



Minutes

Operations Committee

October 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carol Merton
Vice Chair Marion Koepke
Member Donald Anderson
Member Mike Crone
Councillor Travis Dodd
Member Robert Droine
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Member Meghan Robertson

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Roger Bloom

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Bryce McDonald, Manager of Water & Wastewater
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Ashley Ford, Water and Wastewater Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Member Anderson Re: Compost Site
- 2.b Member Anderson Re: 16th Street East & 6th Avenue East
- 2.c Member Anderson Re: Maintenance of Bus Shelters

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on June 20, 2024

OP-241017-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on June 20, 2024."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from Director of Corporate Services Re: Public Works and Engineering Operating Budget Presentation

The Director of Corporate Services provided the Public Works and Engineering Department's Operating Budget Presentation to Committee.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Corporate Services explained that the intent of the original fleet reserve for replacing waste management fleet will be utilized for the startup costs of the Source Separated Organics (SSO) program.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Corporate Services explained that staff has left the revenue from bag tags as status quo in the budget for 2025. Staff will know after next year what the implications is for volumes of bag tags sold, as well as review the cost of the bag tags at that time.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Corporate Services explained they are trying to balance the increase fees with the numbers from the passes and ridership going up.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Director of Corporate Services explained that two things are driving the increase in service delivery: the increased contractor payments, and the increased materials and supplies with the allocation of staff and equipment time.

OP-241017-002

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Presentation from Director of Corporate Services Re: Operating Budget Presentation, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the presentation for information purposes."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- 6.a Anne Paterson, Owen Sound downtown business owner asked the following questions respecting parking on 1st Avenue East:

Will they be assigned two parking spots as per the lease agreement that stated there are two parking spots included with the business?

The Manager of Engineering Services advised that designated parcels had previously been established in the names of the adjacent property owners that were understood to be used as private parking spots, the assignment of which is left to the discretion of the property owner. If this becomes a problem, these stalls could be signed.

How close are we to being done on this project?

The Manager of Engineering Services explained the project has experienced some challenges such as subcontractor scheduling issues, especially for the concrete and boardwalk work. The contractor is aiming for a completion date of mid-November.

Is the snow removal being done by us or the sidewalk machine?

The Manager of Engineering Services suggested Ms. Paterson pursue discussions with Engineering Staff regarding these concerns.

- 6.b Jamie Kuhl, Owen Sound downtown business owner Re: Parking on 1st Avenue East:

If you take away the commercial zoning away from the parking area, now understanding that there won't be parking. Was this part of the original plan?

The Manager of Engineering Services confirmed it has always been the plan to have this section as no parking. He explained this was established as part of the DRP Master Plan design concept dating back to 2012. The conceptual design developed at that time that involved significant public input showed streetscaping improvements for these areas. There is parking available adjacent to the properties but there were no requests for commercial public parking at that time.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Engineering

- 8.a.1 Report OP-24-037 from Manager of Engineering Services Re: Traffic By-Law Amendments - 1st Ave East, 1st Ave West, 7th Street East, and 4th Ave East

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

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Engineering Services explained that there isn't a dedicated parking spot for accessible parking on 1st Avenue East, but the proposed regulations allow "flex parking" which would include short-term accessible parking, pick-up/drop-off and allow for multiple parking spaces within the zone; even where parking is prohibited, stopping would be permitted.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Engineering Services confirmed there is no reason the speed limits couldn't be reduced to 30 km/hr, but 40 km/hr would keep signage consistent through the downtown core.

OP-241017-003

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report respecting Traffic By-law Amendments - 1st Avenue East, 1st Avenue West, 7th Street East and 4th Avenue East, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Traffic By-law to include:

- 1. On-street parking and loading/unloading zones on 1st Avenue East – 900 Block, as set out in the report;**
- 2. The reduction of the speed limit on:**
 - a. 1st Avenue East from 7th Street East to 11th Street East to 40 km/h;**
 - b. 1st Avenue West from 9th Street West to 10th Street West to 40 km/h; and**
 - c. 7th Street East from 1st Avenue East to 2nd Avenue East to 40 km/h; and**
- 3. The implementation of an accessible/barrier-free parking stall and loading/unloading zone on the east side of the road adjacent to 1049 4th Avenue East."**

Carried.

- 8.a.2 Report OP-24-036 from Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Sydenham Sportsmen's Association Lease Renewal at Derby Landfill Property

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

OP-241017-004

Moved by Member Robertson

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-036 respecting a Lease Agreement with Sydenham Sportsmen's Association for the Derby Landfill Property, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the lease agreement."

Carried.

8.b Environment

None.

8.c Public Works

None.

8.d Transit

8.d.1 Dashboard from Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Transit Dashboard - October 2024

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

OP-241017-005

Moved by Vice Chair Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Dashboard from Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Transit Dashboard - October 2024, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the dashboard for information purposes."

Carried.

8.d.2 Report OP-24-041 from Supervisor of Environmental Services - Review of Transit Fares and Ridership Initiatives

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

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering explained the punch pass and day pass options wouldn't be aimed at generating more or less revenue but allow for more flexibility to ride the bus.

OP-241017-006

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-041 respecting Review of Transit Fares and Ridership Initiatives, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Directs staff to provide notice of an amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law as required by the Notice By-law; and**
- 2. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law, effective January 1, 2025, to:**
 - a. Increase the cost of bus fares as outlined in the report;**
 - b. Add a day pass option as outlined in the report;**
 - c. Add a 10-pass option as outlined in the report;**
 - d. Add a semester pass option as outlined in the report; and**
 - e. Continue the affordability pass as outlined in the report."**

Carried.

OP-241017-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-041 the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a report to the Committee respecting the feasibility of creating a transit subcommittee of the Operations Committee."

Subsequent Motion:

OP-241017-008

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT the Operations Committee postpone consideration of Deputy Mayor Grieg's motion regarding a staff report respecting a transit subcommittee at the November 21, 2024 meeting of the Operations Committee."

Carried.

Main Motion:

OP-241017-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

“THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-041 the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a report to the Committee respecting the feasibility of creating a transit subcommittee of the Operations Committee.”

Postponed.

8.e 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

11.a Report CR-24-110 from Fire Chief Re: Project 1d1 - Draft Fleet Management Strategy

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager confirmed that all items that go through Service Review go to Council to be approved through the minutes.

11.b Memo from Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Status Updates on Alpha Street Reconstruction

11.c Memo from Director of Public Works & Engineering Re: Status Updates on Downtown River Precinct Project

11.d City of Owen Sound - Join a Committee

The Chair summarized the Join A Committee correspondence as follows.

The City is currently recruiting public members to volunteer on various committees, with terms beginning February 1. More information and applications are available online at owensound.ca/CommitteeVacancies or at the Service Owen Sound counter in City Hall. Applications are due by November 20, 2024.

Being part of a committee is a great way to get involved in the community, provide insights, and gain experience with local government. I hope that our current members will share this opportunity with their networks and that those listening at home will consider applying.

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the October 17, 2024 Operations Committee agenda, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a to 11.d for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Compost Site

Member Anderson raised concerns with the pavement not going all the way to the compost site as it is quite rough. Staff explained that this section of roadway is identified as a future project but isn't a high priority at this time due to the significant capital costs as it requires fully drainage/ditch reconstruction in addition to paving.

12.b Intersection of 16th Street East and 6th Avenue East

Member Anderson questioned why cross lights have not been installed at the 16th Street East/6th Avenue East Intersection. Staff explained that the intersection is currently controlled with a 3-way stop, and staff have not investigated pedestrian analysis in this intersection, but it could be a potential in the future.

12.c Maintenance of Bus Shelters

Member Anderson raised concerns about the cleanliness of the bus shelters. Staff explained that the bus shelters used to be completed by a contractor and have moved to being done in-house. This is currently being targeted about two times a year and on a complaint basis. Staff would like to remind the public that there is a report a concern on the City's website to alert staff to these issues, or please contact City Hall.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Merton adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.