



**Minutes**

**Owen Sound City Council**

**January 15, 2024**

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

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

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Deputy Mayor Scott Greig  
Councillor Jon Farmer  
Councillor Brock Hamley  
Councillor Marion Koepke  
Councillor Suneet Kukreja  
Councillor Carol Merton (via video)  
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT/REGRETS:**

Mayor Ian Boddy  
Councillor Travis Dodd

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager  
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services  
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering  
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk  
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and noted that Mayor Boddy and Councillor Dodd are absent, and Councillor Merton is joining virtually.

Deputy Mayor Greig acknowledged that it is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Community Need

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES**

4.a Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 18, 2023

R-240115-001

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Merton

**"THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 18, 2023 be adopted as printed."**

Carried.

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

R-240115-002

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Merton

**"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**

There were no deputations or presentations.

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

8.a Andrea Ingham, Owen Sound resident, asked the following questions respecting River District businesses and homelessness statistics:

Has the City conducted a survey on how the impending deadline for the repayment of the COVID small business loan might affect businesses in the River District Business Improvement Area? Does the City have a strategy for small business closures and assisting the River District if businesses are affected?

How many homeless people are in Owen Sound in relation to comparable rural municipalities?

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan is a federal program.

The Director of Community Services noted that Josh Gibson from Grey County has shared a presentation on homelessness statistics, and she can share this presentation and Mr. Gibson's contact information with Ms. Ingham.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) and both the national and provincial Chamber of Commerce have been conducting advocacy efforts on the CEBA loan to keep businesses involved and informed. The Director of Community Services added that the Grey County Business Enterprise Centre has a lot of resources for small businesses.

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

9.a Memo from the Deputy Clerk Re: River District 2024 Budget

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

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Corporate Services advised that at the time complimentary parking was put into force and the River District began contributing to this cost, there were debenture payments on existing capital projects. In 2023, the City finalized payments on one of the debentures, and 100% of these savings were passed on to the River District.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services noted that the \$5,000 allocated for celebration relates to the annual Membership Party that all River District members are invited to attend. This event is an opportunity for the members to get together and network with their fellow businesses. In 2023, this event was delivered significantly under budget.

R-240115-003

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT in consideration of the memo dated January 11, 2024 from the Deputy Clerk respecting the River District 2024 budget, City Council approves the budget as presented."**

Carried.

**10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF**

There were no reports of City staff.

**11. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 11.a Report CS-24-004 from the Director of Community Services Re: Housekeeping Amendment to the Municipal Accommodation Tax By-law No. 2023-127
- 11.b Report CR-24-001 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Award of Tender RFT-23-036 - Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement
- 11.c Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on December 8, 2023
- 11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Services Board meeting held on November 29, 2023
- 11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on November 8, 2023
- 11.f Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:
  - Bikeface Cycling Inc., a bicycle repair and retail store, has relocated to 625 6th Street East
  - Pwrfade Golf, a golf simulator lounge, has relocated to 290 9th Street East
  - BiM Health Services Limited Partnership is the new owner of Bayshore Physical Therapy located at 1415 1st Avenue West
  - Tasha Tupper is the new owner of Body Science, a bath and body products retail store located at 781 2nd Avenue East
  - 180 Smoke Vape Store, a retail vape store located at 101 10th Street East
  - Seniors Transportation Services, a home occupation located at 655 17th Street East
  - OSHaRE located at 263 10th Street East
- 11.g Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-240115-004

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the January 15, 2024 Consent Agenda, City Council:**

- 1. Receives Items 11.a to 11.g; and**
- 2. Approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.a and 11.b. "**

Carried.

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

12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023

R-240115-005

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

12.b Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on December 14, 2023

R-240115-006

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on December 14, 2023 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

**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 Community Need

Councillor Farmer advised that the Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU) issued an overdose alert last week following multiple non-fatal overdoses over a span of a couple of days. The alert is in effect until January 18 and is related to toxic lime green fentanyl. The GBHU is reminding people to not use alone, but if you do plan to use alone, to call the National Overdose Response Service.

Councillor Farmer noted that the use of the services provided by OSHaRE and the Salvation Army increased in 2023. The Salvation Army had 1,700 people sign up to receive Christmas food assistance, compared to 1,100 in 2022. OSHaRE served 146,625 meals, compared to 123,600 in 2022.

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

R-240115-007

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

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

Carried.

**FORMAL SESSION**

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

R-240115-008

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Merton

**"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**

18.a Councillor Farmer Re: Town Hall

Councillor Farmer presented the following Notice of Motion that was supported by Councillor Merton:

"WHEREAS October 2024 is the mid-point in the current term of Council;

AND WHEREAS there has not been a town hall style meeting so far this Council term;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to:

1. Schedule a special Council meeting for October 2024 to serve as a forum for public questions and suggestions relating to City operations and governance; and
2. Reserve a location for this meeting with a larger seating capacity than the Council Chambers and with a foyer where information tables can be set up to raise awareness about City departments and initiatives as well as community services and agencies should they choose to participate."

**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. 2024-001

"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 15th day of January, 2024"

21.b By-law No. 2024-002

"A By-law to appoint or amend terms of office for members and establish Boards and Committees"

21.c By-law No. 2024-003

"A By-law to provide for an Interim Levy for the year 2024 for all property classes"

21.d By-law No. 2024-004

"A By-law to adopt Community Engagement Policy CE003"

21.e By-law No. 2024-005

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Trade Services Group Inc., respecting traffic signal maintenance, in accordance with RFT-23-036"

21.f By-law No. 2024-006

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Financial Incentive Program Agreement with Barry's Construction and Insulation Ltd. respecting a façade and structural improvement grant"

21.g By-law No. 2024-007

"A By-law to amend Municipal Accommodation Tax By-law No. 2023-127 to add quarterly filing for certain accommodation providers"

21.h By-law No. 2024-008

"A By-law to amend Committee of Adjustment By-law No. 2022-074 to appoint the committee to act as the Short-Term Rental Appeals Committee"

R-240115-009

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Merton

**"THAT By-law Numbers 2024-001, 2024-002, 2024-003, 2024-004, 2024-005, 2024-006, 2024-007, and 2024-008 be passed and enacted."**

Carried.

21.i By-law No. 2024-009

"A By-law to amend Fees and Charges By-law No. 2023-080 to increase bag tag fees"

Deputy Mayor Greig relinquished the position of Chair so that he could provide comments on the motion. Councillor Middlebro' assumed the position of Chair.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Corporate Services advised that if the cost of a bag tag is to remain at \$2.50 per tag, then approximately \$100,000 would be added back to the municipal tax levy which is the equivalent of a 0.3% increase.

R-240115-010d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

**"THAT By-law Number 2024-009 be passed and enacted."**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councillor Koepke requested a recorded vote:

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

The resolution was defeated with two (2) votes in favour and five (5) votes opposed.

Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that with the resolution being defeated, the cost of a bag tag will not increase to \$3.50 per tag and will remain at \$2.50 per tag.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Deputy Mayor Greig adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

---

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

---

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk