



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

March 24, 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 Marion Koepke
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Brock Hamley

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
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Desiree van Dijk, Information and Privacy Coordinator
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Connecting with the City and Getting News
- 2.b 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 February 24, 2025
- 4.b Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025
- 4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on March 10, 2025

R-250324-001

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

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

- 1. The Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on February 24, 2025;**
- 2. The Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on March 3, 2025; and**
- 3. The Regular Council meeting held on March 10, 2025."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250324-002

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"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

7.a Deputation from Jamie Walpole Re: Festival of Northern Lights Update

Jamie Walpole, Festival of Northern Lights organizer, provided a presentation about the 2024 festival season, including highlights, challenges, and demographic information about festival attendees. Mr. Walpole noted that the organizing team is working to grow its volunteer and sponsorship bases.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Walpole noted that efforts to prevent vandalism are ongoing and provided examples of prevention efforts.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Walpole advised that the City supports the Festival by providing use of City-owned storage facilities and staff assistance with set-up and tear-down of displays.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Walpole advised that volunteers with all skill sets are welcome, including high school students in need of volunteer hours. Mr. Walpole advised that information about sponsorship opportunities will be posted on the Festival's website and Facebook page.

7.b 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;
- Registration is open for children's summer camps;

- 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
- A listing of media advisories issued over the past month.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.a Joachim Ostertag, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Ostertag, a member of Climate Action Team Owen Sound (CATOS), provided comments in support of the addition of a Festival of Northern Lights display memorializing the victims of the 1989 Montreal Massacre.

Mr. Ostertag reiterated the comments he made during the March 6 meeting of the Corporate Services Committee and highlighted his previous suggestion that the City increase the level of public engagement it undertakes with respect to climate action. Mr. Ostertag requested further information about the Tree Cities of the World designation.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that staff apply for the Tree Cities of the World Designation and receive it based on the results of the application's scoring.

8.b David Walton, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Walton provided suggestions respecting soliciting ideas for climate action from frontline staff. Mr. Walton further provided suggestions for the clean-up of excess salt on roads and walkways.

Mayor Boddy advised that excess salt leftover from winter control will be swept once snowbanks have completely melted.

8.c Hilary Coburn, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Coburn provided comments suggesting that the City create a staff position dedicated to climate action.

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-25-027 from Director of Corporate Services Re: 2025 Multi-Residential Tax Rate Reduction – Third Phase of a Four-Year Plan

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

R-250324-003

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-027 respecting 2025 Multi-Residential Tax Rate Reduction – Third Phase of a Four-Year Plan, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Reduce the multi-residential ratio to 1.169475, representing the third increment in the City's four-year phased approach to achieving a ratio of 1.0; and**
- 2. Bring forward a by-law to authorize the collection of 2025 property taxes based on the approved tax ratios and rates."**

Carried.

- 10.b Report CR-25-034 from the Manager of Corporate Services and the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Approval of Non-Standard Procurement - Tandem Axle Plow Replacements

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

R-250324-004

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-034 respecting Approval of Non-Standard Procurement – Tandem Axle Plow Replacements, City Council:

- 1. Approves the recommended lifespan replacement schedule of 10 years for Tandem Axle Plows until a comprehensive fleet replacement schedule is adopted through the implementation of the Corporate Fleet Strategy;**
- 2. Approves the non-standard procurement for the supply and delivery of two (2) 2025 International Tandem Axle Plows from Viking-Cives, Ltd., for \$834,840, including the City's non-refundable allocation of HST; and**
- 3. Authorizes the Director of Corporate Services to issue a Purchase Order for the supply and delivery of the necessary equipment."**

Carried.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig provided an overview of the most recent meeting of Grey County Council and advised of actions taken relating to transportation, roads, housing and paramedic services. Deputy Mayor Greig advised that the County's CAO has announced her retirement, and that the position will be filled by the current Deputy CAO.

R-250324-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided March 24, 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-25-037 from the Manager of Corporate Services and the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Approval of Contract Extension - Operation of Inter-Community Transportation Service
- 11.b Report CR-25-029 from the Deputy Clerk Re: 2024 Council, Committee and Board Attendance
- 11.c Report CR-25-033 from the Deputy Clerk Re: Statement of 2024 Council Remuneration and Expenses
- 11.d Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Meeting held on February 21, 2025
- 11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 25, 2025
- 11.f Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management Meeting held on January 8, 2025

11.g Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- BCABS, a taxi business located at 1045 2nd Avenue East
- Naagan by Zach Keeshig, a restaurant located at 277 10th Street East
- Tripsy Ad-Hoc Technologies Inc, a ridesharing service located at 1051 2nd Avenue East
- Ultimate Drivers Owen Sound, a driving school located at 908 2nd Avenue East

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

- Grey/Bruce Epilepsy for Purple Day
- London Gift of Life Association for National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness

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

- London Gift of Life Association for National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness
- Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound for 100th Anniversary

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

R-250324-006

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the March 24, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council:

- 1. Receives Items 11.a to 11.j; and**
- 2. Approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.a to 11.c. "**

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

12.a Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on March 6, 2025

R-250324-007

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on March 6, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved, save and except Item 10.b.1."

Carried.

R-250324-008

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT Item 10.b.1 contained within the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on March 6, 2025 be received and the recommendation 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

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Connecting with the City and Getting News

Councillor Farmer provided an overview of recent concerns in the community respecting members of the public not receiving communications about the 2025 Arts, Culture, and Volunteer Awards prior to the cancellation of the award ceremony due to low nominations. Councillor Farmer noted that any individual can subscribe to receive notification of the City's media releases and suggested that staff could consider including community news and information in physical mailouts such as tax bills.

2.b Mayor Boddy Re: Mayor's Update

Mayor Boddy provided an overview of recent events he has participated in, including Home and Community Support Service's Meals on Wheels "March for Meals" and a meeting with the Georgian College Student Association President respecting volunteer opportunities for students. Mayor Boddy extended congratulations to the Owen Sound Attack and the University of Waterloo Women's hockey team for their recent successes. Mayor Boddy noted that there is one week remaining in the Savour Owen Sound promotion.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-250324-009

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250324-010

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"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

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.

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

- 1. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 10, 2025;**
- 2. One matter regarding labour relations and employee negotiations respecting collective bargaining; and**
- 3. One matter regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual respecting an investigation."**

Carried.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 7:54 p.m. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for Councillor Dodd, the Director of Community Services, the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Public Works and Engineering, the Manager of Corporate Services, and 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 March 10, 2025;
- Discussed one matter regarding labour relations and employee negotiations respecting collective bargaining, and direction was provided to staff; and
- Discussed one matter regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual respecting an investigation, and no direction was provided.

Councillor Dodd returned to his seat.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2025-023

"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 March, 2025"

21.b By-law No. 2025-024

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with The Corporation of the Municipality of Meaford and The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs respecting access to and use of the City's Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Site"

21.c By-law No. 2025-025

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a 2025 Hazardous and Special Product (HSP) Municipal Partnership Agreement with the municipalities of Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands and Meaford"

21.d By-law No. 2025-026

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Second Amending Agreement with 947465 Ontario Ltd. (Voyago), respecting Inter-Community Transportation between Owen Sound and Guelph (GOST)"

R-250324-012

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

Seconded by Councillor Dodd

"THAT By-law Numbers 2025-023, 2025-024, 2025-025 and 2025-026 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

Allison M. Penner, Deputy Clerk