



**Recommendations from
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 9, 2025**

Hospitality Policy

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Muise, seconded by Councillor Jim Baxter to recommend to Regular Council that Hospitality Policy H-068-17 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.



Hospitality Policy H-068-17

Effective Date:
November 22, 2017

Part 1 Purpose

The Municipality of Yarmouth recognizes that hospitality related activities are, at times, necessary and legitimate expenses supporting the effective conduct of government business and for reasons of diplomacy, protocol, recognition, business development or promotional advocacy. The offering of hospitality will be done in such a manner so as to reflect the prudent stewardship of public funds.

Part 2 Hospitality

- 2.1 **“Hospitality”** means expenses incurred while hosting individuals from outside of municipal government and for municipal recognition purposes including receptions, ceremonies, conferences, business meetings, performances, or other group events. Allowable expenses may include meals, beverages or other approved items.

Part 3 Policy Objective

- 3.1 To provide direction and guidance to Council and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) with respect to the appropriate expensing of necessary hospitality expenses that support government’s objectives.
- 3.2 To ensure hospitality is offered in an accountable, economical and consistent manner in the facilitation of government business and/or for reasons of diplomacy, protocol, recognition, business development or promotional advocacy.
- 3.3 To ensure taxpayers’ dollars are used prudently and responsibly with a focus on accountability and transparency.

Part 4 Application

- 4.1 This policy applies to Councillors and employees who incur approved hospitality expenses while conducting government business.

Part 5 Policy Directives

- 5.1 Hospitality may be offered under the following circumstances:
 - 5.1.1 hosting dignitaries;



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- 5.1.2 engaging in official public matters with representatives from other governments, business, industry/labour leaders, or other community leaders;
- 5.1.3 sponsoring conferences;
- 5.1.4 hosting prestigious ceremonies/recognition events; or
- 5.1.5 other official functions, as approved by the Council or the CAO.

Part 6 Authorization

- 6.1 All hospitality events require prior authorization. Council shall review, and may approve, requests from individual Councillors, the Warden and CAO. The CAO shall review, and may approve, requests from staff. The "*Request and Approval to Incur Hospitality Event Expenses*" Form (Appendix A) must be submitted to the CAO's office, for approval in the case of staff, for adding to Council agenda in the case of Councillors.
- 6.2 Information contained on this form includes but is not limited to:
 - 6.2.1 rationale/purpose of the event;
 - 6.2.2 estimated numbers of attendees and their respective affiliations; and
 - 6.2.3 estimated itemized costs including gratuities and supplementation expense where possible.

Part 7 Business Meetings

- 7.1 Under this policy, the Warden and CAO will have the authority to expense business expenses in a municipally beneficial prudent manner. From time to time Department Heads, Deputy Warden or other Councillors may also be approved by the CAO or Council. The claim for reimbursement or payment must be accompanied by itemized receipts.

Part 8 Serving of Alcohol Products

- 8.1 While the standard for hospitality is the provision of non-alcoholic beverages, the provision of alcoholic beverages only in the context of hospitality for reasons of diplomacy, protocol, recognition, business development or promotional advocacy



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is deemed an acceptable expense in limited circumstances. Any request for approval to serve alcohol at a hospitality event or business meeting must have approval by Council or CAO. Employees are expected to act responsibly in the use of public funds and in the care and well-being of themselves, other employees and their respective guests with respect to the serving of alcohol. Authorized officials will demonstrate good judgment in the reasonableness of the quantity and expense of alcoholic beverages offered to guests, and food must be served. Preferences will be given to alcoholic beverages produced in the Municipality of Yarmouth and/or Nova Scotia.

- 8.2 When a situation arises and discretion needs to be exercised, the CAO or designate should consider whether the request is:
- 8.2.1 Able to stand up to scrutiny by auditors and members of the public;
 - 8.2.2 properly explained and documented,
 - 8.2.3 fair and equitable,
 - 8.2.4 reasonable, and
 - 8.2.5 appropriate.

Part 9 Policy Review

- 9.1 No later than January 31st following an election year, Council shall formally review this policy by way of motion, to ensure that the contents of the policy are in accordance with provincial legislation and best practices.



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Chief Administrative Officer's Annotation for Official Policy Book	
Date of Notice to Council members of Intent to Consider (7 days Min)	
Date of Passage of current Policy	
I certify that this Hospitality Policy H-068-17 was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 10px;"> _____ _____ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> Chief Administrative Officer Date </div>	

Date last reviewed by Council:
Date last amended:

Amendment Log

Date	Amendment Description
January 13, 2022	Part 6 updated to reflect that request from Council is reviewed for approval by the Warden and request from staff is reviewed for approval by the CAO.
January 9, 2025	No amendments.



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**Appendix "A"
Request and Approval to Incur Hospitality Expenses**

All hospitality-related expenses require prior authorization whenever possible. All hospitality expenses incurred must be supported by itemized receipts. Refer to the Hospitality Policy for further information.

Event description

Employee/Councilor requesting expense	
Type of event	
Location	
Date of event	
Purpose of event	

Estimated Hospitality Expense Details

Estimated number of attendees	
Meals and non-alcoholic beverages (including gratuities)	
Alcoholic beverages	
Meeting space	
Gift costs	
Other expenses (provide details)	

Employee/Councilor signature

Date

Approved By

Date



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DRAFT