



**Minutes**

**Owen Sound City Council**

**March 13, 2023**

**City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

**5:30 p.m. - Open Session - Council Chambers**

**No Closed Session**

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Ian Boddy  
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig  
Councillor Travis Dodd  
Councillor Jon Farmer  
Councillor Brock Hamley  
Councillor Marion Koepke  
Councillor Suneet Kukreja  
Councillor Carol Merton  
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager  
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering  
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services  
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk  
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator, TTAG

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

2.a Councillor Dodd Re: Awards

2.b Councillor Farmer Re: Homelessness Response Tool-Kit and Housing Solutions  
Community Discussion

2.c Deputy Mayor Greig Re: Alpha Street Reconstruction Public Engagement  
Session

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.a Councillor Hamley - Report CR-23-024 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: 2023 Allocation of Provincial Gas Tax (Public Transit)

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with Item 11.a due to his  
personal employment with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

3.b Councillor Hamley - Report CR-23-025 from the Director of Corporate Services  
Re: 2023 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with Item 11.b due to his  
personal employment with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES**

4.a Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 27, 2023

R-230313-001

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 27, 2023 be adopted as printed."**

Carried.

**5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

R-230313-002

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business."**

Carried.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**6. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

There were no public meetings.

**7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

7.a Deputation from Sarah Pelton, Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Coordinator, Bruce County Re: Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

Sarah Pelton, Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Coordinator with Bruce County provided a deputation to Council respecting the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWBP) and its overall goal to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging and opportunities to participate, and where everyone can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, and social and cultural expression. The eventual impact of this is a decrease in crime across the region. Ms. Pelton explained that this approach focuses on protecting against risk factors that make people vulnerable to crime and victimization. The CSWBP Advisory Committee is working collaboratively to identify duplications and gaps in service delivery, leverage strong working relationships between agencies and across sectors, and use data to track the impact of their work and to inform their community decisions. One of the ultimate goals is to decrease the need for acute incident responses, such as emergency department visits and police service calls, which are reactive and costly. The CSWBP focuses on strategies for risk intervention, prevention, and social development.

Ms. Pelton detailed the governance model for the CSWBP and noted that over 70 partners participated in this process and serve on the Advisory Committee, including police services, police service boards, Grey and Bruce Counties, member municipalities, health, education, and community services agencies, as well as other community agencies. Under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, all municipalities were required to develop and adopt a CSWBP by July 2021.

Ms. Pelton advised that when issues are referred to the Advisory Committee, they are creating a framework for addressing them by referring the issue to an appropriate action table or community agency that may already be working in that space, leveraging existing work that is happening in the community, or addressing needs through awareness, advocacy, support, or additional research as needed. The Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy is the action table for addictions and substance use, the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is the action table for poverty and income, the Homelessness Response Table is the action table for housing and homelessness, the Mental Health Action Table is in development, and the Crime Prevention Action Table just met for the first time in February and is bringing together community agencies, police services, and members of the public.

Ms. Pelton explained that the Advisory Committee is in the process of creating an organizational assessment tool which will help organizations identify and promote protective factors to help mitigate risks. This could include items such as policies offering subsidized recreational programming to low income families, or an investment in a physician recruitment program to ensure everyone has access to primary health care.

Ms. Pelton advised that a Situation Table is a risk intervention model that was restarted in Grey and Bruce Counties in mid-2021 under the purview of the CSWBP. There are representatives from over 20 community agencies that meet weekly to present a high risk situation for discussion, determine appropriate supports for intervention, and respond within 48 hours. This process does not take the place of ongoing case management and long-term support, but is designed to avert a crisis. There were 27 situations presented to the Situation Table in 2022 and so far in 2023, there have been four. The expertise of those at the table is used to determine if the situation meets the criteria for acutely elevated risk (AER). This means that chronic conditions have accumulated to the point of crisis or new circumstances have increased the risk of harm or victimization, and one agency does not have the resources alone to respond to the problem. Ms. Pelton noted that determining AER is a judgement call, so the group votes to determine if the issue meets that criteria, and then agencies work together to address the issue and the immediate needs. This model depends on trust, collaboration, and strong working relationships between all agencies at the table. The top three services mobilized in situations in 2022 were related to housing, addiction, and mental health supports.

Ms. Pelton noted that in the last year, the Advisory Committee focused efforts on branding, building a new website, creating social media templates, and a one-page short summary of their goals and activities. With these tools, the Advisory Committee will continue to work towards educating the community about the relationship between upstream prevention and a decrease in crime and victimization.

Ms. Pelton advised that the key to a successful CSWBP is working together, using experience and expertise from different sectors to target root causes of complex issues, and collaborating to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive. They want to mitigate risk as much as possible, address needs before they require reactive responses, and continue to build strong communities where everyone feels a sense of safety and belonging.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Pelton noted that the Advisory Committee is not currently tracking how municipal partners have responded to the calls to action that the action tables have presented; however, this is information that they should be tracking and she will discuss this with the action table leads the next time that she meets with them.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Pelton advised that the Advisory Committee can look at sharing best practices for physician recruitment. It is

important to leverage the work that is already being done and work together as much as possible across Grey and Bruce Counties as opposed to working in silos.

## 8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- 8.a Brandon Downing, Owen Sound resident emailed the following question to the City Clerk prior to the meeting respecting the Waste Management Strategy:

Will the City's Waste Management Reduction Strategy consider backyard laying hens?

The City Manager advised that the Waste Management Strategy has not considered backyard laying hens because the City has By-law No. 1997-089, "A By-law to Prohibit the Keeping of Certain Kinds of Animals in the City of Owen Sound", which prohibits the keeping of domesticated fowl, so the City would be in contravention of its own by-law if Council did move forward with considering backyard laying hens.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

- 9.a Memo from the Deputy Clerk Re: River District 2023 Budget

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the River District budget process.

R-230313-003

Moved by Councillor Dodd

**"THAT in consideration of the memo dated March 9, 2023 from the Deputy Clerk respecting the River District 2023 budget, City Council approves the budget as presented."**

Carried.

## 10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 10.a Report CR-23-023 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Five-Year Capital Plan Update

The Manager of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to questions from Council, the Manager of Corporate Services advised that Council can provide comments and feedback on the projects contained within the multi-year capital plan at the budget meeting in July 2023. The software transformation project has \$1,000,000 in total needs over a five-year period, so this amount was divided between the five years to manage the workload of IT Division staff and the processes that will need to be implemented for the project. Mr. Carbert noted that \$100,000 of the 2023 asphalt program funding was allocated to the 2022 asphalt program and the concrete funding will be rolled into this program in the future under a road rehabilitation program, rather than strictly a road resurfacing program.

In response to a question from Council, the City Manager noted that staff intend to leave the environmental processing facility project in the multi-year capital plan until after Council has reviewed the Waste Management Strategy in May 2023 and the compost site business plan in September 2023. Following that, Council can make a decision with more fulsome information on the environmental processing facility. Mr. Simmonds confirmed that none of the funds allocated to this project in the multi-year capital plan will be spent until further direction is received from Council.

R-230313-004

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-023 respecting Multi-Year Capital Plan, City Council:**

- 1. Approves the multi-year capital plan; and**
- 2. Directs staff to bring forward a further update to the multi-year capital plan for subsequent approval in July 2023."**

Carried.

- 10.b Report CR-23-027 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Award of RFT-23-002 – Structure 9C Culvert Replacement

The Manager of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that there are some construction costs, such as mobilization, demobilization, and surface restoration that could be saved by completing the reconstruction of 6th Avenue West from 21st Street West to the northern road terminus with the culvert replacement; however, this portion of the project is very large and the cost would be too high to include with the culvert replacement.

R-230313-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-027 respecting Award of RFT-23-002, Structure 9C Culvert Replacement, City Council:**

- 1. Awards the above noted Tender to R.F. King Holdings, the lowest compliant bid received, for \$1,017,421.92, including all provisional items and the non-refundable allocation of HST; and**
- 2. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement."**

Carried.

- 10.c Report CR-23-029 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Award of RFT-23-001 – Downtown River Precinct Phase 2

The Manager of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services advised that the Kerr reserve are funds that were left to the City in an estate with instructions that the funds were to be used for a project along the City's harbour or waterfront. The Manager of Corporate Services noted that development charges would be ineligible to be used for this project.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that the lowest compliant bid received for the tender in 2022 was \$2,730,414.70, including \$250,000 for contingency and the non-refundable allocation HST. The lowest compliant bid received for this year's tender was \$2,728,724.11, including \$250,000 for contingency and the non-refundable allocation of HST. A number of items were either downgraded or reduced in quantity for this year's tender in the hopes of reducing costs. Ms. Widdifield noted that the cuts to the tender were offset by inflationary pressures.

In response to questions from Council, the Manager of Corporate Services advised that the approximate cost of the boardwalk is between \$600,000 and \$700,000, of which \$100,000 is currently funded through the Enabling

Accessibility Fund. The Director of Community Services noted that staff cannot approach the contractors and ask if they can reduce their price to a more affordable budget as this would be considered bid shopping, and that is not permitted.

R-230313-006d

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-029 respecting Award of RFT-23-001, Downtown River Precinct Phase 2, City Council:**

- 1. Awards the above noted Tender to E. C. King Contracting, the lowest compliant bid received, for \$2,728,724.11, including the non-refundable allocation of HST; and**
- 2. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Agreement."**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Deputy Mayor Greig requested a recorded vote:

	In Favour	Opposed
Councillor Dodd		X
Councillor Farmer	X	
Councillor Hamley		X
Councillor Koepke	X	
Councillor Kukreja		X
Councillor Merton		X
Councillor Middlebro'		X
Deputy Mayor Greig		X
Mayor Boddy		X

The resolution was defeated with seven (7) votes opposed and two (2) votes in favour.

In response to questions from Council, the Manager of Corporate Services advised that the funds for this project would be held in the capital budget until further direction is received from Council. The Director of Community Services noted that the Enabling Accessibility Fund grant would not be received as the construction completion deadline for the grant would not be met. Staff would also withdraw their application to the Rural Economic Development grant for the project.

R-230313-007

Moved by Councillor Dodd

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-029 respecting Award of RFT-23-001, Downtown River Precinct Phase 2, City Council directs staff to:**

- 1. Keep the Downtown River Precinct Phase 2 project in the multi-year capital plan; and**
- 2. Bring the project scope forward for review at a future budget meeting."**

Carried.

10.d Verbal Report from the Deputy Mayor Re: Grey County Council

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that he had nothing to report from Grey County Council.

R-230313-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided March 13, 2023 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

Having declared a conflict of interest with Items 11.a and 11.b, Councillor Hamley left the Council Chambers at this time.

**11. CONSENT AGENDA**

11.a Report CR-23-024 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2023 Allocation of Provincial Gas Tax (Public Transit)

11.b Report CR-23-025 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2023 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program

11.c Report CR-23-028 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Approval of Contract Extension – Operation of Inter-Community Transportation Service

11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on December 21, 2022

11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Services Board meeting held on January 25, 2023

11.f Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on January 11, 2023

11.g Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Noble Corporation, a wholesale retailer of plumbing and HVAC equipment and parts located at 1796 16th Street East
- exp Realty Brokerage, a real estate office located at 250 10th Street West
- Compass Group, a food services establishment located at 1800 8th Street East
- Happy Earth, a retailer of eco friendly and handmade products has relocated to 792 2nd Avenue East

11.h Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-230313-009

Moved by Councillor Dodd

**"THAT City Council receives Items 11.a to 11.h on the Consent Agenda dated March 13, 2023, and further**

**THAT the recommendations contained in Items 11.a to 11.c be approved."**

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

**12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

There were no Committee minutes with recommendations for approval.

**13. MATTERS POSTPONED**

There were no postponed matters.

**14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

**15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

15.a Awards

Councillor Dodd highlighted that the City of Owen Sound and River District both received awards from Festivals & Events Ontario (FEO) for the Sound Waterfront Festival and Holiday Magic, respectively. The Sound Waterfront Festival won a Top 100 Award of Achievement and an Impact Award, while Holiday Magic won an Innovation Award, which was the River District's first FEO Award. The Innovation Award recognizes a festival or event that has introduced creative, effective solutions to strengthen events, appeal to a broader audience, or enhance the experience for patrons. The Impact Award is a new award that recognizes a festival or event that embodies the best ideas to advance cultural diversity and inclusion at events, empowers marginalized demographics to participate, or increases the social impact of events within a community.

15.b Homelessness Response Tool-Kit and Housing Solutions Community Discussion

Councillor Farmer advised that the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association has published a "Homelessness Response Tool-Kit" that supports business owners and Business Improvement Areas to better understand homelessness as an issue, the needs of people who are unhoused, and provides various resources on how to support homeless individuals.

Councillor Farmer noted that Rebound Owen Sound will be hosting a session on Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Harmony Centre to discuss housing solutions for the community. The session will feature a panel of knowledgeable housing advocates, including Councillor Carol Merton, Marilyn Struthers, Francesca Dobbyn, and Liz Buckton.

15.c Alpha Street Reconstruction Public Engagement Session

Deputy Mayor Greig noted that there will be a presentation from GM BluePlan on the Alpha Street reconstruction at the Operations Committee meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. This project will take approximately two years to complete, with the first year being the hill reconstruction, and the second year being the remaining section of Alpha Street as it extends southwesterly. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or watch the meeting live on the City's [Council and Committee webpage](#).

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that a public notice was hand delivered to residents in the neighbourhood, published in The Sun Times, and posted on the City's website. Ms. Widdifield noted that the deadline to provide written comments to either the City or GM BluePlan is March 31, 2023.

**16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT**

R-230313-010

Moved by Councillor Dodd

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

Carried.



**FORMAL SESSION**

**17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

R-230313-011

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business be confirmed by this Council."**

Carried.

**18. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

**19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**21. BY-LAWS**

21.a By-law No. 2023-022

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 13th day of March, 2023"

21.b By-law No. 2023-023

"A By-law to adopt estimates for the sums required during the year 2023 for the general and capital purposes of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound"

21.c By-law No. 2023-024

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Letter of Agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Transportation for the Province of Ontario, respecting the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program"

21.d By-law No. 2023-025

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General respecting the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program"

21.e By-law No. 2023-026

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Amending Agreement with 947465 Ontario Ltd. (Voyago), respecting Inter-Community Transportation between Owen Sound and Guelph (GOST)"

R-230313-012

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT By-law Numbers 2023-022, 2023-023, 2023-024, 2023-025, and 2023-026 be passed and enacted."**

Carried.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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Mayor Ian C. Boddy

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Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk