OCTOBER 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK HELD OCTOBER 15, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with and satisfied in that the annual notice, which gave sufficient notice of the time and place, and conduct of all public meetings of the Municipal Council of the City of New Brunswick, has been filed with the City Clerk, has been placed on an appropriate bulletin board in City Hall and has been transmitted to the official newspaper for the City of New Brunswick, namely The Home News Tribune.

The City Council met with five (5) voting members of the City Council present.

Salute to the Flag..... Leslie R. Zeledón
Pause for a moment of reflection and silence.

Staff in attendance:

NBPD Lieutenant Anthony Abode
Administration Intern Aiden Andres
Public Information Officer Bert Baron
NBPA Director of Operation Harry Delgado
Planning Director Daniel Dominguez
City Administrator Michael Drulis
Assistant City Attorney Charly Gayden
Assistant City Administrator Brandon Goldberg
Administration Intern Jarline Gonzalez
NBPD Captain James Hoover
Recycling Coordinator Erin Maguire
NBPD Lieutenant Ronoldy Martinez
Finance Director Richard Mulrine
Fire Official Victor Ortiz
City Attorney TK Shamy
Director of Engineering and Public Works Thomas Valenti
Director of Water Department Alexei Walus
Law Department Staff Sarah Walus
City Clerk Leslie R. Zeledón

On motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Fleming and carried, the minutes of the previous Council Meetings held on September 17, 2025 were approved and adopted as engrossed.

Meeting called to order by Council President John Anderson with Council Members Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins and Sicora Ludwig present. Council Vice President Castaneda and Council Member Ferguson were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

O-102501	**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS, IN AND BY THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $14,700,000 THEREFOR TO PAY FOR THE COST THEREOF**

Council President Anderson opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: Mr. Hamadi inquired on the above ordinance.
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on October 15, 2025.

Roll Call:
Aye: Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

O-102502	**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS, IN AND BY THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $13,300,000 THEREFOR TO PAY FOR THE COST THEREOF**

Council President Anderson opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on October 15, 2025.

Roll Call:
Aye: Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

O-102503	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 12, STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES, CHAPTER 12.08 – STREET AND SIDEWALK EXCAVATIONS** RE: STANDARDIZATION OF PERMIT EXTENSIONS

Council President Anderson opened the Public Hearing on the above ordinance.
Public Comment: None
On a motion of Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Gaskins, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on Final Reading on October 15, 2025.

Roll Call:
Aye: Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

O-102504	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.20 – HANDICAPPED PARKING, SECTION 10.20.010 – SCHEDULE 39 – PARKING ZONES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS** ADD: 101 WRIGHT PLACE 184 FULTON STREET 10 LAUREL PLACE

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Fleming, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 5 2025 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Roll Call:
Aye: Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

O-102505	**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TITLE 3, REVENUE AND FINANCE, CHAPTER 3.28 - FEE SCHEDULE, SECTION 3.28.120 – PARKS AND RECREATION FEES** RE: UPDATES

On a motion of Council Member Gaskins, seconded by Council Member Fleming, and carried, the above ordinance was adopted on first reading and held over for Public Hearing on November 5, 2025 at 5:30P.M. in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Roll Call:
Aye: Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Number: 25-10-01-1551-13, Case Number: 25-09-29-1106-00 and Case Number: 25-10-14-1150-30.
2. A letter from Wick Companies, LLC regarding Financial Agreement Termination for 14D Van Dyke Avenue Urban Renewal, LLC.
3. A letter from Arnold Garcia regarding final inspection for project located at 206 George Street, Block #135, Lot #5.
4. A letter from Robert Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC regarding Mortgage Foreclosure on 66 Hale Street, Lot: 18 Block: 195.
5. A letter from (NJLM) New Jersey State League of Municipalities regarding Annual Audit Statement from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.
6. A letter from Mortgage Contracting Services regarding Mortgage Foreclosure on 92 Howard Street, New Brunswick.
7. A letter from PSE&G regarding Notice of Upcoming Vegetation Management Work.
8. A letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding applications for the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Local Freight Impact Fund.
9. A letter from WSP USA Inc. regarding Remedial Action Permit Modification Application – Groundwater Solvay New Brunswick, PI #G000001656.
10. A letter from WSP USA Inc. regarding Remedial Action Permit Modification Application – Soil Solvay New Brunswick, PI #G000001656.
11. A letter from T&M Associates regarding NJDEP Letter of Interpretation Application for Cook College Student Center Substation Tax Block 700, Lot 4.02. 59 Biel Road.

RESOLUTIONS

The City Council requested for R-102546 to be moved to the November 5, 2025 meeting.
Public Comment: Mr. Kratovil inquired on R-102542 and R-102546. Mr. Shamy, Council Member Sicora Ludwig and Council President Anderson responded. Mr. Castaneda inquired on R-102546. Council Member Escobar responded. Ms. Cruz inquired on R-102546.
Resolutions R-102520 through R-102548 except R-102546 held at the request of the City Council until November 5, 2025, moved by Council Member Sicora Ludwig, seconded by Council Member Fleming and carried were adopted, on consent, by the Municipal Council.

Roll Call:

Aye:	Escobar, Fleming, Gaskins, Sicora Ludwig, Anderson
Nay:	
Abstain:	

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CM Fleming excused himself at 6:07pm.
Council President congratulated Erin Maguire of the Recycling Department, with the Team Litter Patrol, in receiving an award and Coach Mike Mitchell of the New Brunswick High School Tennis team. CM Escobar provided translation for the public on the process of the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Melissa of New Brunswick stated the area surrounding Paul Robeson School and her home is not safe with drug addicts, street walkers and asked for more protection in the area. Captain Hoover and Mr. Drulis responded. Liana Ricardo spoke of concerns related to the security at the New Brunswick High School and suggested more police presence in the streets. Ms. Ricardo stated she wanted justice for Fernando and other kids who have lost their lives, asked to close Recreation Park, for help with the youth and a better judicial system. CP Anderson and CM Escobar also suggested to have a conversation with the Board of Education. Carmen Diaz, mother of Fernando stated the community needs to come together and help in finding programs for the youth, so they won't lose their lives, she also mentioned her son was involved in programs and sports and wants justice for him. Ashley of New Brunswick mentioned the murder of Brando was given a sentence of 18 years, asking to make the state laws stronger for murders. CM Gaskins and CM Escobar explained that the guidelines and state laws in place are outside of the Council's control. A resident spoke in reference to who Fernando Diaz was, she stated he was an employee of the city, working with Youth Services System, NB Tomorrow, Cool Kids and worked with Deputy Chief Bobadilla as a Captain (for soccer). The resident also mentioned Fernando was killed by the same hands he would try to help and that unfortunately it is easier to find a gun than finding bread. Teresa Vivar, Director of Las Americas Unidas, asked the Council when will everyone meet together with the police for the youth, that people used to feel together and must come together, as it is everyone's responsibility and the police department can not handle this by themselves. Ms. Vivar said the civic engagement has been lost, as well as communications, that the population needs a safe place, not more jails or death penalties and that she sees more and more dispensaries, bars and abandoned police vehicles. Ms. Vivar asked everyone to work together to make a change in the community. Damaris Sanchez mentioned her son and Fernando were friends, played soccer together and now her son is depressed because of the passing of Fernando, she urged the council for more programs and funding for the youth, that it's not fair, one day taking Fernando to practice and the next his life was taken away by another person. Karla Sanchez, a student of New Brunswick schools, mentioned there are at least 3 dispensaries within a mile radius of her school, the concern for ICE and that Fernando was a peer leader, who in a recent story was mentioned for turning someone's life around. Miss Sanchez also mentioned there is a lack of art programs, music programs, sports centers and the need for instruments. Erick Spear, of Jamesburg inquired on the ARRIVE program, spoke on mental health needs and pending litigation. City Administrator Drulis and City Attorney Shamy responded. Sila, a Rutgers student spoke of homeless individuals and addicts, mentioned there is more police presence on Rutgers Campus opposed to the rest of the city. Mr. Kratovil said Rest in Peace to Fernando Diaz, thanked everyone including Ms. Vivar on speaking and asked that everyone work together, inquired on the shooting of Mr. Diaz and the resolution in support of the Immigration Trust Act. April Nicklaus stated there is a lot of pain and anger, hearing someone suggesting the death penalty, saying it is the cycle of violence, spoke about the death of Deborah Terrell and urged the council to take recommendations. Carlos Ramirez inquired on the number of cameras throughout the city, suggested more police presence, mobile access and cameras with night vision-PA System, thermal cameras and said money should go to other resources and the youth not all the buildings. Mr. Ramirez also suggested tv's and remote meetings. CM Escobar responded saying everyone needs to work together, not to blame one or another, that communication is a challenge with the community but stated there are reliable organizations available, that some issues can be addressed and others the council can only advise. CM gave her condolences for Fernando Diaz and said there are many programs available for students, that New Brunswick students are the best and the situation hurts and touches the council hearts. CM Escobar mentioned the council is involved within the community. CP Anderson stated it does take a village and we need to work together.
On a motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Leslie R. Zeledón
City Clerk

John Anderson
Council President