

The regular meeting of the Bristol Council was held on January 6th, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. with Mayor Brent Orr, and Crs. Valerie Twolan-Graham, Archie Greer, Meaghan McConnell, Greg Graham, Kim Crawford and Debbie Kilgour.

- (25-01-01) Motion Cr. Greer that the minutes from the December 2nd meeting be adopted as presented. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (25-01-02) Motion Cr. Crawford that the minutes from the December 10th Budget Meeting be adopted as presented. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (25-01-03) Motion Cr. McConnell to adopt the agenda with the additions. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (25-01-04) Motion Cr. Kilgour to send out invitations to tender for the supply and spreading of 100 000 litres of calcium to Multi-Routes Inc. and Groupe Somavrac. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (25-01-05) Motion Cr. Greer to adopt By-Law # 304A.8 pertaining to the General Property Tax Rate, Service Rates and the Annual Interest Rate. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (25-01-06) Motion Cr. McConnell to adopt By-Law # 308A.2 pertaining to the Rate for Travel Expenses for Members of Council and Employees. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-07) **Sûreté du Québec Services Invoiced to Municipalities**

WHEREAS the municipalities served by the Sûreté du Québec have just received their invoice for 2025;

WHEREAS the average increase indicated is 6.47%, but the increase for several municipalities is considerably higher;

WHEREAS the 2025 invoice marks the end of the transitional time frame leading to a 50-50 split of the invoice for Sûreté du Québec services between the government and the municipalities, a time frame characterized by the establishment of a 7% ceiling increase and a 2% floor;

WHEREAS during the negotiations for the new calculation method in 2019, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique assured its municipal partners that the increase would be approximately 3% per year once the transitional time frame was over and that this calculation method would protect the municipalities from increases similar to those announced in 2025;

- WHEREAS** the inflation rate is now less than 2%;
- WHEREAS** the media have recently reported on the management of police overtime in the regions, which is causing significant pressure on the overall cost of the Sûreté du Québec services billed to the municipalities;
- WHEREAS** legitimate concerns have been raised from several elected officials pertaining to the real impact of the number of unfilled police positions and the significant use of overtime since an effective police service requires stability and a long-term community presence;
- WHEREAS** the significant increase in the costs of the Sûreté du Québec and their impact on the invoice imposed on municipalities is an issue;
- WHEREAS** the municipalities are not involved in determining the working conditions of police officers and the management of the Sûreté du Québec;
- WHEREAS** the total invoiced to municipalities for 2025 amounts to more than 444.8 million, a considerable amount that should give municipalities a say in the management of these services.
- THEREFORE** Motion Cr. Graham that the Municipality of Bristol ask the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel to mandate an external firm to analyze the management of the Sûreté du Québec, similar to the approach taken with municipal transport companies, which identified possible solutions to save several hundreds of million dollars. In addition, to maintain a ceiling and a floor for the increase in invoices within the permanent calculation as well as in the transitional calculation until the analysis has identified ways to control the considerable increase in the costs of the Sûreté du Québec services. In conclusion, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel, to Andre Fortin, Member of Parliament, to Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament, to the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, Johanne Beausoleil and to the President of the Fédération Québécoise des municipalités (FQM), Jacques Demers. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-08) Cellular Coverage

WHEREAS cellular coverage remains insufficient in several regions of Quebec, limiting access to an essential service for residents and visitors;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has committed to deploying complete cellular coverage across the entire territory by October 2026, recognizing its importance for citizens' quality of life and socio-economic development, particularly in the context where automation is becoming an essential solution to the labour shortage;

WHEREAS reliable cellular services are essential to guarantee access to information, health services, and public safety interventions, and that poor coverage compromises the safety of people in areas with limited coverage or when roaming, particularly in the event of an emergency requiring rapid intervention by first responders;

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) procedure CPC-2-0-17, imposes conditions of license on cellular service providers (CSPs), including mandatory roaming, tower sharing and the prohibition of site exclusivity, in order to promote access to the network for subscribers of another CSP when a service is available;

WHEREAS this same procedure does not, however, require CSPs to request the service of another provider in the event of non-existent coverage in a given region, thus limiting the scope of the measure;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the CRTC provide significant subsidies to telecommunication companies for the construction of new cellular infrastructure in order to improve coverage in the regions;

WHEREAS despite the presence of more than 8 500 cell towers in Quebec, the exclusive use of these towers by a single CSP limits access for other providers and constitutes a major obstacle to the deployment of optimal cellular coverage for the entire population.

THEREFORE Motion Cr. Graham to request that the Liberal Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Bloc Québécois include in their electoral platform for the next federal election the obligation for all cellular service companies to enter into roaming agreements so that cellular service customers, regardless of their provider, can benefit from the presence of cell sites in the region where they are located. In addition, to forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Finance of Quebec, Eric Girard, who is responsible for fulfilling the government's commitment to providing cellular service throughout the inhabited territory in this mandate. In conclusion, to transmit a copy of this resolution to the directors of telecommunications companies, in particular BCE (Bell), Videotron, Rogers, TELUS and Cogeco. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-09) Motion Cr. Greer to authorize a cell phone allowance for members of the Bristol Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$30 per firefighter, per month. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-10) Motion Cr. Twolan-Graham to authorize the Mayor, Brent Orr, or the Director General, Christina Peck, to sign the Pier Lease with the revisions negotiated by our Lawyer, Guy Bélanger of Beaudry-Bertrand. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-11) Motion Cr. Greer to pay for the rink attendant up to an amount of \$4500, for the 2024-2025 season. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

I, Christina Peck, Director General of the Municipality of Bristol, certify that there are credits available to pay the expenses below.

Christina Peck, Director General

(25-01-12) Motion Cr. Crawford that invoices totalling \$138 151.13 be paid for the month of December. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-13) Motion Cr. Kilgour to accept the financial statements for the month of November. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-14) Motion Cr. Kilgour to send a letter of support to Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment, in collaboration with Kebaowek First Nation in opposition of the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility at Chalk River. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(25-01-15) Motion Cr. Greer to close the meeting. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

Mayor Brent Orr

Director General Christina Peck