



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

March 15, 2021

1:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

Mayor Ian Boddy

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Scott Greig
Councillor Brock Hamley (via video)
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor John Tamming
Councillor Richard Thomas

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Dennis Kefalas, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Amy Cann, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Jamie Eckenswiller, Deputy Clerk
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator, TTAG

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-210315-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings and reports of City staff."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

4.a Official Plan Amendment No. 10

Mayor Boddy declared the Public Meeting open at 1:04 p.m. and read the following announcement:

- Every person who attends a statutory public meeting required under the *Planning Act* shall be given an opportunity to make representations in respect of the proposed by-law.

- A copy of the proposed Official Plan is available on the City's website and at the Planning Division, City Hall during regular business hours.
- If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the City of Owen Sound to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Owen Sound before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.
- If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Owen Sound before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

The City Clerk explained that notice of the Public Meeting was circulated to the prescribed persons and bodies, published in the Sun Times newspaper and posted on the City's website on February 5, 2021, and again on February 12, 2021.

The City Clerk advised that personal information is collected under the authority of the *Planning Act* and the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, and that the information collected will be used to complete the Official Plan Amendment process, and will form part of the public record. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk.

The City Clerk noted that those wishing to be notified of the decision of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound on this proposed Official Plan Amendment must make a written request to the City of Owen Sound care of the City Clerk.

The Manager of Planning and Heritage introduced Dave Aston and Liam Murphy of MHBC Planning and provided an overview of the Official Plan update.

Dave Aston of MHBC Planning provided a presentation on the proposed Official Plan amendment. Mr. Aston advised that the City's current Official Plan was adopted in 2006, and is being updated to address changes in the City, ensure consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement, and assess conformity with applicable planning policies such as the Grey County Official Plan.

Mr. Aston noted that the City is in the final stages of the Official Plan update process. Mr. Aston advised that community engagement is an important part of updating an Official Plan, and noted that community engagement has been conducted throughout the Official Plan review process. Discussion papers were prepared to inform and engage stakeholders in the areas of sustainability and climate change; housing and affordability; transportation and infrastructure; and land use and design. These discussion papers were used to create the updated Official Plan policies.

Mr. Aston advised that the next steps in the Official Plan review process is to update the draft Official Plan based on comments received from the public, finalize the Official Plan and prepare a recommendation report for Council's consideration and adoption, and forward the updated Official Plan to the County for final review and approval.

The City Clerk advised that several individuals registered to virtually participate in the Public Meeting. Ms. Bloomfield added that participants

should keep their microphones muted until called upon to speak, and informed participants that comments are limited to a maximum of five minutes in length.

Colleen Purdon, Owen Sound resident provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update on behalf of Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce (WCGB). Ms. Purdon advised that WCGB feels that the updated Official Plan should contain more language respecting equality, inclusion, and diversity as outlined in the written comments submitted by WCGB. Ms. Purdon asked that Council develop policies with the community to support and promote diversity, equality, and inclusion.

Peter Middleton, Owen Sound resident provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update with respect to the environment and climate change. Mr. Middleton advised that the City must include provisions in the Official Plan to sustain the natural environment, and mitigate the risks associated with climate change for future generations as outlined in the written comments submitted by Mr. Middleton.

John Anderson, Georgian Bluffs resident provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update on behalf of Climate Action Team Owen Sound (CATOS). Mr. Armstrong advised that CATOS believes that the Official Plan must take into consideration the effects of climate change. Historically, CATOS has been happy to see many recommendations made and approved with respect to climate change, but are disappointed that few of these recommendations have come to fruition. The CATOS group has provided written comments on the proposed Official Plan Update, and has asked that the group be included as a citizen group to review the final draft of the Official Plan when it is released.

John Armstrong provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update on behalf of Masonry Works. Mr. Anderson advised that Masonry Works engages with municipalities when an Official Plan update is being undertaken to encourage the municipality to incorporate language into the plan that requires builders to build to a high standard. Mr. Armstrong advised that buildings can last for over 100 years, so it is important that they be constructed well to preserve heritage. Mr. Armstrong added that Masonry Works has submitted written comments for Council's consideration prior to adopting an updated Official Plan.

Rachel Paterson provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update on behalf of the Grey-Bruce Pride Committee. Ms. Patterson requested that the City's Official Plan be amended to include provisions that will protect the safety and well-being of LGBTQ individuals. Ms. Patterson noted that the draft Official Plan addresses only abilities and ageism, but fails to mention racism, religious and spiritual beliefs, gender identity and expression, and sexual identity and orientation. Ms. Patterson noted that Grey-Bruce Pride has submitted written comments to the City for Council's consideration prior to the adoption of an updated Official Plan.

Joachim Ostertag, Owen Sound resident provided comments on the proposed Official Plan Update on behalf of Climate Action Team Owen Sound. Mr. Ostertag advised that the City needs to incorporate stronger language into the updated Official Plan and take more action to address climate change. Mr. Ostertag requested that the City work with the County of Grey to enhance waste diversion programs and centralize them at the County level to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Mr. Aston advised that comments on the Official Plan can continue to be submitted until the final document is presented to Council.

Mr. Aston explained that there is a section contained within the Official Plan that recognizes the importance of high-quality architecture and design. Mr. Aston added that the Official Plan is not a document that provides for City Committees, although it does refer to standing committees. Lastly, Mr. Aston advised that comments have been received from the Historic Saugeen Metis and will be addressed as part of the Official Plan update.

There being no additional speakers, Mayor Boddy closed the public meeting at 2:09 p.m.

5. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 5.a Report CS-21-027 from Dave Aston and Liam Murphy, MHBC Planning
Re: Official Plan Update - Technical Report

Dave Aston, MHBC Planning, provided an overview of the report.

City Council asked questions pertaining to the Official Plan and directed staff and the planning consultant to amend the draft Official Plan to include provisions for diversity, clarity on the Downtown and River District area, and stronger wording respecting building and aesthetics. City Council also requested that MHBC Planning review the East Hill Commercial Development market studies and the policies associated with the studies. City Council also asked that MHBC Planning incorporate the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Official Plan and the challenges it has created with respect to how businesses function and how planning regulations can be used to remedy the effects of a pandemic.

Lastly, Council requested that MHBC Planning look into expanding ground-floor residential space in industrial areas to promote a mix of residential and retail space.

S-210315-002

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-027 respecting the Official Plan Update – Technical Report, City Council:

- 1. Receives the Technical Report that has been completed as input to the Official Plan Review process for information purposes; and**
- 2. Directs staff to move forward with the final draft of the new Official Plan consistent with the suggested modifications as outlined in this report and identified during discussion at the Special Council meeting held on March 15, 2021."**

Carried.

6. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

S-210315-003

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

7. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-210315-004

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings and reports of City staff be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

8. BY-LAWS

8.a By-law No. 2021-026

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 15th day of March, 2021"

S-210315-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

Seconded by Councillor Merton

"THAT By-law No. 2021-026 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk