



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

March 10, 2025

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
Janet Ashfield, Manager of Human Resources
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Hamley Re: Tariffs and Procurement
- 2.b Councillor Farmer Re: Ramadan
- 2.c Councillor Middlebro' Re: Short-Term Rentals Survey
- 2.d Mayor Boddy Re: Irish Heritage Month

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.a Councillor Hamley – Correspondence Item 4 contained within Item 11.e – Correspondence Received which is Presented for the Information of Council

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with discussions arising out of correspondence item 4 contained within Item 11.e of the agenda, due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

- 3.b Councillor Farmer – Item 11.a – Report CR-25-011 Re: 2025 Non-Union and Council COLA Increase

Councillor Farmer declared a conflict of interest with discussions arising out of Item 11.a of the agenda, due to the Director of Corporate Services being his sister-in-law.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025

4.b Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 24, 2025

4.c Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025

R-250310-001

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

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

1. The Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025;

2. The Regular Council meeting held on February 24, 2025; and

3. The Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025."

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250310-002

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public forum, 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

8.a Anne Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Stewart requested that City Council remove American flags from the arenas at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre and to not fly American flags at this time.

8.b David Walton, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Walton provided comments respecting etiquette for displaying international flags and asked why American flags were ever displayed in City arenas.

Mayor Boddy advised that the flags are displayed in the arenas because American hockey players use City arenas during tournaments and as part of the Ontario Hockey League, and because international flags are sometimes flown as a show of friendship between neighbours.

8.c Doug Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Stewart provided comments respecting the possibility of the American flag being displayed at the arenas only when American hockey teams are playing.

In response to a question from Council, the City Manager advised that the City's Flag Flying Policy is next scheduled for review in 2028, and that removing a flag in response to political unrest would require a decision of Council.

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-25-026 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: Proposed Funding Agreement – Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

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

R-250310-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-026 respecting Proposed Funding Agreement – Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a funding agreement between the City of Owen Sound and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority with terms consistent with those presented in this report."

Carried.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that Grey County Council recently approved plans of subdivision for developments in Durham and at Cobble Beach, acquired lands on which to construct a paramedic base in Feversham, and received an update respecting administration of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system.

R-250310-004

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided March 10, 2025 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-25-011 from the Manager of Human Resources Re: 2025 Non-Union and Council COLA Increase

- 11.b Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on January 22, 2025

- 11.c Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Buds 4 Less Corp, a cannabis dispensary business located at 2125 16th Street East
- Buried Wealth Tattoo Collective, a tattoo business located at 249 10th Street West
- Penn. Penningtons, a retail clothing business located at 1969 16th Street East
- Retreat Into Wellness, a counselling business located at 249 10th Street West

- Zong Convenience, a convenience store located at 159 9th Street East
- Andrea Boag, RMT, a home occupation providing registered massage therapy services located at 2990 3rd Avenue West
- Wizard's Castle VR Arcade, a virtual reality arcade has relocated at 1350 16th Street East
- Just A Cup, a coffee product retail store has relocated at 1339 2nd Avenue East

11.d Final approvals issued for the following Flag Flying Requests:

- Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario for Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Celtic Academy Irish Dance Canada for Irish Heritage Month Canada

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

R-250310-005

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the March 10, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council receives Items 11.b to 11.e for information purposes."

Carried.

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-250310-006

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of correspondence received on the March 10, 2025 Consent Agenda respecting the Driver Training and Examinations Auditor General Report, City Council:

- 1. Supports the resolution passed by the City of Brampton to endorse the Auditor General Value-for-Money Audit Driver Training and Examination Report (AG Report) - its findings and 18 recommendations to ensure that we have safe and qualified drivers on our roads;**
- 2. Directs staff to send this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey Owen Sound, leaders of all parties at Queen's Park, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Owen Sound Police Service Board; and**
- 3. Directs staff to send this resolution to the City of Brampton with a request that an update respecting any actions resulting from the resolution be provided to the City of Owen Sound."**

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

Councillor Farmer declared a conflict of interest at this time respecting Item 11.a due to the Director of Corporate Services being his sister-in-law and left the Council Chambers.

R-250310-007

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-011 respecting 2025 Non-Union and Council COLA Increase, City Council directs staff to implement a 3% cost of living increase effective January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026."

Carried.

Councillor Farmer returned to his chair.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

- 12.a Minutes of the Special Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on October 30, 2024

R-250310-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on October 30, 2024 be received."

Carried.

- 12.b Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on February 19, 2025

R-250310-009

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on February 19, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved, save and except Resolution No. CS-250219-004. "

Carried.

R-250310-010

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-006 presented at the February 19, 2025 Community Services Committee meeting respecting Extended Parking along the Harbour during the Annual Fishing Derbies, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Bring forward a report with an updated draft Regulatory By-law for Extended Parking as outlined in Option 2, layout B (116 spaces), including a turnaround area;**
- 2. Bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to add an extended parking licence fee for 2025 at \$150 per vehicle; and**
- 3. Provide notice of the fee change in accordance with the City's Notice By-law."**

Carried.

R-250310-011d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-006 presented at the February 19, 2025 Community Services Committee meeting respecting Extended Parking along the Harbour during the Annual Fishing Derbies, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to increase the extended parking licence fee for 2025 to \$50 per trailer at the Marina."

Defeated.

12.c Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on February 20, 2025

R-250310-012

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on February 20, 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

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a Tariffs and Procurement

Councillor Hamley advised that in response to the ongoing threat of tariffs being imposed on Canadian products imported to the United States, he would be bringing forward a Notice of Motion respecting banning American goods and services from the City's procurement and purchases.

In response to questions from Council, the City Manager noted that staff are assessing the City's exposure respecting I.T. security as well as potential impacts on capital projects currently in progress. Mr. Simmonds noted that updates will be provided to Council as the situation progresses.

15.b Ramadan

Councillor Farmer advised that Ramadan began on February 28 and will continue through March 29, and wished those observing "Ramadan Mubarak".

15.c Short-Term Rentals Survey

Councillor Middlebro' advised that the City is seeking public feedback respecting the first year of the short-term rentals licensing program and that a survey will be available on the City's website until March 14, 2025.

15.d Irish Heritage Month

Mayor Boddy advised that March is Irish Heritage Month and noted that the Irish flag had been raised at City Hall in recognition thereof.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-250310-013

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250310-014

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public forum, 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 Hamley Re: Tariff Response

Councillor Hamley provided the following notice of motion that was supported by Councillor Dodd:

WHEREAS the threat of American tariffs is real and poses a threat to the very existence of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the collective purchasing power of municipalities across Canada is in the hundreds of billions of dollars and can be leveraged to support Canadian industries and reduce reliance on American goods;

AND WHEREAS the City of Owen Sound has a responsibility to support local and Canadian businesses through this unprecedented time;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to prepare a report for Council's consideration on the feasibility of prohibiting the Corporation of the City of Owen Sound from procuring or purchasing American-made products and services;

AND FURTHER THAT the report includes recommendations on how the City can prioritize and strengthen its procurement of locally and Canadian-made goods and services and that this report track back to Council with the updated 2025 procurement policy.

R-250310-015

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT City Council waive the notice of motion requirement in the City's Procedural By-law in order to discuss an urgent matter relating to prohibiting the procurement or purchasing of American-made products and services."

Carried by 2/3.

R-250310-016

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"WHEREAS the threat of American tariffs is real and poses a threat to the very existence of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the collective purchasing power of municipalities across Canada is in the hundreds of billions of dollars and can be leveraged to support Canadian industries and reduce reliance on American goods;

AND WHEREAS the City of Owen Sound has a responsibility to support local and Canadian businesses through this unprecedented time;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to prepare a report for Council's consideration on the feasibility of prohibiting the Corporation of the City of Owen Sound from procuring or purchasing American-made products and services;

AND FURTHER THAT the report includes recommendations on how the City can prioritize and strengthen its procurement of locally and Canadian-made goods and services and that this report come back to Council with the updated 2025 procurement policy."

Carried.

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-250310-017

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

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

- 1. The minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on February 24, 2025;**
- 2. The minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025; and**
- 3. One matter regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual respecting tax arrears."**

Carried.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 7:20 p.m. All Council members and staff noted above were present except for the Manager of Human Resources.

Mayor Boddy advised that in Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on February 24, 2025;

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025; and
- Discussed one matter regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual respecting tax arrears, and no direction was provided.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2025-020

"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 10th day of March, 2025"

21.b By-law No. 2025-021

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with CIMCO Refrigeration, a division of Toromont Industries Ltd., respecting the design and build construction of the Bayshore Community Centre arena floor and boards replacements"

21.c By-law No. 2025-022

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute Lease Agreement C9907115 with His Majesty the King in right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Transport respecting the City's Inner Harbour"

R-250310-018

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT By-law Numbers 2025-020, 2025-021 and 2025-022 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk