



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

September 23, 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 (via video)
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
Christine Gilbert, Deputy Treasurer
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor Boddy provided a land acknowledgment and made comments in recognition of the upcoming National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Merton Re: Community Solutions Conference
- 2.b Councillor Farmer Re: Webinars and Public Washrooms
- 2.c Councillor Dodd Re: Funding for Police Foot Patrols, Surveillance Cameras Update and Status of Former Legate's Building
- 2.d Mayor Boddy Re: Mayor's Update

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on July 22, 2024
- 4.b Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special County of Grey Joint All Councils meeting held on August 8, 2024
- 4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 9, 2024

R-240923-001

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

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

- 1. The Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on July 22, 2024;**
- 2. The Closed Session of the Special County of Grey Joint All Councils meeting held on August 8, 2024; and**
- 3. The Regular Council meeting held on September 9, 2024."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-240923-002

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

"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 Marilyn Struthers and Liz Buckton, The Institute of South Georgian Bay Re: Affordable Housing in Owen Sound

Marilyn Struthers and Liz Buckton of the Social Finance and Housing Learning Group of The Institute of South Georgian Bay provided a presentation about housing affordability challenges and opportunities in Owen Sound.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Struthers advised of examples of work being undertaken to apply social financing strategies in other communities around South Georgian Bay. Ms. Struthers further noted the purpose and benefits of a social finance approach to housing affordability.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Buckton noted examples of roles for lower-tier municipalities in addressing housing affordability challenges.

- 7.b Presentation from the City Manager Re: Monthly Update

The City Manager provided a monthly update and noted:

- Recent events held in support of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, including the Deadly Pairing fundraiser and a welcome reception for the Concours d'Elegance;
- Events held in City parks and open spaces over the summer;
- Significant developments having received site plan approval through delegated authority and building permits; and

- Reports that will be presented to the Corporate Services Committee, Operations Committee and Community Services Committee.

Mr. Simmonds further noted upcoming opportunities for public learning and engagement with the City, including a Community Open House, being held November 7 at the Bayshore Community Centre and the Vision 2025: Strategic Visioning Sessions, being held November 8, 9 and 10 at the Bayshore Community Centre. Further details about these events will be posted to the City's website and social media, once available.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

8.a Jasmine Schnarr, Owen Sound resident made comments respecting the need for an emergency shelter in the City.

8.b Tiffany Howes, Owen Sound resident asked the following question respecting Sound Street Beach:

What is the timeline to see signage erected at Sound Street Beach showing that the property is open to the public?

Staff advised that signage is pending but a timeline could not be confirmed.

8.c David Baldwin, Owen Sound resident asked the following question respecting bike lanes:

How will the City respond if the Province moves to ban bike lanes?

Council noted that the City's Transportation Master Plan outlines active transportation priorities and that no implications are anticipated from the Province.

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 CR-24-102 from the Deputy Clerk Re: 2025 Council and Committee Calendar

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the report.

R-240923-003

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-24-102 respecting 2025 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, City Council approves the 2025 Council and Committee meeting calendar as attached to the report."

Carried.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that Grey County Council declared one single family dwelling in its social housing portfolio as surplus and will be putting it up for sale, with proceeds going to the Affordable Housing Fund. Deputy Mayor Greig further noted that County Council provided a resolution of support to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario respecting rural healthcare challenges, is utilizing funds from its 2024 Climate Change Budget to develop the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and provided comment to the Province regarding the Provincial Planning Statement 2024.

R-240923-004

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 23, 2024 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- 11.a Report CR-24-100 from the Tax Collector Re: Property Tax Exemption Application under s.357(1)(c)
- 11.b Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Housing Company Board meeting held on June 18, 2024
- 11.c Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation Board meeting held on June 18, 2024
- 11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on May 8, 2024
- 11.e Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:
- Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to Rick Brooks BWG Events Group for 2024 Ribfest taking place on September 13 to 15, 2024
 - Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to the Owen Sound Agricultural Society for the Owen Sound Fall Fair taking place on September 6 to 8, 2024
- 11.f Final approvals issued to the owner(s) of the following Short-Term Rental locations:
- 822 5th Avenue West
 - 867 4th Avenue 'A' West
- 11.g Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council
R-240923-005
Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the September 23, 2024 Consent Agenda, City Council:

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

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Boddy relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Greig. Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the role of Chair.

- 12.a Minutes of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024
R-240923-006
Moved by Mayor Boddy

"THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

Mayor Boddy resumed the role of Chair.

- 12.b Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024

R-240923-007

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT the minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

- 12.c Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 12, 2024

R-240923-008

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 12, 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

Mayor Boddy relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Grieg to introduce a Motion for Which Notice was Previously Given. Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the role of Chair.

- 14.a Motion for Which Notice was Previously Given by Mayor Boddy at the September 9, 2024 Regular Council meeting Re: Joint Owen Sound and West Grey Police Services

R-240923-009

Moved by Mayor Boddy

"WHEREAS municipalities have a responsibility to ensure the safety and security of their residents; and

WHEREAS efficient and effective law enforcement is crucial for maintaining public order, preventing crime, and protecting citizens; and

WHEREAS joint municipal police services can lead to enhanced resource allocation, improved coordination, and greater operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS the consolidation of police services can provide access to specialized units and advanced technology that may not be feasible for individual municipalities to sustain independently; and

WHEREAS joint municipal police services can lead to cost savings through shared resources, reduced administrative overhead, and bulk purchasing; and

WHEREAS neighboring municipalities often face similar public safety challenges and can benefit from a unified approach to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS joint municipal police services can enhance the ability to respond to emergencies and large-scale incidents through combined personnel and equipment; and

WHEREAS collaborative police services can strengthen community relations by fostering a sense of shared responsibility and partnership among municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorses the exploration and potential implementation of joint municipal police services with the Municipality of West Grey; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council directs the City Manager to initiate discussions with representatives from the Municipality of West Grey, the West Grey Police Services Board, and the Owen Sound Police Services Board to evaluate the feasibility, benefits, and potential structure of a joint municipal police service."

Carried.

Mayor Boddy resumed the position of Chair.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a Community Solutions Conference

Councillor Merton advised planning is underway for a conference and changemaker event respecting small community solutions, to take place on March 29, 2025 at the Harmony Centre. Councillor Merton noted that the event planning group is seeking connections with people who have made change in their local communities and would be interested in sharing their learnings.

15.b Webinars and Public Washrooms

Councillor Farmer noted that he is participating the Strong Towns Local Motive webinar series, and reported lessons learned in sessions respecting parking reform and local budgets.

Councillor Farmer advised that positive feedback was reported around the availability of portable washrooms during downtown events, and noted that the Municipality of Grey Highlands recently added 10 year-round portable washrooms around the municipality.

The City Manager advised that vandalism of portable washrooms is an ongoing issue, and that the local supplier is not willing to provide long-term rentals to the City at this time. The City Manager noted washroom availability throughout the City, details of which can be found on the City's website.

15.c Funding for Police Foot Patrols, Surveillance Cameras Update and Status of Former Legates Building

Councillor Dodd noted that his question with respect to surveillance cameras had been otherwise addressed during the City Manager's Update.

Councillor Dodd requested an update from the City Manager respecting foot patrols in the downtown and the Legate's Building facade.

The City Manager advised that due to changes through the *Community Safety in Policing Act* that came into effect in April 2024, the special constable role will not be able to be used as Council and the Police Service had intended. The special constable program is on hold until more information about the impact of the legislation is available. The City Manager has been in discussions with the Police Chief about alternative solutions and a report will be presented to Council in Q1 of 2025.

The City Manager advised that the owner of the former Legate's Building has plead guilty to violating a property standards order and has agreed to pay a fine and to take remedial action for the building façade within six months.

15.d Mayor's Update

Mayor Boddy advised of several local events having recently taken place including the Concours D'Elegance, Concours d'Lemons, Cars and Coffee, Ribfest and the Terry Fox Run.

Mayor Boddy noted that the Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame 2024 induction will take place on September 29. The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 will be marked in Owen Sound with a ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Gichi-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-240923-010

Moved by Councillor Farmer

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-240923-011

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

"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

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-240923-012

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

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

- a. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on September 9, 2024;**
- b. One matter regarding a proposed or pending disposition of land by the municipality, advice subject to solicitor-client privilege and a plan or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue East; and**

- c. **One matter regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality and advice subject to solicitor-client privilege respecting property on 8th Street East."**

Carried.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 7:52 p.m. In Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on September 9, 2024;
- Discussed one matter regarding a proposed or pending disposition of land by the municipality, advice subject to solicitor-client privilege and a plan or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue East, and direction was provided to staff; and
- Discussed one matter regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality and advice subject to solicitor-client privilege respecting property on 8th Street East, and no direction was provided.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2024-110

"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 23rd day of September, 2024"

R-240923-013

Moved by Councillor Farmer

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT By-law Number 2024-110 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk