



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

February 10, 2025

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

No Closed Session

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

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: 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
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Boddy noted that all Council members were present except for Councillor Dodd.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a City Clerk Re: "Just Say Yes" Event
- 2.b Councillor Farmer Re: ROMA Conference Workshop
- 2.c Mayor Boddy Re: Congratulations and Tariff

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.a Councillor Farmer – Item 10.a Report CR-25-20 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2025 Municipal Levy – Approval

Councillor Farmer declared a non-disqualifying interest with the budget process as his sister-in-law is the Director of Corporate Services and is responsible for the City's annual budget exercise and administers the City's finances on behalf of Council. Councillor Farmer advised that should an item that directly impacts the Director of Corporate Services be discussed he will need to declare an interest.

- 3.b Councillor Farmer – Item 10.a Report CR-25-20 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2025 Municipal Levy – Approval

Councillor Farmer declared a conflict of interest with the portion of Item 10.a respecting a request submitted by the Georgian Bay Folk Society due to his longstanding volunteer and employment history with the Summerfolk Festival. Councillor Farmer advised that should this request be discussed, he would recuse himself from the deliberations.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 13, 2025
- 4.b Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025
R-250210-001
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

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

- 1. The Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 13, 2025; and**
- 2. The Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250210-002
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"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 FORUM

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

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-25-20 and Presentation from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2025 Municipal Levy - Approval

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report through a PowerPoint presentation.

R-250210-003
Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-020 respecting 2025 Municipal Levy, City Council directs staff to bring forward:

- 1. A by-law to authorize a total municipal levy of \$36,247,585; and**

2. A report respecting tax ratios in coordination with the County of Grey."

Carried.

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Councillor Farmer left the Council Chambers at this time.

R-250210-004

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-20 respecting 2025 Municipal Levy and respecting a fee waiver request from the Georgian Bay Folk Society presented as part of the 2025 Budget Public Meeting held on January 27, 2025, City Council approves the request to waive the rental fees for Kelso Beach at Nawash Park for the 2025 Summerfolk Festival."

Carried.

Councillor Farmer returned to his seat.

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

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

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- 11.a Report CR-25-010 from the Deputy Treasurer Re: Banking Services Agreement Extension
- 11.b Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on November 27, 2024
- 11.c Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on December 5, 2024
- 11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Services Board meeting held on December 18, 2024
- 11.e Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-250210-005

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the February 10, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council:

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

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

- 12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025

R-250210-006

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025 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

14.a Motion for Which Notice was Previously Given by Councillor Farmer at the January 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Re: Enforceable Standards for Consultant Reports

R-250210-007d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"WHEREAS the City of Owen Sound hires third party consultants to provide specialized expertise and reports at significant expense;

AND WHEREAS the quality of consultant reports does not always meet a reasonable standard;

AND WHEREAS the City does not currently have a mechanism to ensure the quality of the reports received;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to prepare a report for the Corporate Services Committee recommending enforceable strategies to ensure the City receives a consistently high quality of consultant report going forward, which may include but not be limited to considering:

- a. Returning reports that contain spelling and grammatical errors;**
- b. Withholding portions of payment until a report meets quality standards; and**
- c. Updating request for proposal templates to include new standards and mechanisms going forward."**

Defeated.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a 'Just Say Yes' Event

The City Clerk advised that the third annual "Just Say Yes" wedding event will take place on February 14. The event offers fifteen couples the opportunity to get married at City Hall on Valentine's Day and receive special offers from River District businesses.

15.b ROMA Conference Workshop

Councillor Farmer advised that he attended a workshop at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference about the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Healthy Democracy Project. Councillor Farmer provided an overview of the project's goals and noted that further information is available on the AMO website.

15.c Congratulations and Tariff

Mayor Boddy extended congratulations to the U13 Boys Owen Sound Jr. Attack hockey team for their recent gold medal win at the International Silver Stick championship.

Mayor Boddy noted the likely economic impacts of the tariffs placed on steel and aluminum imported by the United States. Mayor Boddy encouraged listeners to support local businesses.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-250210-008

Moved by Councillor Hamley

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250210-009

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"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 Merton Re: Snow Windrow Clearing Program

Councillor Merton presented the following notice of motion that was supported by Councillor Koepke:

"WHEREAS the average annual snowfall in Owen Sound is the most in Ontario at 130.1 inches;

AND WHEREAS 27.2% of the population of the City of Owen Sound is over the age of 65, compared with 18.3% of the population of Ontario and 19% in Canada overall;

AND WHEREAS other municipalities have implemented a snow windrow clearing program for older adults/seniors and those with physical disabilities to remove the accumulation of snow at the end of residential driveways resulting from road plowing operations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to bring forward a report back to Council within three (3) months outlining the options and cost of implementing a snow windrow clearing program for older adults/seniors and those with physical disabilities."

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. 2025-013
R-250210-010
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT By-law Number 2025-013 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk