, 2026.

Council reviewed a staff report from the Clerk and Administrative Assistant – Building/Planning recommending continued engagement of the current Municipal Planner for consulting services on an as-needed basis in response to awarding the RFP for planning services to a new planner. Council passed a resolution approving the staff recommendation.

Council reviewed the OPP annual billing statement package, 2026 estimated costs and a statement for the 2024 year-end reconciliation. The 2026 costs reflect the 11% cap over the total 2025 billing amount.

Council reviewed the municipal office's Christmas Closure public notice, confirming that the office will be closed from December 24, 2025 to January 1, 2026, inclusive.

CLOSED SESSION:

The purpose of the closed meeting was under Section 239(2) (b) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

A resolution was passed to move into closed session at 9:23 p.m.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #372 – 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 November 25, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #373 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the special Council meeting held on December 4, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #374 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Staff Report from the Waste Management Administrator dated December 16, 2025, regarding RFP #2025-02 for Annual Monitoring and Reporting be received and that Council award the contract to D.M. Wills Associated Ltd. for a two-year term at a cost of \$28,180 plus HST; and that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Work Authorization with the firm. Carried

Resolution #375 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) and O. Reg. 380/04 require municipalities to ensure that the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) receives annual emergency management training and that such training is documented through the Annual Compliance Submission to Emergency Management Ontario; and

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Whereas the CEMC has presented a comprehensive report on the Municipal Emergency Control Group training session and emergency exercise conducted on September 24, 2025; and

Whereas Council has reviewed and discussed the report in detail, including the key observations, outcomes, and recommendations arising from the training and exercise;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council hereby receives the CEMC's report as presented; and

Further That Council extends its appreciation to the CEMC for her proactive efforts and continued commitment to enhancing the Township of Armour's emergency management program. Carried

Resolution #376 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the Township of Armour's updated Health & Safety Policy Statement, Workplace Harassment Policy Statement and Workplace Violence Policy Statement. Carried

Resolution #377 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the 2026 capital budget for the Roads Department for a total expenditure of \$893,100. Carried

Resolution #378 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve a donation in the amount of \$500 to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free monthly books to children aged 0–5 throughout the Almaguin region. Further, Council recognizes the value of this program in fostering early literacy, strengthening family connections, and ensuring all local children have equal access to educational opportunities during these formative years. Carried

Resolution #379 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour authorize a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Muskoka Hornets, in support of local youth participation by assisting with team registration fees and tournament expenses for the 2026 season. Carried

Resolution #380 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the December 2025 accounts, in the amount of \$1,207,021.93 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

Resolution #381 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby support in principle, the application submitted by Carrie Schiffler and Rowan Hildebrand to close and purchase the 66-foot shore road allowance lying partially in front of Part Lot 21, Concession 2, known municipally as 78 Skyline Drive in Armour Township, subject to the following:

- completion of the required process including payment of all applicable fees and charges. Carried

Resolution #382 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #70-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its November 2025 meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #383 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #71-2025 being a by-law to regulate the use of corporate resources for election purposes and repeal By-law #49-2021 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 #384 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #72-2025 being a by-law to appoint an integrity commissioner and to repeal By-law #63-2022 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #385 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #73-2025 being a by-law to enter into a road maintenance agreement with the Township of Ryerson and to repeal By-law #28-2022 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #386 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #74-2025 being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of Armour and the Almaguin District Snowmobile Club for the use of municipal property and unopened road allowances and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #387 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports resolution #2025-37 of the ACED Board appointing Courtney Metcalf as the Director of Economic Development effective January 1, 2026 and directs the CAO to proceed with extending the letter of offer to the successful candidate. Carried

Resolution #388 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

Whereas four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

Whereas the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

Whereas modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

Whereas a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane --+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

Whereas analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Armour formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

That the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

That the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

That the program incorporates corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials); and

That this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information. Carried

Resolution #389 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the City of Brantford and respectfully requests the Premier of Ontario, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, consider directing all publicly funded school boards in Ontario to schedule a Professional Activity Day on the date of the municipal election in each election year. Carried

Resolution #390 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas violent home invasions have increased in several regions of Ontario, creating growing fear and frustration among residents; and

Whereas Ontario homeowners increasingly believe that current self-defence laws do not provide sufficient or clear protection for individuals who lawfully defend themselves and their families during violent intrusions; and

Whereas rural residents often experience police response times that can exceed 30 minutes or more, leaving citizens without immediate protection when confronted with life-threatening emergencies; and

Whereas the absence of “home invasion” as a distinct offence in the national Uniform Crime Reporting system prevents governments from understanding the true scale of this crime and responding appropriately; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has repeatedly called for strengthened homeowner protections, including consideration of castle-law-style provisions, and has urged the federal government to act; and

Whereas residents expect all levels of government to take decisive action to address gaps that leave families vulnerable in their own homes;

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby expresses its strong support for the Municipality of Calvin's resolution, and further states that:

1. The Township of Armour strongly supports the Province of Ontario's call for strengthened homeowner self-defence protections, including the adoption of clear and robust "castle law"-type provisions to ensure that law-abiding residents can protect themselves without fear of unjust prosecution.
2. Council calls on the Government of Canada to immediately prioritize reforms to the Criminal Code that strengthen and clarify the rights of homeowners who act in legitimate self-defence during violent home invasions.
3. Council requests that the federal government amend the Uniform Crime Reporting system to classify "home invasion" as a distinct criminal offence, enabling accurate tracking, targeted enforcement strategies, and informed public policy decisions.
4. Council urges the Province of Ontario to take stronger action to monitor, publish, and improve police response times in rural and northern communities, ensuring that residents are not left unprotected due to resourcing challenges. Carried

Resolution #391 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas the Council of the Township of Armour stands in solidarity with the City of Welland and communities across Canada following the tragic and deeply disturbing assault of a three-year-old child in August 2025; and

Whereas this incident underscores the urgent need for strengthened legal protections for children and more effective justice system responses to violent sexual crimes;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby expresses its strong support for the City of Welland's call for provincial and federal action, including:

1. The full and expedited implementation of recent federal bail and sentencing reforms to ensure consistent protection for victims of violent sexual offences;
2. The strengthening of bail and sentencing provisions so that individuals charged with or convicted of violent sexual crimes face the strictest possible conditions, including limits on early release in cases of extreme brutality;
3. Reforms to ensure that parole eligibility for sexual offences against children reflects the seriousness of these crimes and limits conditional or early release for offenders who pose an ongoing risk to public safety;
4. Enhancements to the National Sex Offender Registry to ensure timely, accurate information and effective tools for police and communities;

And Further That Council urges provincial and federal governments to prioritize legislative and judicial reforms that better protect children and uphold community safety;

And Further That the Township of Armour supports collaboration through municipal associations, including FCM and provincial organizations, to advocate for these reforms at all levels of government;

And Further That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor of Welland, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the local MP and MPP, and relevant municipal associations. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #392 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

Whereas the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

Whereas these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

Whereas the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

Whereas municipalities are already under significant fiscal strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Township of Armour does not support the legislative changes to the OMERS Act contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

Further Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to:

1. Ensure Sponsors retain full control without restrictions over their appointments to the new Sponsors Council and Administration Corporation;
2. Guarantee the Sponsors Council's independence from the plan administrator and access to resources needed to perform its duties; and
3. Limit the Minister's regulation-making authority over plan design and the Sponsors Council's internal affairs.

Be It Further Resolved That this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs;
- The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
- MPP Graydon Smith; and
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Carried

Resolution #393 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Almaguin Ice Devils in support of local youth participating in the 2026 Silver Stick International Finals Tournament. Carried

Resolution #394 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of Magnetawan and urges the Province of Ontario to revise its Invest Ready-Certified Site Designation grant funding criteria to recognize and accept alternative servicing methods as eligible infrastructure, and to ensure that rural and northern municipalities lacking municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems are not excluded from support. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #395 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour directs Staff to undertake a review of the anticipated costs, requirements, and associated considerations for the construction of a multi-use pathway along Highway 520, extending to Commercial Drive, within the Ministry of Transportation right-of-way; and further, that Staff report the findings and any relevant recommendations back to Council for consideration. Carried

Resolution #396 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the Groundskeeper Contract amendments and that Council award the contract addition for the 2026 season (May to October) to Hamilton & Sons Property Maintenance, for an increased tender price of \$300 plus HST per month for brush hogging the Watt Century Farm House Heritage Centre's hay field. Furthermore, that this contract be exempt from the requirements of the Procurement By-law. Carried

Resolution #397 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Staff Report from the Administrative Assistant – Building/Planning dated December 16, 2025 be received, and that Council accepts the results of the RFP for Municipal Land Use Planning Consulting Services; and

That the Council of the Township of Armour appoint Planscape Inc. as the Township of Armour's Municipal Planning Consultant for a two-year term covering January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027, with the option to extend for additional one-year terms at the discretion of Council; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Township. Carried

Resolution #398 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Staff Report from the Administrative Assistant – Building/Planning and Clerk dated December 16, 2025 be received, and that Council formally recognize the long-standing service and contributions of Robert J. Miller to the Township's planning functions; and

That the Council of the Township of Armour authorize the Clerk to retain Robert J. Miller on an as-needed consulting basis for matters requiring historical knowledge or for follow-up on previous and/or complex files. Carried

Resolution #399 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 9:23 p.m. as per Section 239(2) (b) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Carried

Resolution #401 – Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 9:43 p.m. and report. Carried

Resolution #402 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:45 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for January 13, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor or the Clerk. Carried

Rod Ward, Mayor

Charlene Watt, Clerk