



Minutes

Operations Committee

September 21, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Marion Koepke
Member Roger Bloom
Member Mike Crone
Member Robert Droine
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Carol Merton
Member Meghan Robertson

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Edward Marchewka

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Paul McGrath, Manager of Community & Business Development
Ashley Ford, Water and Wastewater Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Vice Chair Koepke Re: 10th Street Traffic Lights

2.b Chair Greig Re: Hoarding Units Downtown

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on July 20, 2023

OP-230921-001

Moved by Vice Chair Koepke

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on July 20, 2023."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Deputation from Jennifer Miller Re: REACH Centre Grey Bruce and Transit Fare Reductions

Jennifer Miller, Executive Director of Reach Centre Grey Bruce, provided a summary of previous deputations, which included a request for transit fare reductions from \$70.00 to \$55.00 to users with disabilities, in particular those receiving Ontario Disability Support Program/Ontario Works (ODSP and OW).

Staff confirmed that a Transit Fare Review is coming back to the Operations Committee in the Spring of 2024.

OP-230921-002

Moved by Member Merton

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Jennifer Miller respecting REACH Centre Grey Bruce and Transit Fare Reductions provided on September 21, 2023, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Approve the fare reduction for the adult pass from \$70.00 to \$55.00 with proof of Ontario Disability Support Program/Ontario Works (ODSP/OW);**
- 2. Direct staff to report back to the Operations Committee with the impact of this reduction at the time of the 2024 Transit Fare Review; and**
- 3. Implement the new fee structure after it has been approved by Council."**

Carried.

5.b Deputation from Resident S. Wylie Re: 7th Avenue East Traffic Concerns

Ms. Wylie could not attend the meeting. This item was deferred to the October 19, 2023, Operations Committee meeting.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Engineering

None.

8.b Environment

8.b.1 Report CM-23-014 from Manager of Community & Business Development
Re: Use of Hydrogen in City Vehicles

The Manager of Community & Business Development provided an overview of the report.

The Committee requested that staff inquire, as new fleet are being purchased, if hydrogen could be applied to this equipment. Staff confirmed that with the next budget deliberations, they could include information on equipment units that would be viable candidates for hydrogen upgrades.

OP-230921-003

Moved by Member Robertson

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-23-014 respecting the Use of Hydrogen in City Vehicles, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Wait to adopt hydrogen in the use of large City vehicles to align with the creation of a distribution station in this region;**
- 2. Provide a letter of support to Hydrogen Optimized for the development of a hydrogen distribution station at their Owen Sound location;**
- 3. Direct staff to continue to explore hydrogen conversion kits that can work with City equipment and vehicles;**
- 4. Direct staff to research and recommend provincial and federal grants to offset the cost of equipment conversions; and**
- 5. Direct staff to share this report with the Operations Directors or Leads in the municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties**

to encourage them to inquire into hydrogen fuel in municipal vehicles and share in the hydrogen fuel costs."

Carried.

8.b.2 Memo from Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Compost Site Update

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the memo.

OP-230921-004

Moved by Vice Chair Koepke

"THAT in consideration of the memo dated September 21, 2023 respecting the Compost Site Update for the Operations Committee, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the memo for information purposes."

Carried.

8.c General

8.c.1 Report OP-23-037 from Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Strategic Plan Key Results Status - Operations Committee

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

OP-230921-005

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-23-037 respecting the Strategic Plan Key Result Progress Report Q3 2023 for the Operations Committee, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.d Public Works

8.d.1 Report OP-23-038 from Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Winter Maintenance of Non-Linear Assets

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

Ms. Widdifield pointed out that with this suggested transition, there will be an impact on the timing, for example, the lots would be cleared consecutively, not concurrently.

The Committee requested a communication rollout to the public with these changes. Staff confirmed there would be frequent communication with the public and staff will be monitoring these changes closely.

OP-230921-006

Moved by Member Robertson

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-23-038 respecting Winter Maintenance of Non-linear Assets, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council support the in-sourcing of the winter maintenance of several City facility parking lots, bus stops, and fire hydrants by:

- 1. Directing staff to proceed with the recruitment of:**
 - a. two (2) additional Public Works full-time winter season contract positions; and**
 - b. one (1) additional Parks Operations full-time permanent position;**
- 2. Approving the elimination of one (1) Parks Operations seasonal position; and**
- 3. Directing staff to proceed with the purchase of a front-mounted plow blade and sanding equipment for a pickup truck unit, at an approximate cost of \$15,000, to be funded from the Capital Reserve."**

Carried.

8.e Transit

None.

8.f Water and Wastewater

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a 10th Street Traffic Lights

Councillor Koepke inquired about the timing of the traffic lights on 10th street. The Manager of Engineering Services explained that they are aware of the issue with the lights being unsynchronized and they are in the process of collecting data so that the contractor can recalibrate the lights appropriately.

Mr. Webb noted that there is only so much they can do as they are limited by not having dedicated turn lanes due to a lack of space in the roadway.

12.b Hoarding Units Downtown

Chair Greig asked about the timing and costs associated with hoarding units in the downtown.

The Manager of Engineering Services explained that all work done inside the building is subject to a building permit through the City of Owen Sound Building Department. A street occupation permit is only issued to a contractor and valid for up to 6 months if an open building permit is included and a small fee is included. Extending the street occupation permit is possible if the building permit is still active. The Chief Building Official can revoke the permit if there is no activity for six months, but if there is evidence of activity, the Engineering Department is still able to extend the street occupation permit.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.