

**CITY OF IQALUIT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #13  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Solomon Awa  
Alternate Deputy Mayor Harry Flaherty  
Councillor Amber Aglukark  
Councillor Methusalah Kunuk  
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson

**ABSENT**

Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith  
Councillor Simon Nattaq  
Councillor Kyle Sheppard  
Councillor Samuel Tilley

**PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer  
Brianna Longworth, City Clerk  
Katrina Sarmiento, Deputy City Clerk  
Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and Planning  
Mathew Dodds, Director of Planning and Development  
Geoff Byrne, Communications and Customer Service Manager

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Awa opened the meeting at 5:59 p.m. with a moment of silence.

**SWEARING IN**

None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion #25-203**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty  
Seconded by: Councillor Kunuk

Adoption of agenda as presented.

**Unanimously Carried**

1. **MINUTES**

a) **City Council Meeting #12 Minutes dated September 9, 2025**

**Motion #25-204**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Aglukark

City Council Meeting #12 Minutes dated September 9, 2025.

**Unanimously Carried**

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

3. **DELEGATIONS**

a) **Iqaluit RCMP Detachment Monthly Report – July 2025**

Acting Detachment Commander/Sergeant Vlatko Nikolovski, Iqaluit RCMP, was in attendance and presented the July 2025 Monthly Report. Several councillors thanked the RCMP for their work in the community relating to drug seizures and public intoxication.

Councillor Aglukark asked the following questions, which Sergeant Nikolovski answered:

- What are the frequency and time of day when foot and ATV patrols and check stops are carried out?
  - Patrols are conducted for limited hours in the evening between 6:00 p.m. to midnight to cover the busy time of the day
  - Time frames for patrols will be provided in future reports
- Will additional patrols and check stops be carried out during the fall, as public intoxication continues to be an issue in the community?
  - Members will be encouraged to conduct check stops and patrol high risk areas during the fall

Councillor Stevenson suggested that Sergeant Nikolovski be invited to stay for the agenda item under New Business relating to the Beer and Wine Store – Public Drinking and Intoxication.

Mayor Awa asked the following question, which Sergeant Nikolovski answered:

- Can the RCMP Statistics Report include public drinking and intoxication charges?
  - Statistics Report is a standard report used by all divisions and any changes requires approval
  - Information on specific charges can be provided outside of the report

4. **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

None

5. **STATEMENTS**

Councillor Aglukark recognized the importance of September, as September 30<sup>th</sup> marks the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. She noted that this day was dedicated to honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, to stand with survivors, and to acknowledge the ongoing impact the institutions had on Inuit, First Nations and Métis people.

Councillor Aglukark went on to say that in Nunavut, the truths are deeply personal and are part of the lived experience of many families and community members. She spoke about the weight that history carries and the responsibility to listen, learn and support healing. She stated that reconciliation was not only remembering the past, but also about shaping the future for generations to ensure they grow up in a community where truth was spoken, healing was supported and culture celebrated.

Councillor Aglukark pointed out that the story of Inuit is one of resilience, strength and survival in the face of immense challenges. She noted that communities continue to carry forward the knowledge, values and traditions that have sustained Inuit for generations, while navigating the lasting impacts of historical harm. She spoke about the importance for all Nunavummiut to take the time to learn about history, residential schools, forced relocations, dog slaughter, and to seek understanding of how they continue to affect Inuit families today. She noted that awareness was not about dwelling on the past, but about honouring truth, respecting survivors, and together, building a foundation for a healthier future.

Councillor Aglukark commented that education and understanding were acts of reconciliation. She stated that through listening, learning and walking along side one another, Nunavummiut could support healing, strengthen communities and ensure Inuit resilience continues.

Councillor Aglukark encouraged all Nunavummiut to participate in community events and wear orange to honour survivors and remember the children. She went on to encourage everyone to take time to listen and learn from survivor stories with respect and compassion, support healing initiatives, cultural revitalization and organizations that walk along side survivors and their families. She spoke about the importance of continuing conversations about truth and reconciliation in homes, schools and workplaces.

Councillor Aglukark pointed out that reconciliation could not be confined to a single day, but that it was the ongoing work to respect one another and honour the resilience of Inuit. She noted that during September, and on September 30<sup>th</sup> and throughout the year, we must remember the children, support those who are healing, and commit to building a future grounded in truth, respect and hope.

Councillor Stevenson expressed his appreciation regarding the Public Service Announcement regarding taxi vouchers and amplifying the message for the taxi industry.

Councillor Stevenson noted that the Public Service Announcement did not clearly state when the old taxi vouchers would no longer be accepted. He indicated that residents should not be responsible for exchanging old taxi vouchers for new ones, and that large groups that issue taxi vouchers should exchange the old vouchers for new vouchers and pay fair market for those new taxi vouchers.

Councillor Stevenson expressed his concern that elders were told that they could not use the taxi vouchers, even though the elder fare was less than the fare and should have been accepted. He pointed out that taxi vouchers have been paid for and should be considered and treated as cash.

Councillor Stevenson spoke about the importance of the taxi industry, as it provides an essential service, however, expressed concern regarding the inhospitable policy regarding taxi vouchers and that it was not acceptable.

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty mentioned a CBC Radio story which indicated that elected councillors should be more vocal. He also spoke about Inuit owned lands, where community members go berry picking, that was full of trash. Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty pointed out that the healing centre being constructed in Apex has trash on the land past the lot. He felt that construction should be better monitored.

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty thanked staff and community members for the community clean up in June. He noted that unfortunately, the land was back to looking like it did before the clean up. He suggested that if there was a by-law regarding trash, it should be enforced.

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that the City had eight casual employees collecting litter during the summer months. He noted that since the litter collection had stopped, there was an increased amount of litter.

Mr. England explained that the Unsightly Land By-law was applied and encouraged residents to contact staff regarding unsightly properties. He noted that in the last couple of weeks, staff have been enforcing the Unsightly Land By-law.

Mr. England indicated that staff want to initiate a conversation with Council and the community regarding additional items that could be carried out with the business community and residents to keep the community clean throughout the year.

Mayor Awa spoke about the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), who urge the federal government to make announcements for funding for Arctic communities. He noted that whenever he has the opportunity, he speaks about Arctic communities, traditions, and the unique challenges and needs so that Arctic communities can also benefit from funding.

Mayor Awa agreed that councillors need to be more vocal in the community regarding what was being done. He noted that working together was best for the community and Inuit have always worked together.

6. **DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS**

None

7. **BY-LAWS**

a) **First Reading of By-law(s)**

- i.) By-law No. 1022, Land Acquisition By-law for Lot 10, Group 1087, Plan 1221

**Motion #25-205**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Kunuk

Council approves First Reading of By-law No. 1022, Land Acquisition By-law for Lot 10, Group 1087, Plan 1221.

**Unanimously Carried**

- ii.) By-law No. 1023, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 4, Block 246, Plan 4967

**Motion #25-206**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Kunuk

Council approves First Reading of By-law No. 1023, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 4, Block 246, Plan 4967.

**Unanimously Carried**

- iii.) By-law No. 1024, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 2, Block 11, Plan 1986

**Motion #25-207**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Kunuk

Council approves First Reading of By-law No. 1024, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 2, Block 11, Plan 1986.

**For – Aglukark, Flaherty, Kunuk  
Opposed – Stevenson  
Carried**

**b) Second Reading of By-law(s)**

- i.) By-law No. 1022, Land Acquisition By-law for Lot 10, Group 1087, Plan 1221

**Motion #25-208**

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson  
Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 1022, Land Acquisition By-law for Lot 10, Group 1087, Plan 1221.

**Unanimously Carried**

- ii.) By-law No. 1023, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 4, Block 246, Plan 4967

**Motion #25-209**

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson  
Seconded by: Councillor Aglukark

Council approves Second Reading of By-law No. 1023, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 4, Block 246, Plan 4967.

**Unanimously Carried**

- iii.) By-law No. 1024, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 2, Block 11, Plan 1986

**Motion #25-210**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty  
Seconded by: Councillor Aglukark

Council approves Second Reading of Reading of By-law No. 1024, Land Disposal By-law for Lot 2, Block 11, Plan 1986.

**For – Aglukark, Flaherty, Kunuk  
Opposed – Stevenson  
Carried**

Councillor Stevenson made the following comment, to which Mathew Dodds, Director of Planning and Development replied:

- Noted that the last time this item came before Council, he inquired about interactions between the City and neighbours in Apex, who requested that the lot be protected as a right-of-way to the water
  - Explained that staff conducted community engagement with residents in Apex and at the Elders' Qammaq to collect feedback
  - A Public Service Announcement was posted, and feedback was collected through e-mail and telephone calls
  - Feedback collected was positive for the development
  - In consultation with elders, a trail was identified that was farther down the same road
  - Elders living in Apex were asking how they accessed the fishing area and it was not through this lot but via an alternative route

**c) Third Reading of By-law(s)**

None

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Request for Decision – Rescind Temporary Car Wash Ban (Water Use Restrictions)**

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, extended a thank you to residents who continued to manage their water supply. He also thanked Public Works staff who have done a tremendous amount of work in the last few years to repair historical leaks in the utilidor system, as well as quickly detecting any new leaks in the aging infrastructure that have been repaired and/or replaced.

Bill Williams, Senior Executive Director of Municipal Infrastructure and Planning, presented a Request for Decision to Rescind the Temporary Car Wash Ban (Water Use Restrictions).

Mayor Awa asked the following question, which Mr. Williams answered:

- Will a time limit be issued when cars can be washed to avoid having water freeze on the road creating slippery conditions?
  - Staff do not have a recommendation on a time limit for car washing
  - Staff would like to have the ability to reinstate the car washing ban if the water levels change in Lake Geraldine
  - Pumping program to top up Lake Geraldine was not required to be used this year

Councillor Kunuk asked the following question, which Mr. Williams answered:

- Can cars be washed using the water in creeks?
  - Spoke about residents using City water to wash cars
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans would be able to comment on using water from creeks for car washing

**Motion #25-211**

Moved by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Seconded by: Councillor Aglukark

Council approves rescinding the car wash ban effective immediately as follows:

1. Direct Administration to issue a Public Service Announcement (PSA) within seven days.
2. Continue weekly monitoring and reporting.
3. Maintain delegated authority to reintroduce restrictions, if necessary.

**Unanimously Carried**

**b) Discussion Item – Beer and Wine Store/Public Drinking and Intoxication  
- Verbal**

Councillor Kunuk made the following comments:

- People have been expressing concerns about alcohol consumption
- Delegation came before Council a while ago regarding the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store
- There has been an increase in alcohol consumption, since the opening of the beer and wine store.
- Bootlegging is happening as people from other communities are purchasing alcohol from the beer and wine store and taking it back to their community to sell
- Alcohol consumption is worrisome
- Rankin Inlet has a limit on the amount of alcohol that can be purchased
- Inquired as to whether Iqaluit could also have an alcohol purchase limit

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty made the following comments:

- Last year, a discussion was held regarding this matter, but there has been no change.
- Public drinking has increased
- In southern communities, alcohol is confiscated from anyone who is drinking in the public. This does not happen in Iqaluit.
- Government of Nunavut or Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission has to educate the public regarding public drinking and if caught with open alcohol, it will be confiscated
- The agency responsible for public drinking is not doing anything.

- Council should write a letter to the government regarding public alcohol consumption to do something about it
- Perhaps a delegation can be invited to Council to discuss the matter
- In the RCMP Statistics Report, there are a number of calls/charges relating to alcohol consumption.
- People leave the beer and wine store and start drinking. They either congregate outside the store and drink or walk and drink.
- Education is needed regarding public drinking
- Since the opening of the beer and wine store, there have been no laws or public advertising prohibiting public alcohol consumption.
- Let's not discuss the matter again. Let's do something about it.

Councillor Stevenson made the following comments:

- Prior to the opening of the beer and wine store, there was public consultation, and people were opposed to the beer and wine store.
- During the plebiscite, there were enough people who voted in favour of the beer and wine store opening.
- Initially was in favour of the beer and wine store, but not any longer
- Beer and wine store is the source of alcohol problem in the city
- After the beer and wine store opened, Mayor Redfern convened a meeting with various Government of Nunavut departments and RCMP to discuss the issues that were arising from the store opening in order to find ways to mitigate the issues or close the beer and wine store.
  - At that time, there was not sufficient momentum to close the beer and wine store.
  - Perhaps now there would be support to close the beer and wine store.
- City could request the Government of Nunavut to close the beer and wine store

Mayor Awa made the following comments:

- The City can request the Government of Nunavut to do something, as suggested already by councillors.

Councillor Kunuk made the following comments:

- Proposed that a letter be written to the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission requesting to reduce the amount of alcohol that can be purchased at the beer and wine store
- Purchaser must provide identification and liquor laws from their community must be followed
  - For instance, if a potential purchaser is from a dry community, they would not be able to purchase alcohol.
- If action is not taken, there will be no change to the current situation.
- Understands that there are many people who can drink responsibly
- Inuit ways are very different
- Find a way to discourage people from consuming alcohol in public

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Councillors have agreed that public drinking has become an issue since the opening of the beer and wine store
- Consideration must be given to the safety of the residents, families and children
- Residents continue to see the effects of alcohol abuse outside of their homes
- Have heard and read community members opinions on both sides of the issue
- Closing the beer and wine store will only increase bootlegging in the community
- There are pros and cons in closing the beer and wine store versus increased bootlegging.
- Council is in the position to influence decisions and how to tackle the issue of public drinking in an educated way
- This issue is constantly harming the community.
- Iqaluit sets an example for the rest of the territory and future leaders
- Felt it will take several meetings to discuss this matter and find a solution that will be accepted by everyone
- Taking away the beer and wine store will have a huge impact on the community  
People have been relying on the beer and wine store in an unhealthy way for many years
- Consideration must also be given to how any changes will affect many community members who believe alcohol consumption is a way of life
- It is important to meet with various government agencies to discuss this matter as reducing alcohol consumption will have an effect on something else, both negatively and positively.
- Any decision must be impactful, and Council must adhere to the decision they make.
- There are fears in the community that children out playing or going to school may encounter an intoxicated individual or group.
- Public intoxication is a big issue
- Intoxication is happening during the day as soon as the beer and wine store opens
- Influences and systems must be built jointly with other organizations in the community so there is a safe way to navigate and deal with intoxication
- It will take many meetings and discussion to jointly find a solution to public drinking and intoxication.
- Crime has increased in the community and is beyond what the community can manage
- Leaders of the community must get to the root cause to help influence decision makers
- Take time to find a solution that will be long-term and not make a short-term solution that creates another problem

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer, made the following comments:

- Can issue letters again to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, and RCMP regarding public drinking and intoxication
- Made the following suggestions:

- Governance and Priorities Committee can make recommendations regarding the *Nunavut Liquor Act*, that may provide Council some authority regarding closure
  - Currently, legislation is total closure, which is not healthy for a community and does not provide Council with any tools for immediate action
- Pass a motion that provides direction to Administration to start working with the RCMP and Deputy Ministers of Finance and Justice
  - Motions of Council helps when speaking with territorial ministers
- A meeting is scheduled tomorrow morning with Sergeant Vlatko Nikolovski to develop a course of action
- RCMP scope in the community is valuable and tasking them with another area of concern will have a domino affect in other areas
- Hold the owner of the beer and wine store accountable, which is the Government of Nunavut
  - There is no support for individuals with addiction problems.
  - There are no extra resources given to the RCMP to carry out enforcement.
- If this was a business that created problems, Council would have taken action already.
- Making this an election issue during the territorial election by issuing letters and talking about it with residents
- Following the territorial election, hold a meeting to discuss accountability
- There is an ally with Rankin Inlet, as they are going through similar issues regarding public drinking and intoxication. Perhaps both communities can work together on strategies.
- Everyone in the city has been affected by public drinking and intoxication and the community tolerance is becoming less and less

Councillor Kunuk made the following comments:

- Asked for comments from Sergeant Vlatko Nikolovski

Sergeant Vlatko Nikolovski made the following comments:

- Agrees with the problems being discussed
- Alcohol is a huge problem for the community
- It is happening every day, except for Sunday and Monday, when the beer and wine store is closed.
- RCMP are trying hard to fight the public drinking and intoxication, but are fighting alone
- Combining partner agencies to meet and find ways to successfully approach alcohol consumption to reduce the harm of liquor in the community
- Agrees it is important to start with the root cause, which is not just the beer and wine store, but having treatment programs for long-term solutions and not just an immediate band-aid to the problem
- Is willing to work with the City and any other agencies to find ways to approach the problem

Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty made the following comments:

- There are two issues
  - Beer and wine store
  - Bootleggers
- Initial comments were more focussed on the beer and wine store becoming more regulated
- Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission have authority to penalize the beer and wine store
  - Board members have never visited the beer and wine store when it opened
  - Board members live in other communities
- Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission report on the money made each year
  - They do not talk about the issues from public drinking and intoxication.
- All agencies must work together to find a solution
- Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission must provide regulations that the public must adhere to

Mayor Awa made the following comments:

- A letter must be drafted and sent to the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. England made the following comments:

- Motion to support that a letter be sent to Government of Nunavut - Minister of Justice and Minister of Finance
- Public letter to share through Public Service Announcement (PSA) avenues
- Governance and Proprieties Committee to review the *Nunavut Liquor Act* and suggest changes to Council to be forwarded to the Government of Nunavut
- Motion to direct Administration to meet with Deputy Ministers of Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Justice and Department of Finance
- Continue to work with RCMP
- Report back to Council

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Suggested key community members be involved in discussions
- Connections with organizations and community to have a full insight

**Motion #25-212**

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Councillor Aglukark

Council directs Administration to:

1. Send letters to the Government of Nunavut - Minister of Justice and Minister of Finance.
2. Share a public letter through Public Service Announcement (PSA) avenues.
3. Include on the Governance and Priorities Committee agenda, a review of the *Nunavut Liquor Act* and suggest changes to Council to be forwarded to the Government of Nunavut.
4. Meet with Deputy Ministers of Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Justice and Department of Finance.
5. Continue to work with RCMP.
6. Report back to Council.

**Unanimously Carried**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Nunavut Research Institute – Scientific Research License Application – Murielle Pichoir, Department of Geography, University of Laval**

**Motion #25-213**

Moved by: Councillor Aglukark

Seconded by: Alternate Deputy Mayor Flaherty

Nunavut Research Institute – Application: “Emergence of Transshipment Hubs for Shipping through Arctic Routes: Dynamics and Perspective Analysis”, proposed to take place from January 2, 2026 to October 12, 2026, Murielle Pichoir, Department of Geography, University of Laval.

**Unanimously Carried**

**12. IN CAMERA SESSION**

( ) as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion #25-214**

Moved by: Councillor Aglukark

Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Council adjourns at 7:25 p.m. **Unanimously Carried**



Mayor Solomon Awa  
Chair

Brianna Longworth  
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.