

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, March 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, Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor and Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator; Guests: Grace McCoy, Don Murphy 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.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the TRI Council meeting held on February 23, 2026 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on February 24, 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 discussed the request to Council to appoint a municipal representative to the TRI-R Landfill and Recycling Advisory Committee to provide input on the site and asset review. Council passed a resolution appointing a municipal representative.

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented his March 2026 report. Council received an update on winter maintenance operations and tenders that have been advertised. Load restrictions are in effect on municipal roads and are expected to be in place until mid-May. Questions were asked and answered. A resolution was passed awarding the tender for the supply and application of 35% calcium chloride based on the Roads Supervisor's recommendation.

Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator, presented her March 2026 report, advising that the 2026 Katrine Winter Karnival was a success, generating \$8,573.61 in event income (excluding sponsorships) with strong attendance and full sponsorship coverage of expenses. Consideration will be given to bringing in other community partners, such as the local snowmobile club, to assist in hosting meals at the event next year. Council was updated on upcoming programs and events, including the April 4 Bunny Brunch, spring sports registration, Day Camp enrollment, and discussions with the Historical Society regarding the future of the Heritage Festival. It is proposed to host the event on August 8 with a focus on self-guided tours to the heritage centres. It was noted that the selected date is also the Sunridge Sunflower Festival. Council also reviewed a draft public notice confirming the Heritage Festival will not proceed as a large-scale fairground event at this time, with alternative formats under review and further consultation planned.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

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

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed an application for a zoning by-law amendment submitted by Mark and Susan Armstrong as a condition in the Notice of Decision for Consent Application B-049/25. 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.

Ryan Lloyd, Consulting Planner with Planscape Inc., provided a planning report regarding tabled Motion 2026-37 and a request from Almaguin Data Inc. to purchase a portion of municipally owned land within the Highway 520 Industrial Park for the development of an AI Data and Infrastructure (AI Compute Facility). The report reviewed applicable policies under the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, the Township of Armour Official Plan, and the Township's Zoning By-law, and outlined considerations related to employment potential, servicing requirements, environmental constraints, and land use compatibility. The planner advised that while the proposed use may generally align with the intent of the Township's employment lands, additional information is required to fully assess the proposal and potential impacts.

The Mayor advised Council that Matt Fuller was unable to attend the meeting but advised in writing that he apologized for his absence and requested his email be included in the record for Item 9 on the agenda. He noted that Almaguin Data Inc. is encouraged by the planning report prepared by Ryan Lloyd of Planscape Inc., and advised that the company will require approximately 60 days to review the required studies with consultants and obtain cost estimates and timelines before providing Council and staff with a clear path forward, while reaffirming their commitment to the project and the Township of Armour.

Council passed a resolution directing staff to request further details from the applicant in accordance with the planner's recommendations prior to considering the sale of the lands.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #13-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its February 2026 meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #14-2026 being a by-law to establish a Committee of Adjustment and repeal By-law #62-2025 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the March 2026 Planning Report.

Council reviewed the agenda for the February 25, 2026 Planning Board meeting and the minutes from the January 28, 2026 hearings and regular meeting. A verbal update was given on the Planning Board meeting.

Council reviewed the minutes from the January 22, 2026 ACED meeting and the February 26, 2026 Director of Economic Development's report. A verbal report was provided on the February 26, 2026 ACED meeting.

Council reviewed the 2026 annual levy information package and invitation to attend the AGM from Eastholme Home for the Aged. The budget includes a 3.5% increase to the 2025 levy. The Township of Armour's 2026 levy is \$150,431.

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the February 26, 2026 Town of Parry Sound EMS Advisory Committee. A resolution was passed recommending that the Council for the Town of Parry Sound authorize the Director of Development and Protective Services to enter into an MOU that outlines the process for the renovation and relocation of the South River EMS Base to 309 Hwy 124, South River.

Council reviewed the draft 2026 budget from the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board and passed a resolution approving the draft budget.

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

REPORTS: cont'd.

A verbal report was given on the March 5, 2026 AHHC meeting.

A verbal report was given on the March 10, 2026 Informal TRI Council Committee meeting. The meeting focused on the new arena and landfill shared services agreements.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed correspondence from RORAB Shrine Club requesting May 30, 2026 be reserved as Tag Day. Council passed a resolution approving the request.

Council reviewed resolutions from the Town of Kingsville, the Municipality of South Huron and the Township of Joly advising the Province of Ontario that they oppose the consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and conservation authorities. Council was advised that a technical briefing was provided by MOECP on March 10, 2026 and the province is moving forward with improvements to the conversation authority system.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside petitioning the Province of Ontario and the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming to review and modernize the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG), including restoring its purchasing power through adjustment for inflation. Council adopted a resolution in support.

Council reviewed and discussed a letter from the Municipality of East Ferris requesting support for its plans to construct a new fire hall that would also serve as a regional fire training centre, and for its application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for funding assistance. The proposed facility would provide a centrally located training hub for fire departments across Nipissing District, Parry Sound District, and Sudbury District, improving access to training and regional emergency preparedness. Council passed a resolution in support.

Council reviewed a notice from Hydro One providing information on the proposed Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line. A community open house is scheduled to learn more about the project. The line is expected to be in service in 2032.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province is protecting northern and rural livestock producers by expanding eligibility and modernizing the Veterinary Assistance Program to support Ontario's agriculture sector.

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

Council reviewed the February 2026 TechTalk Newsletter from Blue Sky Net.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province has appointed an advisory body to improve student achievement. And has launched a comprehensive review of EQAO testing and student outcomes.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province has secured a ground-breaking national energy corridor agreement between provinces and territories to build electricity infrastructure and to transform Canada into an energy superpower.

Council reviewed a February 2026 newsletter from the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit's Medical Officer of Health.

Council reviewed a letter and resolution from the Township of Perry petitioning the Province of Ontario to improve school bus safety initiatives and the expansion of stop-arm camera programs. The documentation supports Armour Council's resolution #2026-27.

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Perry encouraging the Town of Kearney reconsider their request to withdraw membership from the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed notice from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit advising that the Board of Health will be discontinuing monitoring and routine sampling of recreational water at public beaches throughout the District, effective summer 2026. Follow-up will continue to occur for complaints. All municipalities will be supplied with updated public beach signage to support public awareness of water quality risks, health precautions, and safe swimming practices. Virtual information sessions are being offered by the Health Unit for municipal representatives. Staff will participate in a session and report back to Council.

Council reviewed a flyer from the Almaguin Clerk's Group inviting municipal election candidates to an information session on April 16, 2026 at the Arena.

Council reviewed a flyer from the Almaguin Clerk's Group calling for applications to the Almaguin Area Joint Audit Compliance Committee. The committee will review audit requests related to campaign finances from candidates for municipal elections.

Council reviewed the Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting for the Prentice Subdivision's rezoning application. The hybrid public meeting will be held on March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2026-66 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the TRI Council meeting held on February 23, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-67 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on February 24, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-68 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour appoints Rod Blakelock as the municipal representative on the TRI-R Landfill & Recycling Advisory Waste Committee. Carried

Resolution #2026-69 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Staff Report from the Roads Supervisor dated March 10, 2026, regarding Roads Tender #2026-01 to Supply and Apply 35% Calcium Chloride be received and that Council award the contract to Pollard Distribution Inc. for a tender price of \$70,905 plus HST. Carried

Resolution #2026-70 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the March 2026 accounts, in the amount of \$278,676.71 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

Resolution #2026-71 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for a zoning by-law amendment as a requirement of Consent File B-049/25, submitted by Mark and Susan Armstrong, Part Lot 21, Concession 4, described as 723 Skyline Drive and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the zoning amendment by-law. Carried

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #2026-72 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; WHEREAS Council of the Township of Armour has received a planning report dated March 5, 2026 from Ryan Lloyd, Consulting Planner with Planscape Inc., regarding a request from Almaguin Data Inc. to purchase a portion of municipally owned land within the Highway 520 Industrial Park for the development of an AI Data and Infrastructure (AI Compute Facility);

AND WHEREAS Council recognizes that the subject lands have been identified for future employment uses and economic development opportunities within the Township of Armour;

AND WHEREAS Council has directed the proponent to provide additional information and supporting studies to allow for a complete evaluation of the proposed development and its potential impacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Township of Armour expresses its willingness, in principle, to enter into negotiations for the sale of a portion of the municipally owned lands within the Highway 520 Industrial Park to Almaguin Data Inc., subject to the proponent satisfying the requirements identified in the March 5, 2026 planning report and any additional requirements of the Township;

AND FURTHER THAT Council's support in principle is conditional upon the submission and satisfactory review of the required information, studies, and technical reports, and the completion of all necessary planning approvals, including but not limited to a site-specific Zoning By-law Amendment and supporting technical studies, as required under the Township's Official Plan and applicable legislation. Specific studies include but are not limited to:

1. a conceptual site plan illustrating the full build-out of the development;
2. confirmation of the number and type of permanent local employment opportunities;
3. details regarding water supply and septic servicing requirements;
4. confirmation from Hydro One regarding electrical servicing capacity and potential impacts to the local power grid;
5. information regarding potential impacts related to noise, vibration, ventilation, and land use compatibility; and
6. a preliminary operational and emergency response plan for the proposed facility;

AND FURTHER THAT the applicant shall address the requirements identified in the Pre-Consultation Checklist dated January 26, 2026 to the satisfaction of the Township's Municipal Planner;

AND FURTHER THAT any agreement for the sale of municipal lands shall be subject to final approval by Council and the execution of a formal Agreement of Purchase and Sale on terms satisfactory to the Township. Carried

Resolution #2026-73 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #13-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its February 2026 meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #2026-74 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #14-2026 being a by-law to establish a Committee of Adjustment and repeal By-law #62-2025 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-75 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the draft 2026 Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board budget, in the net amount of \$14,872.15, with the Township of Armour's share being \$1,322.58. Carried

Resolution #2026-76 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; Whereas the RORAB Shrine Club has requested permission to conduct its annual Tag Day fundraising event within the Township of Armour on May 30, 2026;

And Whereas Tag Day is a charitable fundraising initiative in support of the charitable activities of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children;

Now Therefore be it Resolved that the Council for the Township of Armour hereby approves the request from the RORAB Shrine Club to designate May 30, 2026 as Tag Day within the Township of Armour. Carried

Resolution #2026-77 – Intentionally deleted.

Resolution #2026-78 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support. Carried

Resolution #2026-79 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris is planning the construction of a new fire hall that will serve as a regional fire training centre for fire departments including from across the Nipissing, East Parry Sound, and East Sudbury districts;

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

AND WHEREAS the closest accredited and operational training facilities are currently located in Huntsville, Haileybury, and Sault Ste. Marie, requiring significant travel, increased costs, and reduced training frequency for volunteer and composite departments in our region;

AND WHEREAS the summer 2025 storm in the Municipality of Calvin demonstrated the effectiveness of regional collaboration under a declared state of emergency, highlighting the value of joint training and coordinated emergency response;

AND WHEREAS a regional training centre in East Ferris would allow firefighters to train closer to home, reduce operational costs, foster inter-departmental collaboration, and improve readiness for future emergencies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of East Ferris in its application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for funding assistance to construct the East Ferris Regional Fire Training Centre;

AND FURTHER THAT that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Municipality of East Ferris to demonstrate our municipality's support for this important regional initiative. Carried

Resolution #2026-80 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourn this regular council meeting at 9:00 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for March 24, 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