

**PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
COUNTY OF GATINEAU**

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the Township of Low, held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:02 p.m., in the meeting room, located at 400, route 105, Township of Low (Quebec) J0X 2C0, under the Presidency of Mayor Patrick Beaudry.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Councillors Mrs. Fay McLaughlin, Maureen Rice and Maureen McEvoy and Mr. Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus and Ghyslain Robert.

ALSO PRESENT: Madame Myrian Nadon, director general and clerk-treasurer.

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry confirming that there is quorum declares the meeting open.

NOTICE OF MEETING

February 6th, 2026

Mr. Mayor	Patrick Beaudry
Councillor Mrs.	Fay McLaughlin, Maureen Rice and Maureen McEvoy
Councillor Mr.	Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus and Ghyslain Robert

NOTICE OF MEETING is hereby given by the undersigned, Myrian Nadon, that there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council on February 6th, 2026 convened by the Director general, during which Council will consider the following topics:

1. Opening of the extraordinary meeting of February 6, 2026
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Receipt of the notice of meeting
4. 1st Question Period
5. To oppose to the participation in the federal assault-style firearm buyback program
6. To appoint standing and ad hoc committees of the municipal council
7. 2nd Question Period
8. Closing and adjournment of the extraordinary meeting of February 11th, 2026

At this extraordinary meeting, to be held on Wednesday, **February 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in meeting room, 400 route 105, the deliberations of council shall be confined to the above-mentioned subject.

Given at Low this 6th day of February 2026

Myrian Nadon
Director General and Clerk-Treasurer

**2026-02-037 TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

**PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MR. GHYSLAIN ROBERT**

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council adopts the agenda as modified with amending the title of the following item:

5. Support of the city of Gracefield - Opposition to participation in the federal assault-style firearms buyback program

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

--- A minute of silence is observed, beginning at 7:02 p.m., by the assembly to honor the memory of those affected by the recent tragic events in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, and Kitigan Zibi, and to express our support for their families and loved ones. The meeting resumes at 7:03 p.m.

--- **FIRST QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions on the topics on the agenda.

The question period begins at 7:03 p.m. and ends at 7:03 p.m.

Note 1: At 7:06 p.m., Councillor Fay McLaughlin stated that she did not understand the entire wording of the resolution, as it was only available in French, and indicated that she would abstain from voting.

**2026-02-038 TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF GRACEFIELD -
OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL
ASSAULT-STYLE FIREARMS BUYBACK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS on January 17, 2026, the Government of Canada launched the federal assault-style firearm buyback program;

WHEREAS Canadians have from January 19 to March 31, 2026, to participate in the program, which provides for the voluntary surrender of their prohibited weapons in exchange for compensation;

WHEREAS the financial compensation provided for under the buyback program is considered insufficient, unfair, or unguaranteed for all affected owners;

WHEREAS the weapons covered by the ban are modern civilian hunting or sporting firearms, not military assault weapons, and that they are neither used nor required by the Canadian Armed Forces to defend the country;

WHEREAS in Quebec, the Sûreté du Québec will coordinate the operation;

WHEREAS police resources are already limited and that their mobilization for the enforcement of this regime diverts personnel essential to the fight against real crime;

WHEREAS trust between the public and police forces is a fundamental pillar of public safety;

WHEREAS the coercive enforcement of this prohibition risks undermining this relationship of trust and exacerbating social tensions;

WHEREAS public safety is a responsibility shared between the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, as well as police forces;

WHEREAS municipalities are local governments directly responsible for the well-being, social cohesion, and safety of their populations;

WHEREAS legal firearm owners are already subject to strict licensing, training, registration, background checks, secure storage, and compliance with laws;

WHEREAS available data show that the weapons used in violent crimes come mainly from the black market and not from the legal market;

WHEREAS public safety priorities should focus on combating illegal arms trafficking, criminal groups, and smuggling;

WHEREAS the prohibition and mandatory buyback of firearms mainly target law-abiding citizens, with no significant direct impact on crime;

WHEREAS the imposition of this regime represents an infringement on the legitimate property rights of these citizens;

WHEREAS this regime does not take into account the territorial, social, economic, and cultural realities specific to municipalities;

WHEREAS many rural, agricultural, and northern communities use firearms legitimately for hunting, subsistence, livestock protection, and personal safety in isolated areas;

2026-02-037 WHEREAS several Canadian provinces have publicly expressed their opposition to this prohibition and buyback regime, refusing to cooperate with or enforce it because of its ineffectiveness, cost, and unfairness;

WHEREAS municipalities have no real power in the development of this policy, but are directly impacted by it

**PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MR. GHYSLAIN ROBERT**

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the City of Gracefield in its opposition to participating in the federal program to buy back assault-style firearms.
3. Officially requests that the federal government end its program to buy back assault-style firearms.
4. Officially requests that the Sûreté du Québec, in the event that this program is not repealed, not enforce the federal government's measures prohibiting and mandating the buyback of firearms within its jurisdiction.
5. Affirms that the priority in public safety must be the fight against illegal arms trafficking, organized crime, and actual gun violence, rather than the confiscation of legally owned firearms.
6. Calls on the Government of Quebec to intervene with the federal government to review the current approach and give priority to policies based on evidence and real effectiveness in public safety.
7. Affirms its support for law-abiding citizens, hunters, farmers, rural communities, and legitimate users of firearms.
8. Transmits a copy of this resolution to the Sûreté du Québec, the Quebec Minister of Public Security, the Premier of Quebec, the federal Minister of Public Safety, the relevant provincial and federal members of parliament, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ), the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, and the municipalities and cities of Quebec for their support.
9. Authorizes, hereby, Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry and/or the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously by the members present.

2026-02-039 **TO APPOINT STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low may, pursuant to Article 82 of the Municipal Code of Québec, create standing or ad hoc committees responsible for: Administration, Public Works, Finance and Taxation, Recreation, Culture and Community Life, Environment and Urban Planning, Public Safety, Human Resources, Environmental Health, Communications, Management, Personnel, Priorities, Construction, Roads, Civil Security, Fire Fighting, Libraries, Heritage, agriculture and others.

**PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY**

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Forms, in accordance with Section 82 of the Quebec Municipal Code, the following committees and appoints the Council members and civil servants who will serve on them, namely:

STANDING COMMITTEES			
COMMITTEE NAME	OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE	MEMBERS	MANDATE RECOMMENDATIONS
General or Plenary Council Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, and all municipal service managers	All municipal council members	Provide guidance or make decisions on matters submitted by the Direction general and municipal officials for the council meeting. Develop and deploy a strategic plan to establish and carry out Council priorities.
Administration Committee - Finance and Communications	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer	Councillor Fay McLaughlin, President Councillor Maureen McEvoy, Vice-president Councillor Maureen Rice	The committee's mandate is to ensure service excellence in administration at the lowest possible cost. It also consists to exercise proactive, respectful and effective oversight and governance of municipal operations, with integrity, transparency, and fairness toward citizens and employees. It will conduct a rigorous analysis of operating budgets, seek savings without compromising service quality, and ensure clear accountability. It will make recommendations for transparent internal policies, particularly in the areas of human resources management, health and safety, and administrative practices. The committee will enhance two-way communication with citizens to strengthen trust in the municipal administration.
Environment and Planning Committee and Planning Advisory Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer Mrs. Mireille Bertrand, municipal inspector, committee secretary	Councillor Lee Angus, President Councillor Ghyslain Robert, Vice-president Mayor Patrick Beaudry	The committee's mandate is to ensure service excellence in environment and planning at the lowest possible cost. It also has as a mandate to develop responsible land use policies that highlight the unique and diverse characteristics of the Township of Low, and practices that protect our lands and waters for future generations, which position Low as a thriving home for young families and entrepreneurs. The planning priority for 2026 is final revision and renewal of the Township of Low's official plan and development by-laws, in consultation with the CCU (Citizen's Consultative Committee on Planning), and in accordance with the MRCVG Schéma d'aménagement. For 2026, the environment focus will also be on waste management with the aim to minimize the financial impact of these services while ensuring appropriate disposal of garbage, recyclables, compost and septic waste.

STANDING COMMITTEES			
COMMITTEE NAME	OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE	MEMBERS	MANDATE RECOMMENDATIONS
Recreation, Culture and Community Life Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer	Councillor Maureen McEvoy, President Councillor Lee Angus, Vice-president Mayor Patrick Beaudry	<p>The committee's mandate is to ensure excellence in terms of recreation and cultural programming at the lowest possible cost. It also has the mandate to improve citizen's quality of life by developing and supporting programs, events and infrastructure in culture, sport and recreation. In partnership with community organizations, the committee will promote and facilitate citizen collaboration, volunteerism, and positive impacts on citizen health and community pride. The committee will also work to revitalize social life by supporting activities that strengthen the sense of belonging and local appeal. It will oversee an annual calendar of cultural, recreational, and traditional events, with a priority focus on support for logistical planning, security, permits, regional partners, and regulatory compliance, etc.</p> <p>Identify and pursue resources that support the mental, physical, and social well-being of residents of all ages. It will seek to collaborate with social service agencies and other levels of government to enhance community life in Low.</p>
Infrastructures Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer Director of Technical Services, Deputy Director General and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer (as required as per Director General and Clerk- Treasurer request Mr. Ryan Draper, public works coordinator and Mr. Stephen Kelly, foreman)	Councillor Luc Thivierge, President Councillor Ghyslaine Robert, Vice-president Mayor Patrick Beaudry	<p>The committee's mandate is to ensure excellence in infrastructure management at the lowest possible cost. It will also be responsible for overseeing the management of municipal infrastructure assets, including drinking water systems, the extensive road network, and municipal properties. In order to address accumulated deficiencies and reinvigorate a proactive strategic approach, this committee will oversee the overall management of municipal infrastructure assets by actively supporting the new Director of technical services.</p> <p>It will take a proactive strategic approach to oversee planning and maintenance activities, and identify and pursue funding opportunities, partnerships, and appropriate technologies, to maximize investments while ensuring optimal service to residents. The committee will evaluate and prioritize the development of resilient planning for end-of-life infrastructure and propose innovative preventive maintenance strategies for the extensive rural road network with a view to sustainable budgeting and the integration of technologies adapted to rural contexts.</p> <p>The committee will implement an ambitious action plan aimed at positioning the Municipality as the best small rural municipality in Quebec in terms of infrastructure management, maximizing investments while minimizing disruption to citizens.</p>

STANDING COMMITTEES			
COMMITTEE NAME	OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE	MEMBERS	MANDATE RECOMMENDATIONS
Public Safety Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer Mr. Michel Lemieux, Director, Fire Safety Department and Mr. Ghyslain Robert, Deputy Director Fire Safety Department	Councillor Luc Thivierge, President Councillor Fay McLaughlin, Vice-president Mayor Patrick Beaudry	The committee's mandate is to ensure service excellence in citizen protection at the lowest possible cost. It will apply risk management principles in support of safety interventions by making peacekeeping and citizen protection a model envied by all neighboring municipalities. It will support safety interventions by promoting disaster prevention, emergency planning, resource optimization, and continuous improvement of protocols and equipment to maximize efficiency while minimizing expenses. The committee will oversee the development and updating of a municipal civil security plan adapted to rural realities, including community awareness, risk analysis, and the search for regional partnerships.
Agriculture Committee	Mrs. Myrian Nadon, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer Mrs. Mireille Bertrand, municipal inspector, committee secretary	Councillor Maureen Rice, President Councillor, Lee Angus, vice-president Councillor Fay McLaughlin	The committee's mandate is to support citizen consultation to enhance the agricultural community, facilitating the establishment of innovative and sustainable agricultural activities and models, while honouring traditional farming practices. The committee will support citizen consultation to revitalize the rural community, stimulate the local economy, and position Low as a model of attraction for future generations seeking a balanced lifestyle between nature, agriculture, and innovation.

3. Mention that the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer is ex-officio member of all committees but does not have a right to vote.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry, president of the meeting, requests a vote on the main resolution.

Adopted unanimously.

SECOND QUESTION PERIOD

The question period begins at 7 :07 p.m. and ends at 7:27 p.m.

2026-02-040

**TO ACCEPT THE CLOSING OF
THE SESSION**

**PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. MAUREEN MCEVOY
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN RICE**

FOR THESE REASONS, this meeting is adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted.

Myrian Nadon
Director General and
Clerk-Treasurer

Patrick Beaudry
Mayor

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