



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

April 13, 2026

5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: 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
Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief
Janet Ashfield, Manager of Human Resources
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

All Council members and staff listed above were present except for the Manager of Human Resources.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Mayor Boddy Re: Mayor's Update

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.a Councillor Hamley:

- Discussion Arising out of Item 9.a – Correspondence from Donald Statham, Lutheran Social Services Re: Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for St. Clare Place.
- Report CR-26-035 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2026 Provincial Gas Tax Letter of Agreement.
- Report CR-26-036 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2026 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program.
- Correspondence items 1.c and 2.b contained within Item 11.I – Correspondence Received which is Presented for the Information of Council.

- By-law No. 2026-036 being “A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Encroachment Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation respecting 9th Avenue East reconstruction project”.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with discussion arising out of Item 9.a, Items 11.b, 11.c, discussion arising out of items 1.c and 2.b contained within Item 11.i, and 21.i of the agenda, due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 9, 2026
- 4.b Minutes of the Closed Session of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 18, 2026
- 4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on March 23, 2026

R-260413-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

1. **Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 9, 2026;**
2. **Closed Session of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 18, 2026; and**
3. **Regular Council meeting held on March 23, 2026."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-260413-002

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"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 Shauna Doyle, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Information Specialist Re: Introduction of Poet Laureate, Jennifer Frankum

Ms. Doyle introduced the 2026-2027 poet laureate, Jennifer Frankum. Ms. Doyle advised that the Poet Laureate program is hosted by the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library with funding from several members of the community as opposed to tax-based funding.

Ms. Doyle advised that Jennifer Frankum fashions poems out of everyday moments of wonder.

Ms. Frankum read two of her poems, "A Rather Serious Poem" and "Ink rivered my journal".

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.a Doug Murdoch, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Murdoch raised concerns regarding building permit enforcement, encampments along the rail trail near 26th Street East, and the loss of City trees near the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Boddy advised Mr. Murdoch and other residents to utilize the City's "Report a Concern" feature on its website, noting that it enables issues to be formally tracked and followed up.

8.b Kelly Carmichael, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Carmichael, on behalf of a group of residents in the Brooke area, expressed support for the inclusion of a bicycle lane on 4th Avenue West as part of the reconstruction project, noting that it would enhance safety for families and other users.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

9.a Correspondence from Donald Statham, Lutheran Social Services Re: Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for St. Clare Place

The Director of Community Services advised that the estimated building permit fees for the development are \$127,575.84 and 50 per cent of units will be affordable.

R-260413-003

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of the correspondence listed on the April 13, 2026 Council agenda from Donald Statham of Lutheran Social Services respecting a Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for St. Clare Place, City Council directs staff to waive the building permit fees for St. Clare Place."

Carried.

The Manager of Human Resources joined the meeting.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest at this time with discussion arising out of Item 9.a due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario and left the Council Chambers.

R-260413-004d

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of the correspondence listed on the April 13, 2026 Council agenda from Donald Statham of Lutheran Social Services respecting a Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for St. Clare Place, City Council directs the Mayor to send a letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, indicating that the City of Owen Sound has met the Province's mandate for affordable housing."

Defeated.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Report CR-26-028 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2026 Multi-Residential Tax Rate Reduction - Final Phase

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

R-260413-005

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-028 respecting the 2026 Multi- Residential Tax Rate Reduction, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Reduce the multi-residential tax ratio to 1.0, representing the final increment in the City's four-year phased approach; and**
- 2. Bring forward a by-law to authorize the collection of 2026 property taxes based on the approved tax ratios and rates."**

Carried.

10.b Report CR-26-031 from the City Clerk Re: 2027 Committee Structure and Calendar

The City Clerk provided an overview of the report through a PowerPoint presentation.

R-260413-006

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-031 respecting the 2027 Committee Structure and Calendar, City Council:

- 1. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Resilient Community Advisory Committee;**
- 2. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Community Advisory Committee;**
- 3. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Vibrant Community Advisory Committee;**
- 4. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee;**
- 5. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Board, Committee and Seat Selection Policy No. GOV001 to amend committee start dates and Council seating start dates;**
- 6. Directs staff to bring forward the 2027 Board and Committee By-law for approval, including new terms of reference, working group clauses, and any changes to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board;**
- 7. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Procedural By-law to publish committee agendas earlier, remove standing committee references, and make housekeeping changes to the absence of the chair section as outlined in the report;**
- 8. Directs staff to provide notice of the proposed amendment to the Procedural By-law in accordance with the Notice By-law; and**
- 9. Approves the 2027 Council and Committee meeting calendar, substantially in the form attached to the report."**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councillor Farmer 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	
Mayor Boddy	X	

The resolution was carried with six (6) votes in favour and two (2) votes opposed.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig reported that Grey County Council:

- Awarded tenders for two road projects, including the Dundalk Main Street reconstruction and Grey Road 12.
- Received the 2025 Provincial Offences Court report which noted the most common cases arose under the *Highway Traffic Act*, municipal by-laws, the *Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act*, *Dog Owners' Liability Act*, *Building Code Act*, *Trespass to Property Act*, and *Liquor Licence and Control Act*. The Owen Sound Police Service issued 1,100 of the 11,796 total tickets filed across Bruce and Grey Counties. For municipal by-law offences, 25 per cent of each fine is retained by the Provincial Offences Court while 75 per cent is remitted to the municipality under which the by-law offence originated.
- Approved the voluntary Green Development Program with an anticipated launch in spring 2026.
- Postponed the primary motion from the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force and referred the matter back to the Task Force for further review with additional staff reporting and lower-tier municipal participation.
- Supported the reduction of the multi-residential tax class ratio to 1.
- Received a Strategic Plan status update which indicated that 33 per cent of objectives and goals have been completed, with 65 per cent currently in progress.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that the Cruise and Connect: A Grey & Bruce Networking Event will be held aboard the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun on April 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., with tickets available for purchase via [Eventbrite](#).

R-260413-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided April 13, 2026 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-26-034 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Election Report No. 3

11.b Report CR-26-035 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2026 Provincial Gas Tax Letter of Agreement

- 11.c Report CR-26-036 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2026 Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program
- 11.d Report OP-26-020 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Extension of Grey County Street Sweeping Agreement
- 11.e Report OP-26-017 from the Manager of Public Works and Engineering Re: Delegation of Authority for Servicing Agreements
- 11.f Report OP-26-018 from the Engineering Technologist III Re: 9th Avenue East Reconstruction - 6th Street East to Superior Street Phase 2 Encroachment and Delegation of Authority for Encroachment Approvals
- 11.g Report CR-26-032 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Award of City of Owen Sound Component of Grey County Joint Tender RFT-TS-20-26 Milling and Hot Mix Asphalt Paving
- 11.h Report CR-26-029 from the Deputy Clerk Re: Appointment of a Director to the River District Board of Management
- 11.i Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force meeting held on March 20, 2026
- 11.j Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board meeting held on February 5, 2026
- 11.k Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on February 18, 2026
- 11.l Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council
R-260413-008
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda, City Council:

1. **Receives Items 11.a, 11.d, 11.e, 11.f, 11.h, 11.i, 11.j, and 11.l (save and except items 1.c and 2.b); and**
2. **Approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.a, 11.d, 11.e, 11.f, and 11.h."**

Carried.

Having declared a conflict of interest with Items 11.b and 11.c, Councillor Hamley left the Council Chambers.

R-260413-009
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda, City Council approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.b and 11.c."

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

R-260413-010
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda, City Council approves the recommendation contained in Item 11.g."

Carried.

R-260413-011
Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda, City Council receives Item 11.k."

Carried.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest at this time with discussions arising out of items 1.c and 2.b on the correspondence package (Item 11.l) due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario and left the Council Chambers.

R-260413-012
Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of items 1.c and 2.b on the correspondence package (Item 11.l) listed on the April 13, 2026 Consent Agenda respecting Regional Governance Changes, City Council directs staff to send a letter to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound expressing concerns with the proposed changes to the *Regional Governance Act*."

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 18, 2026

R-260413-013
Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 18, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

12.b Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on March 19, 2026

R-260413-014
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on March 19, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Greig presented a motion respecting a preferred option for the 4th Avenue West reconstruction from 15th Street to 20th Street.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that the project would not be able to commence until 2027 if an option is not selected at tonight's meeting. The City Manager suggested that the matter be referred to the April 23, 2026 Operations Committee meeting and subsequently brought forward to Council on April 27, 2026.

Mayor Boddy requested a recess for staff to consider timing of a decision.

Council recessed from 7:14 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.

The City Manager advised that referring the 4th Avenue West preferred option to the April 23, 2026 Operations Committee meeting can be accommodated by staff and meet the applicable timelines. Deputy Mayor Greig withdrew his motion in favour of a subsequent motion.

R-260413-015

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of a presentation at the Operations Committee meeting held on March 19, 2026 from WSP Canada Inc. respecting the 4th Avenue West Reconstruction (15th Street to 20th Street), City Council refers the selection of a preferred option for the 4th Avenue West reconstruction project to the April 23, 2026 Operations Committee meeting."

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 Deputy Mayor Greig at the March 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Re: Rescue on Georgian Bay

In response to a question from Council, the Fire Chief advised that \$4,700 in operating costs was incurred by Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services related to fuel and staff time for the rescue operation that day.

R-260413-016d

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"WHEREAS on March 8, 2026, Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services responded to a rescue on Georgian Bay;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council directs staff to prepare a report on the costs borne by the City and prepare to issue proportionate invoicing."

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councillor Merton 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
Mayor Boddy		X

The resolution was defeated with zero (0) votes in favour and eight (8) votes opposed.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a Mayor's Update

Mayor Boddy advised that he received correspondence from Statistics Canada indicating that the next Census of Population will commence on May 4, 2026, and encouraged residents to complete the questionnaire upon receipt of their census invitation and secure access code.

Mayor Boddy advised that he attended the Leadership Breakfast hosted by Bruce Power on March 27, 2026, and a session for municipal leaders at the Barrie Campus of Georgian College on April 10, 2026 to discuss the Regional Labour Needs Study.

Mayor Boddy noted two upcoming events:

- Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. outside of City Hall.
- Arts, Culture and Volunteer Awards Ceremony on April 16, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bayshore Community Centre.

Mayor Boddy advised that turf installation is underway at the Bayshore Community Centre and encouraged the public to attend upcoming lacrosse games.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-260413-017

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-260413-018

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"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.

R-260413-019

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

- 1. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 23, 2026;**
- 2. One matter regarding labour relations or employee negotiations respecting Fire Services;**
- 3. One matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, and a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting consultation requirements; and**

4. One matter regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality, and a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue West."

Carried.

Council moved into the Closed Session at 7:50 p.m.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 9:00 p.m.

All Council members and staff listed above were present except for the Manager of Human Resources.

During the Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on March 23, 2026;
- Discussed one matter regarding labour relations or employee negotiations respecting Fire Services, and direction was provided to staff;
- Discussed one matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, and a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting consultation requirements, and no direction was provided; and
- Discussed one matter regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality, and a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue West, and no direction was provided.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2026-028

"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 13th day of April, 2026"

21.b By-law No. 2026-029

"A By-law to adopt Official Plan 2026 for the City of Owen Sound and repeal Official Plan 2021"

21.c By-law No. 2026-030

"A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2010-078, for conformity with Official Plan 2026 and housekeeping purposes (ZBA No. 57)"

21.d By-law No. 2026-031

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with IPAC Paving Limited, respecting milling and hot mix asphalt paving in accordance with RFT-TS-20-26"

21.e By-law No. 2026-032

"A By-law to adopt an External Communication Strategy for the City of Owen Sound"

21.f By-law No. 2026-033

"A By-law to amend Board and Committee By-law No. 2026-008 to appoint Maegan Cookson to the River District Board of Management"

21.g By-law No. 2026-034

"A By-law to adopt Council's Budget Policy GOV004 and repeal Policy CrS-HR40"

21.h By-law No. 2026-035

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Licence Agreement and all other documents necessary to complete Minutes of Settlement with Sonik Inc."

21.i By-law No. 2026-036

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Encroachment Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation respecting the 9th Avenue East reconstruction project"

21.j By-law No. 2026-037

"A By-law to amend Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 respecting encroachment agreements for construction purposes and servicing agreements"

R-260413-020

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT By-law Numbers 2026-028, 2026-029, 2026-030, 2026-031, 2026-032, 2026-033, 2026-034, 2026-035, and 2026-037 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

R-260413-021

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT By-law Number 2026-036 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk