



## Minutes

### Owen Sound City Council

February 24, 2025

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 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'

#### MEMBERS

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** Mayor Ian Boddy

**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

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

#### 2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: 'Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It' Campaign and Black History Month

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.a Councillor Koepke Re: Item 15.a 'Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It' Campaign and Black History Month

Councillor Koepke declared a non-disqualifying interest with discussions arising from Item 15.a, due to her being employed by Elections Ontario as the Elections Clerk for the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Riding.

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 10, 2025

R-250224-001

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 10, 2025 be adopted as printed."**

Carried.

**5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

R-250224-002

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

**"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 Presentation from the City Manager Re: City Manager's Update

The City Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted:

- Several highlights of ongoing and recently completed work of staff;
- Upcoming events including children's summer camps and the 2025 Arts, Culture, and Volunteer Awards;
- Reports that will be presented to upcoming meetings of the Corporate Services Committee, Operations Committee, Community Services Committee, as well as the dates of other meetings; and
- The Short-Term Rentals (STR) One-Year Review online survey is open now at [owensound.ca/str](https://owensound.ca/str).

**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 CS-25-015 from the Director of Community Services Re: Acquisition of Lands by the City - 2506 3rd Avenue East

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

R-250224-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-015 respecting the Acquisition of Lands by the City at 2506 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute all documents necessary to finalize the purchase."**

Carried.

- 10.b Report CS-25-016 from the Manager of Planning and Heritage  
Re: Recommendation Report – Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) No. 54  
Hampton Inn, 1750 16th Avenue East

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

R-250224-004

Moved by Councillor Hamley

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-016, respecting proposed Zoning By-law Amendment No. 54 by 16 Avenue OS Inc. through Ron Davidson Land Use Planning Consultant Inc. proposing a 120-room, six-storey hotel at 1750 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, City Council:**

- 1. In consideration of the staff reports, recommendations, technical reports, and oral and written submissions, including public and agency comments received, finds that the application is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, conforms to the goals and objectives of the City's Official Plan, and represents good planning; and**
- 2. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to pass Amendment No. 54 to the City's Zoning By-law (2010-078, as amended), and provide notice in accordance with Section 34 of the *Planning Act*."**

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Grieg relinquished the Chair to Councillor Merton to present a Verbal Report regarding Grey County Council. Councillor Merton assumed the role of Chair.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that at its most recent meeting, Grey County Council considered matters including the ploughing of a property used by snowmobilers for parking, as well as the 2024 Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture Annual Report. Deputy Mayor Greig advised that the County has applied for grant funding to support capital projects related to active transportation infrastructure.

R-250224-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided February 24, 2025 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

## **11. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 11.a Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force meeting held on January 17, 2025

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

- JM Shoebox Bookkeeping, a home occupation located at 920 5th Avenue East
- Little Treasures, a retail sales business located at 902 2nd Avenue East

- 11.c Final approvals issued for the following City Hall Illumination Requests:

- United Way of Bruce Grey for 211 Day
- Safe 'N Sound for Coldest Night of the Year

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

R-250224-006

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the February 24, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council receives Items 11.a to 11.d for information purposes."**

Carried.

## **12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

Deputy Mayor Greig relinquished the Chair to Councillor Merton to present the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Councillor Merton assumed the role of Chair.

- 12.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on February 5, 2025

R-250224-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT the minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on February 5, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

- 12.b Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 6, 2025

R-250224-008

Moved by Councillor Hamley

**"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 6, 2025 be received."**

Carried.

- 12.c Minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 12, 2025

R-250224-009

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT the minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 12, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

- 12.d Minutes of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 12, 2025

R-250224-010

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 12, 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 Merton at the February 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Re: Snow Windrow Clearing Program

In response to a question from Council, the City Manager advised that delivering a report within the proposed three-month timeframe would require reprioritization of the recently approved workplan of the Director of Public Works and Engineering. Mr. Simmonds noted that staff may be better able to deliver a report within six months.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Simmonds noted that while a report could be prepared in advance of budget deliberations for 2026, launching a snow windrow clearing program during winter 2025-2026 may not be possible, due to potential fleet and capital requirements that are unknown at this time.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Simmonds advised liability considerations could be investigated while preparing a report.

R-250224-011

Moved by Councillor Merton

**"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."**

Deputy Mayor Greig relinquished the position of Chair to Councillor Middlebro' to make comments on Item 14.a. Councillor Middlebro' assumed the position of Chair.

R-250224-012  
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT City Council refers the motion respecting a report on the implementation of a snow windrow clearing program to the Operations Committee."**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Deputy Mayor Greig requested a recorded vote.

	In Favour	Opposed
Councillor Dodd	X	
Councillor Farmer		X
Councillor Hamley	X	
Councillor Koepke	X	
Councillor Kukreja	X	
Councillor Merton	X	
Deputy Mayor Greig	X	
Councillor Middlebro'	X	

The resolution was carried with seven (7) votes in favour and one (1) vote opposed.

Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

**15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

15.a 'Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It' Campaign and Black History Month

Councillor Farmer thanked staff for using the City's platform to amplify the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 'Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends On It' campaign. Councillor Farmer noted that AMO has a webpage tracking the political parties' responses to the pillars of the campaign.

Councillor Koepke declared a non-disqualifying interest at this time due to her employment with Elections Ontario and did not participate in discussions respecting the AMO campaign.

Councillor Farmer noted that February is Black History Month and provided statements of recognition respecting the many contributions members of the Black community have made and continue to make in Owen Sound.

**16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT**

R-250224-013  
Moved by Councillor Koepke

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

Carried.

**FORMAL SESSION**

**17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

R-250224-014

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

**"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, Deputy Mayor Grieg 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](http://www.owensound.ca/meetings). The video recording of the meeting will also be posted on this webpage following the meeting.

R-250224-015

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

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

- 1. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025;**
- 2. 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 city development; and**
- 3. One matter regarding a proposed or pending disposition of land by the municipality respecting property on 3rd Avenue East."**

Carried.

## **20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that Council returned to the open session at 8:05 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that in Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2025;
- 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 city development, and no direction was provided; and
- Discussed one matter regarding a proposed or pending disposition of land by the municipality respecting property on 3rd Avenue East, and direction was provided to staff.

**21. BY-LAWS**

21.a By-law No. 2025-014

"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 24th day of February, 2025"

21.b By-law No. 2025-015

"A By-law to adopt estimates for the sums required during the year 2025 for the general and capital purposes of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound"

21.c By-law No. 2025-016

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement extension with the Royal Bank of Canada respecting banking services"

21.d By-law No. 2025-017

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute all documents necessary to complete the purchase of land located at 2506 3rd Avenue East"

21.e By-law No. 2025-018

"A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2010-078, respecting lands located at 1750 16th Avenue East (ZBA No. 54 – Hampton Inn)"

R-250224-016

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT By-law Numbers 2025-014, 2025-015, 2025-016, 2025-017, and 2025-018 be passed and enacted."**

Carried.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Deputy Mayor Greig adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

---

Deputy Mayor Scott Greig

---

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk