



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

January 7, 2022

1:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary (via video)
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Scott Greig (via video)
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke (via video)
Councillor Carol Merton (via video)
Councillor John Tamming (via video)
Councillor Richard Thomas (via video)

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services (via video)
Dennis Kefalas, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services (via video)
Rick Chappell, Supervisor of Environmental Services (via video)
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Jamie Eckenswiller, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and advised that the Council meeting was being conducted using electronic means due to the recent rise in cases of COVID-19.

Mayor Boddy added that Councillor Dodd, Councillor Hamley, the City Manager, Director of Public Works and Engineering, City Clerk, and Deputy Clerk were physically present in the Council Chambers and that public health guidelines were being followed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-220107-001

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider deputations, presentations, and reports of City staff respecting transit."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.a Deputation from Dennis Fletcher, Dennis Fletcher and Associates Re:
Owen Sound Route Optimization Study

Dennis Fletcher of Dennis Fletcher and Associates provided a deputation on the Owen Sound Transit Route Optimization Study. Mr. Fletcher provided an overview of the transit study, noting that the study assessed items such as routes and schedules; accessibility; fares; and growth management, cost, and monitoring.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the transit study commenced in May 2021 and concluded in October 2021 with presentations to the Operations Committee.

The Manager of Engineering Services joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fletcher advised that the transit study began with robust stakeholder engagement by inviting key community stakeholders to participate in two rounds of engagement that focused on discovery and guiding principles.

Mr. Fletcher noted that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on transit by creating uncertainty and reducing ridership and revenue.

Mr. Fletcher provided an overview of fixed route options designed to improve the existing system and add new areas of service. Mr. Fletcher noted that options one and two operate on the same network with a base level of 40-minute service. Option one, however, operates with an additional bus on the route that services the majority of transit riders. This in turn increases the service level of the route in option one to 20-minute service.

Mr. Fletcher provided an overview of fixed route option performance summary, highlighting the costs for the various existing and potential transit options. Mr. Fletcher noted that the transit study also investigated the option for on-demand service where users could book a trip using an app or call center to book a trip anywhere from days in advance, or minutes.

Mr. Fletcher highlighted potential incremental expansions of service to include evening and weekend service. Future growth in the City may require services to be further expanded depending on where in the City the growth occurs.

Mr. Fletcher noted that the final portion of the study investigated each of the supporting elements of the service such as fares, facilities, technology, and fleet.

Lastly, Mr. Fletcher highlighted financial requirements for transitioning to an electric vehicle fleet and summarized the current and proposed annual operating costs for service.

Responding to questions of Council, Mr. Fletcher advised that:

- the transit study investigated some funding options associated with the potential of a City-owned fleet;
- on-demand transit can be operated through door-to-door and bus stop-to-bus stop pick-ups;
- the study did not investigate expanding mobility transit to seniors; and
- Owen Sound's transit use does not have the clearly defined peaks in ridership in the morning or evening that can be seen in other transit services.

S-220107-002

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT inconsideration of a presentation provided January 7, 2022 by Dennis Fletcher of Dennis Fletcher and Associates respecting Owen

Sound Route Optimization Study, City Council receives the presentation for information purposes."

Carried.

5. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

5.a Report OP-22-002 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Transit Service Options

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report noting that the recommendation is to obtain costing information which will then be provided to Council for consideration. Mr. Kefalas also confirmed that Council would not be obligated to execute an agreement following the RFP process as it will be non-binding.

City Council expressed interest in investigating options for on-demand transit service.

City Council advised that they have no interest in expanding transit service into Georgian Bluffs or to Harrison Park.

Mayor Boddy left the Council Chambers at this time. Councillor Dodd took the Chair.

City Council expressed concerns with the desire to offer transit while attempting to keep the tax burden for the service low.

Mayor Boddy returned to the Council Chambers and reclaimed the Chair.

S-220107-003

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-22-002 respecting Transit Service Options, City Council directs staff to seek pricing for the following transit service options as part of the request for proposal process:

- 1. Up to 16,500 hours of service annually based on the recommended option from the recently completed transit study;**
- 2. 13,500 hours of service annually based on the status quo in terms of service delivery;**
- 3. 7,500 hours of service annually based on a one-hour service delivery model;**
- 4. On-demand service pricing components (including ride-share); and**
- 5. 9,500 hours of service annually based on one hour service until 9:00 p.m."**

Carried.

6. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

S-220107-004

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report."

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

7. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-220107-005

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering deputations and presentations, and reports of City staff be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

8. BY-LAWS

8.a By-law No. 2022-001

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 7th day of January, 2022"

S-220107-006

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT By-law Number 2022-001 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk