



The Corporation of The Town of Cobourg
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes

November 20, 2024
Closed Session 4:00 p.m.
Open Session 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Victoria Hall, Cobourg

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty
Councillor Aaron Burchat
Councillor Adam Bureau
Councillor Miriam Mutton
Councillor Randy Barber
Councillor Brian Darling

Members Present Virtually: Mayor Lucas Cleveland

Staff Present: Kevin Ashfield, Deputy Fire Chief
Brian Geerts, Director of Community Services
Adam Giddings, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Cristal Laanstra, Director, Planning and Development
Brent Larmer, Municipal Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Kristina Lepik, Deputy Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services
Cassidy Sweet, Council and Committee Coordinator
Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer
Laurie Wills, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty called the Meeting to Order at 4:06 p.m.

2. Introduction of Addendum Items

2.1 Item 13.4.2 - Correspondence from the Municipality of Port Hope Council regarding Police Service Future Opportunities, Collaboration and Merger Option Considerations

3. Confirmation of Agenda

3.1 Confirmation of the November 20, 2024, Regular Council Agenda

Moved by Councillor Brian Darling

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

That Council confirm the agenda, as amended.

Carried

4. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

THAT Council meet in Closed Session at 4:10 p.m. in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* regarding:

- a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (s. 239 (2) (c)) and
- advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (s. 239 (2) (f)).

Carried

Councillor Brian Darling joined during the Closed Session at 4:35 p.m.

5. Reconvene into Open Meeting

Council reconvened into Open Meeting at 6:10 P.M.

6. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that we are located in the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations have been stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that today remain vigilant over their health and integrity for generations to come. We are all Treaty people.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary (Financial) Interest

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest from Members of Council.

8. Items Arising from Closed Session

8.1 Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege re Verbal report regarding 390 King Street East

No direction was provided.

8.2 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality re Lucas Point Industrial Park sale

Council directed staff to proceed as discussed.

8.3 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality re Verbal report regarding 117 Durham Street

Council directed staff to proceed as discussed.

9. Adoption of Minutes

9.1 Council Minutes for Adoption

9.1.1 October 23, 2024 Regular Minutes

9.1.2 October 29, 2024 Emergency Minutes

9.1.3 October 30, 2024 Emergency Minutes

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

THAT Council approve the minutes of Cobourg Municipal Council, as circulated.

Carried

9.2 Standing Committee Minutes Received for Information

9.2.1 October 29, 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes

9.2.2 October 30, 2024 Community Services, Protection, and Economic Development Standing Committee Minutes

9.2.3 October 30, 2024 Public Works, Planning, and Development Standing Committee Minutes

9.2.4 October 31, 2024 Corporate, Finance, and Legislative Standing Committee Minutes

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

THAT Council receive the minutes of Cobourg Municipal Standing Committees for informational purposes.

Carried

10. Community Announcements

Members of Council presented verbal reports on matters within their respective areas of responsibility.

11. Delegations

11.1 Delegation from Robert Mikel on behalf of the Architectural Conservancy Of Ontario Inc. Cobourg and East Northumberland Branch regarding the designation of 390 King Street East - Brookside Property

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

THAT Council refer the delegation from Robert Mikel on behalf of the Architectural Conservancy Of Ontario Inc. Cobourg and East Northumberland Branch regarding the designation of 390 King Street East - Brookside Property to staff for a report back.

Carried

11.2 Delegation from Carol Leighton regarding Drug Use in the Washrooms at 35 Albert Street

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

THAT Council refer the delegation from Carol Leighton regarding Drug Use in the Washrooms at 35 Albert Street to staff for a report back.

Amended

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

MOTION TO AMEND

That the following wording be added to the end of the motion:

to include consideration of the recommendations put forward by the delegate; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to send this delegation to the Chief of Police and to the Cobourg Police Service Board.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

THAT Council refer the delegation from Carol Leighton regarding Drug Use in the Washrooms at 35 Albert Street to staff for a report back to include the consideration of the recommendations put forward by the delegate; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to send this delegation to the Chief of Police and to the Cobourg Police Service Board.

Carried

12. **Outside Presentation / Information from Advisory Committees or Task Forces**

12.1 **Memo from the Heritage Advisory Committee regarding a request to designate Strathmore House**

Moved by Councillor Randy Barber

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

THAT Council receive the memo from the Heritage Advisory Committee regarding a request to designate Strathmore House for information purposes.

Carried

Council recessed at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

13. **Consent Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Aaron Burchat

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

THAT Council adopt the following recommendations from the Standing Committees contained within the consent agenda as a single motion.

13.1 **Community Services, Protection and Economic Development Standing Committee**

13.1.1 **Delegation from Jenni Frenke regarding Information about a near Safe Supply Program in Peterborough**

WHEREAS at the Community Services, Protection, and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered the delegation from Jenni Frenke regarding information about a near Safe Supply Program in Peterborough.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the delegation from Jenni Frenke regarding information about a near Safe Supply program in Peterborough for information purposes.

13.1.2 Report No. COMM-2024-022 from Director, Community Services regarding YMCA Proposal Update

WHEREAS at the Community Services, Protection, and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. COMM-2024-022 from Director, Community Services regarding YMCA Proposal Update.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives this report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council recognizes the value of strategic planning informed by long-term community engagement; and

FURTHER THAT Council commends the YMCA for its foresight and proactive planning for recreational services for the residents of Cobourg and beyond; and

FURTHER THAT Council recognizes the alignment of the YMCA's facility proposal located on the Cobourg Community Centre (CCC) campus with the the Recreation Implementation Plan, the CCC Campus Plan, and the Strategic Plan; and

FURTHER THAT Council approves the preliminary concept in principle, of a new YMCA recreational facility built and operated by the YMCA on the northern portion of the CCC campus; and

FURTHER THAT Council encourages the YMCA to initiate further site evaluation and fit-testing through the development pre-consultation process and come back to Council with a detailed proposal; and

FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to support the initiative while respecting the YMCA's independence in their operations, goals, and plans.

13.1.3 Report No. COMM-2024-023 from Director, Community Services regarding Centennial Pool Update

WHEREAS at the Community Services, Protection, and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. COMM-2024-023 from Director, Community Services regarding Centennial Pool Update.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive this report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT this information will be taken into consideration during the 2025 Budget deliberations.

13.2 Public Works, Planning, and Development Standing Committee

13.2.1 Report No. PW-2024-021 from Deputy Director, Engineering regarding utility easement agreement associated with Cobourg East trunk sanitary sewer

WHEREAS at the Public Works Planning and Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. PW-2024-021 from Deputy Director, Engineering regarding utility easement agreement associated with Cobourg East trunk sanitary sewer.

THAT Council authorize Staff to execute an agreement to receive grant of easement including but not limited to an acknowledgement and direction regarding the conveyance of an easement for the Cobourg East trunk sanitary sewer.

13.2.2 Report No. PW-2024-022 from Manager, Roads and Sewers regarding Capital Budget Reallocation for Skid Steer Replacement

WHEREAS at the Public Works Planning and Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. PW-2024-022 from Manager, Roads and Sewers regarding Capital Budget Reallocation for Skid Steer Replacement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the purchase of one (1) Bobcat T66 tracked skid steer from Bobcat of Peterborough, Cavan Monaghan, ON, under the LAS/CANOE procurement system for a total cost of \$ 84,369.45 including non-refundable taxes; and

FURTHER THAT \$54,369.45 of the 2024 budgeted funds for the Roads Department's backhoe replacement be utilized for the purchase of the skid steer, which is within the approved budget and to be funded by the vehicle reserve; and

FURTHER THAT the 2024 budgeted funds for the Environmental Services purchase of the Roads Department's current backhoe be utilized for the purchase of the Roads Department current skid steer in the amount of \$30,000 to be funded by the sanitary reserve.

13.2.3 Report No. PW-2024-023 from Deputy Director, Engineering regarding Award of Engineering Services for Southwest Cobourg Sanitary Sewershed Master Plan

WHEREAS at the Public Works Planning and Development Standing Committee meeting on October 30, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. PW-2024-023 from Deputy Director, Engineering regarding Award of Engineering regarding Award of Engineering Services for Southwest Cobourg Sanitary Sewershed Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council award Engineering Services to Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete a Master Plan following the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process for the Southwest Cobourg Sanitary Sewershed area for \$287,507.85 (Excl HST); and

FURTHER THAT Council increase the approved 2024 budget from \$200,000 to \$300,000 to complete the Master Plan to be funded from the Sanitary Reserve Fund.

13.3 Corporate, Finance, and Legislative Standing Committee

13.3.1 Report No. LS-2024-022 from Deputy Clerk/Manager Legislative Services regarding 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS at the Corporate, Finance and Legislative Standing Committee meeting on October 31, 2024, the Committee considered Report No. LS-2024-022 from Deputy Clerk/Manager Legislative Services regarding 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Staff Report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council approve the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule, as presented.

13.4 Correspondence

13.4.1 Correspondence from the Municipality of Port Hope Council regarding Police Service Future Opportunities, Collaboration and Merger Option Considerations

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Municipality of Port Hope Council regarding Police Service future opportunities, collaboration and merger option consideration for information purposes.

Carried

14. Items Extracted from Consent Agenda

14.1 Delegation from Molly Banerjei regarding Proclamation Request for Christian Heritage Month

Moved by Councillor Randy Barber
Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

WHEREAS at the Corporate, Finance and Legislative Standing Committee meeting on October 31, 2024, the Committee considered Delegation from Molly Banerjei regarding proclamation request for Christian Heritage Month.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the request for December to be proclaimed Christian Heritage Month.

Carried

Council consented to considering the delegation from Jason Schmidt next.

14.2 Delegation from Jason Schmidt, on behalf of Northumberland Pride, regarding Northumberland Pride's achievements over the past year

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau
Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

WHEREAS at the Corporate, Finance and Legislative Standing Committee meeting on October 31, 2024, the Committee considered Delegation from Jason Schmidt, on behalf of Northumberland Pride, regarding Northumberland Pride's achievements over the past year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the delegation from Jason Schmidt, on behalf of Northumberland pride, regarding Northumberland Pride's achievements over the past year for information purposes.

Carried

Council consented to considering correspondence from Richard Pope next

14.3 Correspondence from Richard Pope regarding Nature Park Dredging

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

WHEREAS Cobourg's Council has designated the Headland and West Beach as a "Nature Park" as defined in the Parks By-law Number 022-2016: "Nature Parks" shall mean parks that are predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape/environmental characteristics common to Cobourg or the surrounding area. The focus of these parks is conservation, nature appreciation, and interpretation. They provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation activities; and

WHEREAS Council's decision was based on the findings of the following reports – all of which are based upon extensive public consultation:

- Parks Master Plan (2013)
- Waterfront User Needs Assessment (May 2018)
- Plan B Natural Heritage by Brad Bricker, an Appendix to WUN (May 2018)
- Beacon Natural Heritage Stewardship Report (December 2021)
- The Zuzek Report: Lake Ontario Shoreline Management Plan prepared by Peter J. Zuzek (June 2020). See Appendix A: Summary Conditions and Recommendations by Shoreline Reach. Reach 7 – Port Hope to Cobourg;

WHEREAS all the above-mentioned reports call for preserving the whole area of the Waterfront Nature Park as a naturalized area and enhancing the environmental quality of the whole area; and in addition, the revised and budget approved (year? 2023) Parks Master Plan has been delayed; and

WHEREAS local subject experts, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, have been consulted and have endorsed the project recommendations; and

WHEREAS, there are several major construction projects happening or soon to happen within or adjacent the designated Nature Park; and

WHEREAS access to nature is recognized as important to human health and well-being; and

WHEREAS previous approved considerations in a maintenance and management plan for this popular public nature destination at the waterfront include a list of items to be addressed, matters identified by the public to be important. These include rules for access and related activities e.g. dog walking; equipment storage; parking; amenities; access points; soil study for a remediation plan; sequence and timing of works; better control of dredge deposits and invasive species; new planting of appropriate native plant species; accessible paths and signage; among other things related to public nature parkland management.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council requests the Director of Community Services formalize an interim management plan for the tracking and management of the Nature Park in order to protect the valuable parkland asset and to keep the public informed; and until such time a formal plan for the park has been publicly approved by Council.

Amended

Moved by Councillor Brian Darling

Seconded by Mayor Lucas Cleveland

MOTION TO AMEND

That the final paragraph be replaced with the wording below:

WHEREAS Cobourg Council continues to value and invest in our beautiful waterfront as a core feature of the community and our Town's identity; and

WHEREAS many strategic plans influence the maintenance and operation of the waterfront; and

WHEREAS the harbour is in dire need of significant repairs, and Council is taking decisive action and aggressively seeking financial support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to provide an update on harbour maintenance, operation, and repairs, to assist the community in understanding the capital repair projects in the context of Cobourg's natural assets and suite of annual activities and services.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton
Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

WHEREAS Cobourg's Council has designated the Headland and West Beach as a "Nature Park" as defined in the Parks By-law Number 022-2016: "Nature Parks" shall mean parks that are predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape/environmental characteristics common to Cobourg or the surrounding area. The focus of these parks is conservation, nature appreciation, and interpretation. They provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation activities; and

WHEREAS Council's decision was based on the findings of the following reports – all of which are based upon extensive public consultation:

- Parks Master Plan (2013)
- Waterfront User Needs Assessment (May 2018)
- Plan B Natural Heritage by Brad Bricker, an Appendix to WUN (May 2018)
- Beacon Natural Heritage Stewardship Report (December 2021)
- The Zuzek Report: Lake Ontario Shoreline Management Plan prepared by Peter J. Zuzek (June 2020). See Appendix A: Summary Conditions and Recommendations by Shoreline Reach. Reach 7 – Port Hope to Cobourg;

WHEREAS all the above-mentioned reports call for preserving the whole area of the Waterfront Nature Park as a naturalized area and enhancing the environmental quality of the whole area; and in addition, the revised and budget approved (year? 2023) Parks Master Plan has been delayed; and

WHEREAS local subject experts, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, have been consulted and have endorsed the project recommendations; and

WHEREAS there are several major construction projects happening or soon to happen within or adjacent the designated Nature Park; and

WHEREAS access to nature is recognized as important to human health and well-being; and

WHEREAS previous approved considerations in a maintenance and management plan for this popular public nature destination at the waterfront include a list of items to be addressed, matters identified by the public to be important. These include rules for access and related activities e.g. dog walking; equipment storage; parking; amenities; access points; soil study for a remediation plan; sequence and timing of works; better control of dredge deposits and invasive species; new planting of appropriate native plant species; accessible paths and signage; among other things related to public nature parkland management.

WHEREAS Cobourg Council continues to value and invest in our beautiful waterfront as a core feature of the community and our Town's identity; and

WHEREAS many strategic plans influence the maintenance and operation of the waterfront; and

WHEREAS the harbour is in dire need of significant repairs, and Council is taking decisive action and aggressively seeking financial support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to provide an update on harbour maintenance, operation, and repairs, to assist the community in understanding the capital repair projects in the context of Cobourg's natural assets and suite of annual activities and services.

Carried

14.4 Correspondence from Annie Charron, on behalf of GenWell regarding Proclamation Request for November 21 - 24th as Talk to Stranger Week

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

THAT Council proclaim November 21-24, 2024, as Talk to Stranger Week in the Town of Cobourg.

Carried

14.5 Report No. CAO-2024-005 from the Chief Administrative Officer regarding Delegations at the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference

Moved by Councillor Aaron Burchat

Seconded by Councillor Randy Barber

THAT Council receive the Delegations at the 2025 ROMA Conference report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council submit ROMA delegation requests as outlined in the Staff Report and provide for additional direction on any other delegation submissions that the Council may decide to pursue; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to support the Mayor and any other Cobourg Delegate in preparing for each delegation.

Carried

15. **By-laws**

None.

16. **Notice of Motion / Motion for Which Notice Has Been Given**

16.1 **Motion from Councillor Adam Bureau regarding resignation from the Inter-Municipal Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness**

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Aaron Burchat

WHEREAS at the October 23, 2023 meeting Council appointed Councillor Adam Bureau as a Council representative to the Inter-Municipal Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness (“Committee”); and

WHEREAS at the October 23, 2024 meeting Councillor Bureau announced his resignation from the Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept Councillor Bureau's resignation from the Committee.

Carried

16.2 **Notice of Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding**

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

WHEREAS municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

WHEREAS the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

WHEREAS a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and

FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Carried

17. Departmental Updates/Discussion

Directors provided information and updates to Council and the Public on Divisional areas.

Councillor Aaron Burchat left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Councillor Adam Bureau left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

18. Confirmatory By-law

18.1 By-law 064-2024, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council Meeting of November 20, 2024.

Moved by Councillor Brian Darling

Seconded by Mayor Lucas Cleveland

THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law 064-2024 and to dispense with the reading of the By-law by the Municipal Clerk to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Town of Cobourg at its Regular Council Meeting held on November 20, 2024, and the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

19. Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty called for adjournment at the completion of all items on the Agenda at 9:10 p.m.

Lucas Cleveland, Mayor

Brent Larmer, Clerk