

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

February 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Wendy Whitwell and Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Delegations: Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator & CEMC, Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, Alison McGregor, Treasurer and Matthew Fuller, Almaguin Data Inc.; Guests: Sarah Cooke, Darcy Prentice, Barry Burton, Carl Martin, Ana Cultraro, Dino Cultraro, Grace McCoy, Alice Hewitt, Jake Ferrante, Douglas MacLean, and Nieves Guijarro; Staff: Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk, Melissa Marshall, Recreation Assistant 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 regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2026 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATIONS:

Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, presented her February 2026 report which detailed the January 2026 bag counts with comparisons to previous years. The report also included updated job descriptions for landfill employees. Questions were asked and answered. Council passed a resolution approving the updated job descriptions.

Amy Tilley, CEMC, presented a staff report for Council's direction on the CodeRED Notification System. In October, 2025, while onboarding the Township of McMurrich/Monteith, issues arose following a potential security breach. The platform was suspended and clients were migrated to the Crisis24 platform. As the agreement renewal date approaches, alternative notification platforms were discussed. Council passed a resolution to not renew the emergency notification service upon expiry and directed staff to evaluate and report back on suitable alternatives for emergency notification services, including those integrated with fire department data management systems. Council requested that further research be conducted regarding Canadian companies that provide these services.

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented his February 2026 report. Council received an update on winter maintenance operations, noting that all equipment remains fully operational, but Ontario is experiencing a critical province-wide road salt shortage due to past labour disruptions, depleted reserves, and high winter demand. The Roads Department continues to maintain service levels by utilizing reserve sand supplies, supporting Perry Township through mutual aid, and carrying out ongoing maintenance activities to ensure road safety for residents. Council provided feedback on positive feedback from residents.

The delegation from Almaguin Data Inc. was moved on the agenda by Council to be prior to the Treasurer's delegation. Matthew Fuller, President of Almaguin Data Inc. presented a proposal to Council regarding an AI Infrastructure Project on the municipally owned Hwy 520 Industrial Park. The proposal includes a 2 MW modular

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DELEGATIONS: cont'd.

facility, expandable to 10 MW over several years, with construction anticipated Q4 2026–Q2 2027 and a total investment of \$15–20 million. The delegation outlined potential economic benefits, including increased property tax revenue, employment opportunities, and developer-funded infrastructure. Technical information was provided on power supply, cooling systems, fire safety, and environmental impacts, noting low water use, minimal traffic, and no connection to municipal water or sewer. Electrical capacity, land-use compatibility, and differences from battery energy storage facilities were addressed. The delegation requested Council approval to proceed with land purchase and direction to staff to support the development. Questions were asked and answered. Council considered a resolution supporting the proposed development in principle; however, the resolution was tabled pending further information. Council requested a report on the proposed from the Municipal Planner including additional information related to land use planning, noise/acoustic impact, etc.

Alison McGregor, Treasurer presented a staff report for Council's budget considerations for the 2026 Heritage Festival. A review of expenses and options for Council were discussed. Council discussed various options including downscaling, relocation, or diversifying regionally. Council suggested staff consult with the Historical Society to discuss their thoughts. Council passed a resolution to refocus the Festival to a heritage-based mandate within Armour Township.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

The list of accounts for February 2026 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed an application for a zoning by-law amendment submitted by Ralph Prentice for Part Lot 23, Concessions 1 and 2, municipally known as 233 Cherry Hill Road, as a condition of approval for Subdivision Application S-01/24. Council also reviewed a resolution from the Planning Board approving a revision to Condition No. 3 to recognize a minimum lot frontage of 61 metres for proposed Lots 1 through 5. Following its review, Council passed a resolution accepting the zoning by-law amendment application and directed the municipal planner to proceed with the preparation of the amending zoning by-law.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #9-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its January 2026 meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #10-2026 being a by-law to authorize the transfer of Part of Lot 5, Concession 7, being Part 1 on Reference Plan 42R-22866, into joint ownership by the Township of Armour, the Village of Burk's Falls and the Township of Ryerson, and to provide for reimbursement to the Township of Armour in accordance with the Interim Fire Services Agreement was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the February 2026 Planning Report.

A verbal update was given on the January 28, 2026 Planning Board meeting. An update was provided regarding a member who has indicated their desire to leave the Planning Board.

Council received an update from the Recreation Committee, noting that planning for the Katrine Winter Karnival is complete. Council passed a resolution approving extended bar service hours to begin at 9:00 a.m. during the event. Council was advised of concerns regarding the Heritage Festival, including its cost, duration, and shift away from a heritage-focused mandate, which were presented for information. Council also defeated a resolution to proceed with re-branding the Katrine Community Centre to the Katrine Community Hub to reduce confusion and improve clarity and community

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REPORTS: cont'd.

identity. Council was in consensus of the requirement to gain community feedback regarding the naming of the new facility.

Council reviewed the minutes from the TRI-Council Shared Services Sub-Committee February 3, 2026 meeting and the draft terms of reference. It was confirmed that Council passed a resolution in October, 2021 supporting, in principle, to work with the Village of Burk's Falls and the Township of Ryerson to conduct a long-term servicing study and to perform the recharge test required of the second aquifer to possibly expand water and sewer services in Armour and Ryerson. The final terms of reference document will be presented at the February 23, 2026 TRI Council meeting for approval.

A verbal report was provided regarding the Almaguin Highlands Health Council which included considerations related to a new X-Ray Machine. An update was provided regarding quarterly reporting related to achievements and progress of the AHHC that can be expected in the future.

A verbal report was provided regarding water and runoff levels leading in to the spring which could signal an increase in flood risk. Council recommended reviewing sandbag stocks.

The Clerk left the meeting at 8:48 p.m. The CAO/Deputy-Clerk assumed recording duties for the remainder of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed correspondence and a draft support resolution from FONOM regarding the closing of the laboratory at Sudbury's LifeLabs. Council passed a resolution of support requesting that the province take action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario.

Council reviewed correspondence and a draft support resolution from FONOM requesting support for the Prescription Diversion Partnership and Collaboration Project and calling on the province to consider the project's recommendations. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Fort Frances requesting that the province establish an Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a request from the Village of Sundridge for support of a resolution urging the Province of Ontario to collaborate with municipalities on improved snow and ice management practices, including a limited-liability framework, reduced road salt use, and enhanced data sharing and monitoring to protect freshwater resources. Council defeated a resolution supporting the request.

Council reviewed a resolution from the South East Parry Sound District Planning Board requesting that the Town of Kearney withdraw the request to cease its partnership with the Planning Board and work with the other members to address their concerns and implement further improvements. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is ready to welcome commercial carbon storage projects.

Council reviewed a notice from the Township of Ryerson advising of a special meeting to update their official plan and zoning by-law.

Council reviewed a letter from FONOM to Prime Minister Mark Carney regarding a nation-building opportunity for highways 11 and 17.

Council reviewed a letter from CN Rail Police providing safety tips around railways during the winter.

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont'd.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is assuming supervision to protect student outcomes and strengthen accountability at the Peel District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

Council received correspondence from the office of MP Scott Aitchison acknowledging receipt of Council's resolution regarding changes to postage rate regulations proposed in Bill C-15. The correspondence advised that the bill is currently under review by the Standing Committee on Finance and outlined opportunities for stakeholder input during the committee process.

Council reviewed the December 2025 Monthly Jobs Report and the January 2026 Labour Focus Report published by The Labour Market Group.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a letter from NBPDS Health Unit providing details on the 2026 municipal levy with background information. The approved budget included a 1% increase in provincial mandatory program funding and a 4% increase in the municipal share.

Council reviewed a staff report from the CAO respecting proposed updates to the Municipal Employment Policy, including the creation of an Office Administrator position and associated organizational chart revisions. Following discussion, Council passed a resolution approving the creation of the Office Administrator position and the associated job description, and directed staff to forward the position description to the Employment Committee for evaluation. Council further directed staff to implement the approved amendments to Schedules A and G of the Municipal Employment Policy.

Council reviewed a Notice of Appeal submitted by PowerBank Corporation regarding the proposed lithium battery energy storage system at 219 Peggs Mountain Road, pertaining to the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment that were refused by Council at the January 13, 2026 Council meeting. Council discussed the absence of some completed reports including archeological and affected species. The Municipal Solicitor will represent the Township before the Ontario Land Tribunal.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2026-33 - 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 January 27, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-34 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the revised landfill employee job descriptions for the Lead Hand and the Landfill/Recycling Attendant positions per the recommendations of the Waste Management Administrator. Carried

Resolution #2026-35 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; WHEREAS the Township of Armour currently utilizes the Crisis24 CodeRED emergency notification system at an annual renewal cost of \$2,452, with data stored outside of Canada; and

WHEREAS staff have reviewed alternative emergency notification and data management systems that may better align with operational needs, data storage preferences, and long-term service delivery; and

WHEREAS Council wishes to discontinue the use of CodeRED pending further review and recommendations regarding future emergency notification solutions;

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby directs staff to discontinue and not renew the Crisis24 CodeRED emergency notification service upon expiry of the current agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff continue to evaluate and report back to Council on suitable alternatives for emergency notification services, including those integrated with fire department data management systems. Carried

Resolution #2026-37 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; WHEREAS Almaguin Data Inc. has proposed an AI Infrastructure Project to be located on municipal lands known as Highway 520 Industrial, Concession 8, Part Lot 1, Registered Plan 42R-12212, Part 3, in the Township of Armour; and

WHEREAS the subject lands are municipally owned and will require a severance prior to any transfer or development; and

WHEREAS Township Council has reviewed the proposed development concept and wishes to indicate its support in principle, subject to appropriate municipal, planning, and legal requirements being satisfied;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour hereby supports, in principle, the proposed AI Infrastructure Project by Almaguin Data Inc. on the municipal property known as the Highway 520 Industrial Park, Concession 8, Part Lot 1, Registered Plan 42R-12212, Part 3;

AND FURTHER THAT this support is conditional upon the successful completion and approval of a severance for the subject lands and compliance with all applicable municipal, provincial, and federal requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this support is subject to the conditions, requirements, and recommendations as set out by the Municipal Planner, Municipal Solicitor, and Township Staff, to the satisfaction of the Township of Armour;

AND FURTHER THAT nothing in this resolution shall be construed as approval of any specific planning application, development agreement, or land disposition, which shall be subject to separate Council consideration and approval. **TABLED**

Resolution #2026-36 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; THAT Council receive the staff report regarding the Heritage Festival;

AND THAT Council direct staff to refocus the Heritage Festival to better reflect a heritage-based mandate, including a direct connection to the Watt Century Farm House Museum and Armour Township heritage assets;

AND THAT staff be directed to explore alternative locations within Armour Township, revised programming, and a scaled budget model for Council's consideration prior to the 2026 budget deliberations. Carried

Resolution #2026-38 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the February 2026 accounts, in the amount of \$626,441.29 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

Resolution #2026-39 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for a zoning by-law amendment under Subdivision File S-01/24, submitted by R. Prentice, Part Lot 23, Concessions 1 and 2, described as 233 Cherry Hill Road and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the zoning by-law amendment. Carried

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Resolution #2026-40 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #9-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its January 2026 meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-41 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #10-2026 being a by-law to authorize the transfer of Part of Lot 5, Concession 7, being Part 1 on Reference Plan 42R-22866, into joint ownership by the Township of Armour, the Village of Burk’s Falls and the Township of Ryerson, and to provide for reimbursement to the Township of Armour in accordance with the Interim Fire Services Agreement and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-42 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the extension of the liquor license for the Katrine Community Centre to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 22, 2026. Carried

Resolution #2026-43 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour directs staff to proceed with rebranding the Katrine Community Centre as the Katrine Community Hub (KCH) to strengthen the facility’s identity and improve clarity in advertising, communication, and community engagement.

Recorded vote requested by Councillor Jerry Brandt.

<u>Recorded Vote</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Blakelock, Rod		X
Brandt, Jerry		X
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy		X
Ward, Rod		X
Whitwell, Wendy		X
		Defeated

Resolution #2026-44 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents; and

WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making; and

WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Armour calls on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, FONOM, AMO, and ROMA. Carried

Resolution #2026-45 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; WHEREAS prescription drug diversion, particularly involving regulated opioids and other controlled medications, presents a serious and growing risk to public health, community safety, and vulnerable populations across Ontario, including Northern and rural communities; and

WHEREAS evidence from law enforcement, health professionals, and community drug strategy partners demonstrates that diverted prescription medications are contributing to substance misuse, criminal activity, and increased strain on health, social, and enforcement systems throughout Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Partnership and Collaboration Project, "The Birth of Change" (written by the North Bay Police Services and Community Drug Strategy of North Bay & Area), brings together law enforcement, addiction medicine specialists, pharmacists, public health partners, and community organizations to address prescription diversion through a collaborative, evidence-based, and multi-sector approach; and

WHEREAS the project identifies practical regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention measures intended to reduce diversion while maintaining appropriate access to medically necessary pain management and addiction treatment services; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario are experiencing the downstream impacts of prescription diversion, including pressures on emergency services, policing, housing stability, and community well-being;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Armour formally supports the Partnership and Collaboration Project, "The Birth of Change" and its objectives to reduce prescription drug diversion through coordinated, evidence-based action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Armour calls on the Province of Ontario, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, to review and give serious consideration to the project's recommendations, including regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention strategies aimed at mitigating prescription diversion while protecting patient care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Armour encourages continued provincial engagement with municipalities, law enforcement, health professionals, pharmacists, and community partners to ensure that solutions are practical, regionally appropriate, and responsive to the realities faced by Northern Ontario communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Sgt. Brad Reaume, Northern Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, NOMA, AMO and ROMA. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #2026-46 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Town of Fort Frances and calls upon the Province of Ontario to establish an Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program, ensure eligibility for a broad range of capital projects, engage municipalities in program design and recognize the essential role of airports in medevac and emergency services, especially in remote and northern communities. Carried

Resolution #2026-47 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the resolution of the Village of Sundridge urging the Province of Ontario to:

Work collaboratively with municipalities, industry, insurers, and environmental stakeholders to establish a limited-liability framework for snow and ice management, supported by provincially endorsed Best Management Practices and enforceable training and certification requirements;

Establish and fund an expert advisory committee to assist municipalities in reducing salt use and protecting freshwater ecosystems and drinking water sources;

Collaborate with municipalities on data sharing, chloride monitoring, and salt-reduction initiatives, particularly within environmentally sensitive communities and watersheds.

Defeated

Resolution #2026-48 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the South East Parry Sound District Planning Board and respectfully requests that the Town of Kearney withdraw the request to cease its partnership with the South East Parry Sound District Planning Board and work with the other members to address their concerns and implement further improvements. Carried

Resolution #2026-49 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Staff Report from the CAO dated February 10, 2026 be received and that the Council of the Township of Armour approve the job creation and description for the Office Administrator position and directs staff to forward the position description to the Employment Committee for evaluation. Furthermore, that Council directs staff to implement the changes to Schedules A and G of the Municipal Employment Policy. Carried

Resolution #2026-50 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourn this regular council meeting at 9:32 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for February 24, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor or the Clerk. Carried

Original signed by Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original signed by Dave Gray

Dave Gray, CAO/Deputy-Clerk