



**Minutes**

**Owen Sound City Council**

**September 22, 2025**

**City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

**No Closed Session**

**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  
Rebecca Ellerdiem, Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction  
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk  
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and provided a land acknowledgement. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for the Director of Corporate Services.

**2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

- 2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Civic Engagement Opportunities, Sweetwater Music Festival, and Upcoming Events
- 2.b Deputy Mayor Greig Re: Official Plan and Zoning By-law Updates
- 2.c 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 Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025
- 4.b Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 8, 2025

R-250922-001

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 Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025; and**
- 2. The Regular Council meeting held on September 8, 2025."**

Carried.

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

R-250922-002

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 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 Deputation from Tamara Sargent, Owen Sound resident Re: Circulating Petitions and Charter-Protected Rights at Public Events

Ms. Sargent provided a deputation regarding circulating petitions at public events and highlighted that a petition respecting the conflict in Palestine has been submitted to MP Alex Ruff. She requested that Council review policies and agreements related to the use of public space for community events, affirm the rights of individuals to engage in peaceful expression, and consider providing training to event organizers to ensure Charter rights are understood.

- 7.b Presentation from the City Manager Re: City Manager's Update

The City Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted:

- Highlights of recent events and activities throughout the City from July to September;
- Reports that will be presented to the October meetings of the Corporate Services Committee, Operations Committee, and Community Services Committee;
- A listing of media advisories issued since the last update in July;
- The year-to-date building activity and construction values; and
- Upcoming events and activities.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering noted that the mobile traffic counting devices are to monitor speed, volume of traffic, and demographic of traffic in desired locations to confirm road classifications and the need for traffic calming measures.

The City Manager announced that Heather Hiscox, Canadian news anchor from Owen Sound, will be conducting a CBC Morning live broadcast in Owen Sound on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Director of Corporate Services joined the meeting.

## 8. PUBLIC FORUM

### 8.a Pat Kelly, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Kelly provided comments respecting the July 28 community discussion to foster a vibrant River District, the Vision 2050 Strategic Plan, and public participation processes. She added that it would be helpful for Council meeting materials to be published earlier to provide additional time for the public to review and comment on agenda items.

The City Clerk advised that agenda publishing timelines are outlined in the City's Procedural By-law, and that materials are published the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting.

### 8.b James Ball, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Ball expressed concern with how often the flowers are being watered in the River District and the run-off from the watering. Mr. Ball inquired about the funds the City received from the 2025 Summerfolk Music and Crafts Festival rental.

### 8.c Mary Ann Alton, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Alton provided comments on the success of the 50th anniversary of the Summerfolk Music and Crafts Festival and thanked Council for their continued support.

## 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 CM-25-027 from the City Manager Re: Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District

The City Manager provided an overview of the report.

R-250922-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-027 respecting Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District, City Council receives the report for information purposes."**

Carried.

R-250922-004

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-027 respecting Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District, City Council directs staff to bring forward a report to the October 27, 2025 Council meeting with options for public washrooms in the River District, including associated capital and operating costs."**

Carried.

### 10.b Report CM-25-031 from the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction Re: Municipal Support for Proposed Hydrogen Peaking Plant

The Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction provided an overview of the report.

R-250922-005  
Moved by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-031 respecting Municipal Support for Proposed Hydrogen Peaker Plant, City Council endorses the resolution attached to the report."**

Carried.

- 10.c Report CS-25-104 from the Director of Community Services Re: High Priority Tree Removals

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

R-250922-006  
Moved by Councillor Dodd

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-104 respecting High and Very High Priority Tree Removals, City Council authorizes the allocation of \$180,000 of the anticipated 2025 operating surplus to remove very high and high hazard trees (approximately 288 trees) in the fall of 2025."**

Carried.

- 10.d Report CR-25-109 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Election Report No. 1

The City Clerk provided an overview of the report.

R-250922-007  
Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-109 respecting 2026 Election Report No. 1, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Election Sign By-law as outlined in the report."**

Carried.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig reported that County Council received a one-year update from Brightshores regarding the Bayview Wellness and Recovery facility, which has operated at 100% occupancy, with 58% of clients originating from Grey County. He also noted that County Council reviewed a report on ambulance response times, which indicated a 30% increase in call volumes over the past five years and that response times exceeded targets across all call categories. Additionally, County Council approved a design speed of 80 km/h on County Road 5 near the new Catholic high school and supported a future report on speed reduction. Deputy Mayor Greig further highlighted the opening of a new gallery at Grey Roots, showcasing Grey County's history.

R-250922-008  
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 22, 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-25-125 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Emergency Purchase - Water Treatment Plant Intake and Zebra Mussel Chlorine Line Repairs
- 11.b Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on July 9, 2025

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

- Lachile Liquidation and Afro Caribbean Groceries, a retail liquidation and Afro Caribbean grocery store at 1006 2nd Ave E
- George Plester is the new owner of PWR Power Fade Golf, a golf simulator business located at 290 9th St E
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to Ontario Festival Group to operate the 2025 Owen Sound Ribfest Show at the Bayshore from September 12 to 14
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to the Owen Sound Agricultural Society to operate vendors at the Fall Fair from September 4 to 6

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

R-250922-009

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

**"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the September 22, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council:**

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

Carried.

The Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction left the meeting.

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

Mayor Boddy relinquished the position of Chair to present the minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee held on September 10, 2025. Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the position of Chair.

12.a Minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad-hoc Committee meeting held on September 10, 2025

R-250922-010

Moved by Mayor Boddy

**"THAT the minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad-hoc Committee meeting held on September 10, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

Mayor Boddy resumed the position of Chair.

12.b Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 11, 2025

R-250922-011

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 11, 2025 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."**

Carried.

## **13. MATTERS POSTPONED**

13.a Report CR-25-110 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

The City Clerk provided an overview of the report.

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-110 respecting 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, City Council approves:**

- 1. The 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar as attached to the report;**
- 2. Shortening the 2026 budget amendment period from 30-days to 25-days; and**
- 3. Shortening the over-ride of the Mayor's veto period, if required, from 15-days to 14-days."**

Carried.

**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 Civic Engagement Opportunities, Sweetwater Music Festival, and Upcoming Events**

Councillor Farmer noted that the Community Safety and Well-Being Planning table has a Municipal Community of Practice that meets monthly, and at their recent meeting they discussed access to public washrooms and water.

Councillor Farmer highlighted upcoming events by the grassroots group "We Vote Local" as a way to get people involved in local politics, which features local elected officials from across Grey and Bruce Counties. The next event is October 23, 2025 at the Rumpus Room.

Councillor Farmer advised that the Sweetwater Music Festival completed their 22nd annual festival and congratulated the organization on a great turnout over the weekend.

Councillor Farmer noted that Safe n' Sound is hosting an upcoming educational session on October 14 on harm reduction.

Councillor Farmer explained that the City is taking part in the Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup on September 28 in partnership with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and that more information is available on their website.

**15.b Official Plan and Zoning By-law Updates**

Deputy Mayor Greig asked staff for an update respecting the Official Plan and Zoning By-law updates.

The Director of Community Services advised that staff and the consultant have been working to refine the Official Plan and Zoning By-law based on the input received through the public survey and at the community open house. The formal public meeting will be held in November and all information is available at [OurCity.OwenSound.ca](http://OurCity.OwenSound.ca).

**15.c Mayor's Update**

Mayor Boddy congratulated Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services, on his recent retirement from the City after many years of service.

Mayor Boddy advised that he participated in the 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb held at the Bayshore Community Centre in recognition of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to acknowledge the work of first responders not only on that day, but every day.

Mayor Boddy noted that September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. There is a ceremony at the Gichi-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden at Nawash Park on September 30, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., all are welcome to attend, learn, and reflect.

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

R-250922-013

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-250922-014

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 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**

**20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**21. BY-LAWS**

21.a By-law No. 2025-109

"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 22nd day of September, 2025."

R-250922-015

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

Seconded by Councillor Merton

**"THAT By-law Number 2025-109 be passed and enacted."**

Carried.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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Mayor Ian C. Boddy

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Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk