



Minutes

Operations Committee

March 19, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Jon Farmer (via video)
Member Donald Anderson
Councillor Brock Hamley (via video)
Member Michele Hawkins
Member Graham Jordan
Councillor Carol Merton
Member Aletta Schurter

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Arlene Blue Indoe

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Mason Bellamy, Manager of Public Works and Engineering
Bryce McDonald, Manager of Water and Wastewater
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All Committee members and staff listed above were present except for Member Schurter.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Merton Re: Precautionary Boil Water Advisory

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on February 19, 2026

OP-260319-001

Moved by Member Anderson

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2026."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from WSP Canada Inc. Re: 4th Avenue West Reconstruction (15th St to 20th St)

The Manager of Public Works and Engineering introduced Chris Wilson of WSP Canada Inc.

Mr. Wilson provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting the 4th Avenue West Reconstruction Project.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Wilson noted that while the multi-use path has been maneuvered to best avoid trees and hydro poles, there are still a number of trees that will need either removed or relocated.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that this road is classified as a minor collector road in the City's Official Plan, and that alternative solutions such as limitations to the direction of traffic are not generally considered for this classification of roads. He added that there are opportunities for these considerations on other projects and on local roads if directed by Council.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Wilson noted that replacing or relocating a hydro pole can cost between approximately \$20,000 and \$30,000 per pole and added that these plans are subject to change based on feedback from Hydro One once work is underway.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Wilson noted that a WSP arborist team has been assigned to this work.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that staff are working toward the 60% design completion with option 3 as presented, and that the proposed timeline is for the tender to be issued in April so that construction can begin this year.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that parking issues for festivals and events has not been mentioned as a concern through the consultation process.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Wilson noted that provisional items could be included in the design, and then final decisions can be made based on exact prices received throughout the process.

Member Schurter joined the meeting.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

6.a Carron Standoloft, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Standoloft of Queen of Hearts Nursery School provided comments respecting the benefits of additional sidewalks and multi-use paths, as well as potential closures during construction.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that the proponent awarded the construction contract will be responsible for traffic control and will be required to provide safe detours on a block-by-block basis.

6.b Heather Younghusband, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Younghusband of Queen of Hearts Nursery School provided comments respecting the location of the proposed crosswalks adjacent to Timothy Christian School.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that it has been determined that crosswalks are needed near the School and added that final design and locations for the crosswalks are not yet determined.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that WSP and staff can investigate traffic patterns and incorporate input from local bus companies when finalizing locations for crosswalks.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Engineering

8.a.1 Report OP-26-005 from the Engineering Technologist Re: Proposed Upgrades to Traffic Signal Infrastructure at 10th St W and 8th Ave W

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

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy clarified that many of the issues with the infrastructure are regarding the pedestrian signals as they are often non-functional.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that the majority of this replacement consists of new wiring and hardware, and that programming of the signals can then take place once this is installed.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bellamy noted that the collisions were not due to the layout of the intersection and added that large vehicles and winter weather conditions impacted these collisions.

OP-260319-002

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-005 respecting Traffic Signal upgrades to 10th Street West and 8th Avenue West, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council approve the funding reallocation for the Traffic and Pedestrian signal upgrades at the intersection of 10th Street West and 8th Avenue West in 2026 as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.b Environment

8.b.1 Report OP-26-015 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Leaf and Yard Waste Site Contractor Disposal Fee Implementation

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that staff are often on location performing work at the leaf and yard waste site and that the security contractor also periodically monitors the site.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that originally two different payment levels were considered, but it was determined that a flat fee of \$200 for the year would simplify the process for both staff and contractors.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that other community members often report individuals dumping materials who may be unallowed.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that many of the registered contractors are smaller businesses, as larger commercial businesses often have private sites where they dispose of their leaf and yard waste.

OP-260319-003

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-015 respecting the Leaf and Yard Waste Site contractor fee implementation, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to provide notice of an amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law as required by the Notice By-law; and**

2. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to establish a Leaf and Yard Waste site Contractor Disposal Fee, effective May 1, 2026."

Carried.

8.c Transit

8.c.1 Report OP-26-016 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: 2025 Annual Transit Report

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

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager noted that increasing bus service options outside of the current operating hours creates logistical issues and is cost prohibitive.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that Grey County is working on a regional transit study, and staff are unsure what the recommendations could comprise of at this time.

Councillor Hamley left the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that there is one spare bus to fill in if there is an accident or other down time for maintenance.

OP-260319-004

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-016 respecting the Transit Annual Report for 2025, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.d Water and Wastewater

8.d.1 Report OP-26-008 from the Manager of Water and Wastewater Re: 2025 Wastewater Annual Report

The Manager of Water and Wastewater provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that the high instantaneous flow rates outlined in the report were mainly attributed to heavy infiltration and inflows from cross connections of stormwater or aging infrastructure.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that the exceedances in the report for 2025 are consistent with other years, and that the outliers are not flagged for concern as they did not continue as trends.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that the general plant flows are typically at approximately 40% plant capacity, other than for the instances noted of high instantaneous flow, and he added that plant capacity is not of concern with growth predictions at this time.

OP-260319-005

Moved by Member Hawkins

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-008 respecting the 2025 Wastewater Annual Report, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.e Public Works

None.

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

11.a Memorandum from the Manager of Public Works and Engineering Re: Winter Maintenance Update

The Manager of Public Works and Engineering provided a brief overview of the Winter Maintenance Update, highlighting lost production occurrences to date and that the City has now received 444 centimeters of snow so far this winter.

OP-260319-006

Moved by Member Jordan

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the March 19, 2026 Operations Committee agenda, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 11.a for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Precautionary Boil Water Advisory

Councillor Merton acknowledged the work of City staff and Grey Bruce Public Health and thanked them for their efforts in monitoring and communicating the events respecting the precautionary boil water advisory that was issued on March 14, 2026.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that the Drinking Water Quality Management Standards (DWQMS) requires continuous improvement and education respecting how emergency events are addressed, and that a root cause analysis will be conducted with water treatment plant staff and the emergency response plan will be updated if applicable. He noted that a corporate formal debrief to improve internal process flows and communication processes will also take place.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that water treatment staff did a tremendous job at identifying and flagging the unique situation.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that 1 of 4 filters was taken offline to replace on March 4, and that additional repairs were identified once the unit was removed, but that delays were minimal. He added that staff then met with the contractor and project consultant to discuss the performance of the previous filter and discussed the expectations of the contractor to perform acceptable filter run tests. He further added that following the advisory, staff had a debrief with the consultant to communicate the urgency in getting the filter back online as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that while the turbidity levels seen on March 14 have been seen previously, it was the duration of the turbidity in the source water that caused the need for the precautionary boil water advisory.

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 7:29 p.m.