



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

April 15, 2024

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East

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

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
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Tim Nicholls-Harrison, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library CEO
Shauna Doyle, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Information Specialist
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for Deputy Mayor Greig.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Control of Animals, Local Butt Blitz, and Day of Remembrance
- 2.b Mayor Boddy Re: Mayor's Update

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.a Councillor Hamley - Correspondence Item 6 contained within Item 11.j - Correspondence Received which is Presented for the Information of Council

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with discussions arising out of correspondence item 6 contained within Item 11.j of the agenda, due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 11, 2024
- 4.b Minutes of the Closed Session of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 20, 2024

4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on March 25, 2024

R-240415-001

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as printed:

- 1. Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 11, 2024;**
- 2. Closed Session of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 20, 2024; and**
- 3. Regular Council meeting held on March 25, 2024."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-240415-002

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"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 Rashell Feldman, The Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community Re: Official Definition of Antisemitism

Rashell Feldman of The Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community provided a deputation respecting the official definition of antisemitism. Ms. Feldman noted that she founded The Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community in 2023 to provide education and awareness and create a sense of safety in her community, and they currently have over 300 members. After converting to Orthodox Judaism and becoming a mother to five Jewish children, Ms. Feldman noted that she and her family have experienced antisemitism in their local community. Ms. Feldman suggested that the first step in creating safety for Jews in any community is adopting and implementing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA's) definition of antisemitism at all levels of government.

Ms. Feldman advised that the IHRA definition has been adopted by the City of Toronto, City of Barrie, Town of Wasaga Beach, Town of Collingwood, and 865 government and institutional entities including the Government of Canada. The IHRA has defined antisemitism as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." Ms. Feldman noted that The Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community is asking for Council's support in agreeing to accept and adopt the IHRA's definition of

antisemitism and acknowledged that there has been a Jewish presence in Owen Sound for over a century.

Mayor Boddy thanked Ms. Feldman for her deputation and advised that Council will consider her request as policies are developed.

- 7.b Deputation from Tim Nicholls-Harrison, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library (OSNGUPL) CEO and Shauna Doyle, OSNGUPL Information Specialist, and David Adair, OSNGUPL Board Member Re: Introduction of Poet Laureate, Rebecca Diem

The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library (OSNGUPL) Information Specialist, joined by the OSNGUPL CEO and Board Member, introduced the 2024-2025 poet laureate, Rebecca Diem. Ms. Doyle advised that the Poet Laureate program is hosted by the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library with funding from several members of the community as opposed to tax-based funding.

Ms. Doyle advised that Rebecca Diem writes hopeful speculative fiction and poetry and that her published works can be found on Reactor and Write Magazine. Ms. Diem is the author of the indie steampunk series *Tales of the Captain Duke* and is currently working on a postpartum poetry collection inspired by the natural world and beach walks with a sleeping baby.

Ms. Diem read a poem from her postpartum poetry collection followed by the debut of a new poem "Chi-Miigwech Chi-Cheemaun".

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- 8.a Yehuda Nestel, Owen Sound taxpayer, asked the following questions respecting antisemitism:

Can you debate whether Israel is a racist country without being antisemitic? Considering that the Jewish community is not united on this question and that this matter falls outside of the scope of your legal responsibilities as a municipal Council, do you think it is appropriate for you to consider adopting the official definition of antisemitism?

Mayor Boddy advised that there is no motion before Council to make a decision and encouraged the Jewish community to put together an appropriate resolution that could be presented to Council for consideration in the future.

- 8.b David Walton, Owen Sound resident and member of Ceasefire Grey Bruce, cited concerns with antisemitism.

- 8.c Rob Rolfe, Owen Sound resident, asked the following question respecting antisemitism:

Will Council be soliciting the views of Owen Sound's diverse local community on antisemitism and islamophobia which is also present in our community?

Mayor Boddy advised that if Council proceeds in the future to consider this topic, then they will consult with the public.

The OSNGUPL CEO and Information Specialist left the meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 10.a Report CS-24-033 from the Director of Community Services Re: Update to the Agreement with River District Board of Management

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services advised that for metrics of success, the River District Coordinator provides annual or semi-annual reports to the River District Board and Council on the vacancy in the River District, pedestrian counts, social media and website engagement, as well as preparing and reporting on the implementation of their work plan.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services noted that the River District encompasses the same boundary as the former Downtown Improvement Area, whereas the Downtown River Precinct is a four-block area where Council and staff are focusing their revitalization efforts, including the upcoming construction in the 900 block of 1st Avenue East.

R-240415-003

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-033 respecting the Update to the Agreement between the River District Board of Management and the City of Owen Sound, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the new five-year agreement."

Carried.

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

Council discussed Item 10.b after Item 12.a.

Councillor Dodd left the Council Chambers.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- 11.a Report CR-24-041 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Award of City of Owen Sound Component of Grey County Joint Tender RFT-TS-12-24 - Supply and Delivery of Bulk Highway Salt
- 11.b Memorandum from the Junior Planner Re: External Planning Policy Comment Summary - January and February 2024
- 11.c Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force meeting held on March 15, 2024
- 11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on February 28, 2024
- 11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Housing Company meeting held on February 13, 2024
- 11.f Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation meeting held on February 13, 2024
- 11.g Community Flag Flying Request - Grey Bruce Labour Council - Day of Mourning
- 11.h Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:
 - Mary Brown's Chicken, a fast food restaurant located at 1660 20th Avenue East
 - Glimmer, a health and wellness retailer and service provider located at 677 6th Street East
 - City Electric Supply Corporation, an electrical wholesaler located at 1101 2nd Avenue East
 - The Creative Hairstyling, a hairstyling boutique, has relocated to 905 7th Street East

- Conjured Confections, a home occupation providing baked goods located at 549 8th Street East

11.i Final approvals issued for the following Short-Term Rental Licences:

- Tiffany McMillin at 2210 3rd Avenue West
- James and Lisa Lambkin at 377 2nd Avenue East
- Rob Gowan at 934 7th Avenue East
- Sarah Flowers-Armstrong and Jonathan Armstrong at 796 7th Avenue West

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

R-240415-004

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

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

- 1. Receives Items 11.a to 11.j; and**
- 2. Approves the recommendation contained in Item 11.a."**

Carried.

Councillor Dodd returned to his chair.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest at this time with discussions arising out of an item on the correspondence package due to his employment with the Government of Ontario and left the Council Chambers.

R-240415-005

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of correspondence received on the April 15, 2024 Consent Agenda respecting amendments to the Blue Box Regulation for 'ineligible' sources, City Council:

- 1. Supports the resolution passed by Loyalist Township to request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources; and**
- 2. Directs staff to send this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Rick Byers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound."**

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 20, 2024

Deputy Mayor Greig joined the meeting.

R-240415-006

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 20, 2024 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

Council discussed Item 10.b at this time.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that County Council recently adopted a new Strategic Plan with four strategic priorities of Internal Operations and Service Delivery, Building Communities for the Future, Workforce Development, and Giving Everyone a Place to Call Home.

Deputy Mayor Greig noted that County Council received a year end report showing a surplus of \$1.8 million in 2023 due to a higher than budgeted investment income and supplemental taxes as well write offs being less than budgeted. The surplus for 2023 has been directed to various reserves within Corporate Services, Planning and Community Development, Transportation Services, and Human Services which includes housing and long-term care.

R-240415-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided April 15, 2024 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

12.b Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on March 21, 2024

R-240415-008

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on March 21, 2024 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 Control of Animals, Local Butt Blitz, and Day of Remembrance

Councillor Farmer reminded residents that the City has animal control by-laws that restrict pet owners from letting their pets be off leash. Individuals can report concerns of this nature through the Report a Concern webpage on the City's website.

Councillor Farmer noted that the Owen Sound Waste Watchers are organizing a Butt Blitz this month with weekly clean ups of cigarette butts. In 2023, they collected over 22,000 cigarette butts. If anyone is interested in joining them, they can visit the Owen Sound Waste Watchers' Facebook page or contact Anne Finlay-Stewart.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services advised that the City's garbage picking kits can be booked by contacting Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator.

Councillor Farmer noted that the We Remember Them event was held on April 6 at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market to commemorate the lives lost over the past year due to drug poisoning. There have been 40 local reports of suspected opioid

related drug overdoses in the first three months of 2024, with 35 in Grey County and five (5) in Bruce County. Of those, four (4) people died in Grey County and one (1) person in Bruce County. Councillor Farmer advised that Grey Bruce Public Health will soon have drug testing kits available that will provide individuals with test strips to identify three drugs that could be within the drugs that they are using.

15.b Mayor's Update

Mayor Boddy noted the various events and meetings that he has attended in the past few weeks:

- Regional meeting of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, hosted by the Town of The Blue Mountains, where they discussed lobbying for provincial and federal funding and shoreline erosion.
- Meeting with MPP Rick Byers, accompanied by the City Manager, to discuss infrastructure funding and a physician recruitment funding policy.
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 6 Charity Night where they donated over \$44,000 to local charities and schools.
- Received a donation from Miller Waste to sponsor free swimming at the Harrison Park Pool over the summer on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons.
- Bruce Power Community Leaders Breakfast Presentation in Kincardine.
- TC Energy Supplier Forum at the Sydenham Campus.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake at the Owen Sound Bowling Alley with Deputy Mayor Greig, Councillor Dodd, and Councillor Kukreja.
- Royal Canadian Legion Annual District C Spring Convention with MPP Rick Byers.
- Arts, Culture and Volunteer Awards at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-240415-009

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-240415-010

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"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: Livable Income

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

"WHEREAS the rising cost of living and rapid inflation are putting significant financial pressure on individuals and families, especially those living in poverty;

AND WHEREAS residents on programs such as Ontario Works receive maximum fixed monthly incomes of \$733, and ODSP recipients receive \$1,376;

AND WHEREAS people living with low income are more likely to be renters and the Community Foundation [Focus on Housing](#) report found that in 2021 more than 40% of homes in Owen Sound are rented;

AND WHEREAS rent is considered affordable when it is no more than 30% of gross annual income and the 2021 [census reports that 38.3%](#) of tenant households in Owen Sound are spending more than 30% of their income on housing;

AND WHEREAS as of March 31, 2024, there 1,650 Grey County households on the Community Housing Waitlist including only those who presently reside in the area;

AND WHEREAS the [2023 Grey County Housing Action Plan](#) identified the need to advocate to the Provincial and Federal governments for housing solutions which may relate to “the ‘income’ side of the housing affordability equation, for example relating to minimum and living wages [and] social benefits (e.g., ODSP; OW)”;

AND WHEREAS poverty also increases food insecurity which negatively impacts physical and mental health especially for [children](#) and adequate income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts food security;

AND WHEREAS in 2023, the Salvation Army food bank use rose by [42%](#) in Owen Sound and annual meals provided by OSHARE increased 18.6% or 23,000 meals from 2022;

AND WHEREAS in the [2024 Monitoring Food Affordability in Grey Bruce](#) report on food insecurity, Grey Bruce Public Health calls on municipalities to “advocate for federal and provincial government policies (e.g., increases to income tax credits for low-income households) and programs (e.g., basic income guarantee) to ensure an adequate and secure income for all in Canada”;

AND WHEREAS in February 2024 the Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force issued [a call for income solutions to food insecurity](#);

AND WHEREAS neither municipal governments nor the non-profit sector have the resources to address the root causes of poverty on their own;

AND WHEREAS decreasing poverty levels benefits individuals and their communities by reducing reliance on food banks, social services, health care, emergency services, and other supports as well as improving quality of life and creating positive local economic impacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council join other municipalities across Ontario to urge the Federal and Provincial governments to increase social assistance rates for Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program and to establish a Guaranteed Livable Income program;

AND THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, the Premier, the leaders of all parties sitting at Queen’s Park, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing, Alex Ruff, MP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, and Rick Byers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound requesting a response;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution also be shared with Grey County, Bruce County, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)."

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Prior to moving into Closed Session, Mayor Boddy advised that for those who are watching the meeting live on Rogers Cable TV or the Rogers TV website, the Rogers feed will not reconnect to the meeting upon Council returning to the open session to report out of the Closed Session and review the by-laws. If anyone would like to view the remainder of the open session, they can watch the livestream on the City's Council and Committees webpage at www.owensound.ca/meetings. The video recording of the meeting will also be posted on this webpage following the meeting.

R-240415-011

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"THAT City Council now move into 'Closed Session' to consider:

- a. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 25, 2024;**
- b. One matter regarding litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality, and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose respecting a mutual full and final release;**
- c. One matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting the Owen Sound Attack;**
- d. One matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting the provision of municipal services to neighbouring municipalities;**
- e. One matter regarding a proposed acquisition of land by the municipality respecting property on 8th Street East; and**
- f. One matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations, and a proposed acquisition of land by the municipality respecting property on 18th Avenue East."**

Carried.

The Director of Corporate Services left the meeting.

City Council moved into the Closed Session at 6:47 p.m.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 8:15 p.m. In Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 25, 2024;
- Discussed one matter regarding litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality, and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose respecting a mutual full and final release, and direction was provided to staff;

- Discussed one matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting the Owen Sound Attack, and direction was provided to staff;
- Discussed one matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting the provision of municipal services to neighbouring municipalities, and direction was provided to staff;
- Discussed one matter regarding a proposed acquisition of land by the municipality respecting property on 8th Street East, and direction was provided to staff and legal counsel; and
- Discussed one matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations, and a proposed acquisition of land by the municipality respecting property on 18th Avenue East, and direction was provided to staff.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2024-047

"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 April, 2024"

21.b By-law No. 2024-048

"A By-law to repeal various City policies"

21.c By-law No. 2024-049

"A By-law to amend By-law No. 2021-028 respecting the staff delegation for Financial Incentive Programs under the Community Improvement Plan to add further programs"

21.d By-law No. 2024-050

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an amending agreement with the City Manager respecting terms of employment"

21.e By-law No. 2024-051

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an amending agreement with the Owen Sound Rowing Club respecting use of City lands"

21.f By-law No. 2024-052

"A By-law to amend Property Standards By-law No. 1999-030 to update provisions respecting the security of vacant buildings"

21.g By-law No. 2024-053

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Cargill Salt, Road Safety, a division of Cargill Limited, respecting the supply and delivery of bulk highway salt, in accordance with RFT-TS-12-24"

21.h By-law No. 2023-054

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a mutual full and final Release with Looby Builders (Dublin) Limited respecting the Gitche Namewikwedong Bridge (10th Street Bridge) reconstruction"

R-240415-012

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"THAT By-law Numbers 2024-047, 2024-048, 2024-049, 2024-050, 2024-051, 2024-052, 2024-053, and 2024-054 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk