



Minutes

Operations Committee

June 26, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Donald Anderson
Member Arlene Blue Indoe
Member Robert Droine
Member Michele Hawkins
Councillor Brock Hamley (via video)
Councillor Suneet Kukreja

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Mike Crone

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services
Bruce McDonald, Manager of Water and Wastewater
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Manan Monga, Engineering Technologist
Riley Brugess, By-law Enforcement Officer
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Member Anderson Re: Recognizing Helen Keller

2.b Chair Greig Re: Tender for 9th Ave East and 6th St East

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. a Councillor Hamley – Item 8.b.1 Report OP-25-024 Re: Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest during discussions arising out of item 8.b.1 regarding the Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup grant funding agreement, due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on May 15, 2025

OP-250626-001

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 15, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from Jeff Graham and Timothy Larose of GSS Engineering Re: 16th Avenue East - 17th Street East to 20th Street East Sanitary Sewer Replacement

The Manager of Engineering Services introduced the consultant and provided a brief overview of the presentation.

Timothy Larose and Jeff Graham of GSS Engineering provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 16th Ave E -17th St E to 20th St E Sanitary Sewer Replacement highlighting the details of the project, cost estimates, and project schedule.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Larose noted that the goal is to keep the project within the road base, including the portion of the salt road. Mr. Graham added that the fill from the project will be kept at the location as much as possible.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb clarified that there will be a servicing agreement with the developer of the proposed hotel in this area for their contractor to install the multi-use path and pedestrian facilities, as well as outlining that the cost of sanitary and water servicing to the property line will be the responsibility of the developer. Mr. Larose added that there is currently no existing sidewalk at that point on 16th Ave E where the proposed hotel would be located.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Larose noted that while the contractor includes a detour plan, they are planning for one lane of the roadway to remain open during the majority of the construction period, and that there will be a full detour plan in place at the time when watermain service to the hotel is being provided.

OP-250626-002

Moved by Member Droine

"THAT in consideration of the presentation on June 26, 2025 from GSS Engineering respecting 16th Ave E - 17th St E to 20th St E Sanitary Sewer Replacement, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the presentation for information purposes."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Transit

8.a.1 Verbal Report from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Transit Dashboard January to May 2025

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the Transit Dashboard from January to May 2025, highlighting transit revenue statistics and ridership trends and distributions.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that there is not currently signage at bus stops indicating bus schedule times, and that information is found either online or on the mobile app.

OP-250626-003

Moved by Member Anderson

"THAT in consideration of the verbal report provided June 26, 2025 respecting Transit Dashboard January to May 2025, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.b Environment

8.b.1 Report OP-25-024 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that while the Georgian Bay Folk Society is working with the City for this event, other groups and individuals are also welcome to participate.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that the funds in the grant funding agreement are being received from the Province through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest at this time due to his employment with the Government of Ontario and turned his camera off for the remainder of this discussion.

OP-250626-004

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-024 respecting Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the grant funding agreement with Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative."

Carried.

Councillor Hamley turned his camera back on and rejoined the meeting.

8.c Engineering

8.c.1 Report OP-25-016 from the Manager of Engineering Services Re: Roads Condition Update

The Manager of Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb clarified that the range of fees in the report are for 3 cycles of inspections happening over a 6-year period.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb noted that the data collected could provide the City with pavement condition indexes and additional information to monitor our transit system routes in the future.

OP-250626-005

Moved by Vice Chair Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-016 respecting Roads Condition Update, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.c.2 Report OP-25-023 from the Engineering Technologist Re: Traffic By-law Amendments - On-street Parking, Loading and Stopping Regulations

The Manager of Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1a., Mr. Monga clarified that the stretch of 16th St W between 5th Ave W and 8th Ave W currently has a sidewalk on the north side.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1c., Mr. Monga clarified that new signage would state the specific time allowances as applicable.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb noted that parking enforcement is normally initiated by complaints, other than within the River District that has regular parking enforcement. The By-law Enforcement Officer added that officers can schedule times to monitor school zones as needed and that they do issue tickets if they see an infraction while out on route. Mr. Brugess added that it is best to report infractions during business hours through owensound.ca/reportaconcern or by phone, and after-hours it is best to contact the police non-emergency line.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1c., Mr. Monga noted that the main concern with this section of 15th St 'A' E is the stopping that occurs during school hours, which ends after 4pm and therefore this would be consistent with other school zone verbiage.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 3., Mr. Monga noted there are approximately 12-15 parking spots that would be included in the proposed 2-hour parking limit. He added that for one of the spots to be marked as accessible, it would need to be a paved spot, which this off-shoulder parking is not.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess clarified that the recommendation does not change what is currently prohibited, but instead changes the mechanism for staff to enforce the issue of parking on yards of residential properties.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess noted that there has been approximately 10 complaints relating to this issue in the past year. Ms. Widdifield added that these issues are typically monitored on a complaint basis.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess clarified that this amendment only pertains to residential and private property and does not include on-street parking in areas that have no street parking regulations.

Councillor Hamley left the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Bruggess noted that this change is recommended based on feedback from the City's prosecutor as well as to increase efficiency.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Bruggess noted that an educational campaign and a period of issuing warnings would take place before ticketing persons for this infraction.

OP-250626-006

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-023 respecting Traffic By-law Amendments – On-street Parking, Loading and Stopping Regulations, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend Traffic By-law No. 2009-075 to include:

- 1. The following parking and stopping prohibitions:**
 - a. The prohibition of parking on 16th Street West from 5th Avenue West to 8th Avenue West – Both sides of the road;**
 - b. The prohibition of parking on 9th Avenue East from 23rd Street East to 25th Street East - Both Sides of the road; and**
 - c. The prohibition of stopping on 15th Street 'A' East from 8th Avenue East to 9th Avenue East - South side of the road;**
- 2. The removal of an on-street parking stall on the north side of 9th Street East, west of the driveway for the parking lot of 901 2nd Avenue East;**
- 3. The implementation of a '2-hour parking limit' for the perpendicular parking on the west side of 1st Avenue East, north of 12th Street East;**
- 4. The elimination of Schedule 21C – Loading and Unloading Zone;**
- 5. The amendment of Schedule 8 – No Parking Anytime – for 8th Street East:**
 - a. To remove the on-street parking prohibition on 8th Street East from 4th Avenue East to 5th Avenue East - South side of the road; and**
 - b. To revise the on-street parking prohibition that indicates 9th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East – both sides of the road to 5th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East – both sides of the road; and**

6. The elimination of Schedule 9E – No Parking – 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM – Monday to Friday and the amendment to Schedule 8 – No Parking Anytime – to include 7th Avenue East, south of 6th Street East."

Carried.

8.d Public Works

8.d.1 Report OP-25-030 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: 2023-2025 Winter Control Operational Update

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that spring cleanup is still in progress, and that there may be some changes to routes, road ratings and staffing ahead of next winter once this is completed.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield clarified that in addition to snowplow routes, sidewalk plow routes will also be investigated for efficiencies.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that untreated salt was used from 2012-2014, treated salt was used from 2014-2018, and a 2 to 1 mix of treated salt and sand has been used from 2018 to present. She added that it can be a challenge to find a road salting solution that works as well as possible while remaining within environmental and fiscal limitations.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that the costs included in the report do not include the costs of the sweeper and vacuum trucks used for cleanup after the winter.

OP-250626-007

Moved by Member Blue Indoe

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-030 respecting 2023-2025 Winter Control Operational Update, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.e Water and Wastewater

8.e.1 Report OP-25-027 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Water Management By-law

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield clarified that while there are condominium complexes where each unit has their own meter, typically there is only one City water meter per property.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that offering leak adjustments risks transferring the burden of a homeowner's negligence or lack of maintenance to the City, and that additional guidelines would need to be in place to offer these. The Manager of Water and Wastewater added that the goal of the by-law is to encourage responsible utility usage.

OP-250626-008

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-027 respecting , the Operations Committee recommends that City Council approve the recommendations in the report and direct staff to:

- 1. Bring forward a by-law substantially in the form of the Draft Water Management By-law attached to the report, pending further refinement by Clerk's staff; and**
- 2. Bring forward a by-law to amend the Delegation of Authority By-law to include the delegation of powers outlined in the Water Use By-law to the Director of Public Works and Engineering."**

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Recognizing Helen Keller

Member Anderson communicated that there is an event on June 27 for the Day of Recognition for Helen Keller, and provided background information on the importance of her legacy and remarkable accomplishments.

12.b Tender for 9th Ave East and 6th St East

Deputy Mayor Greig shared that City Council has awarded the tender for the 9th Ave E and 6th St E capital project to E.C. King and that construction is now underway.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.