

The Corporation of The Town of Parry Sound

Council Meeting Minutes November 5, 2024

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Council Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2024

7:00 PM, Parry Sound Council Chambers, 52 Seguin St. Parry Sound

Members Present

Mayor McGarvey, Councillor Ashford, Councillor Beleskey, Councillor Borneman, Councillor Keith, Councillor McCann, Councillor McDonald

Staff Present:

CAO Clayton Harris, Clerk Rebecca Johnson, Director of Finance Stephanie Phillips, Director of Development & Protective Services Dave Thompson, Director of Public Works Mike Kearns, Chief Building Official Mark Vandermeer

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Closed Meeting Resolution

Prior to the Regular Meeting, Council will adjourn to a meeting closed to the public per the following resolution.

Resolution 2024 - 163

Moved by Councillor McCann

Seconded by Councillor Borneman

That pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound move to a meeting closed to the public in order to address a matter(s) pertaining to:

e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board, (**potential claim against municipality related to infrastructure construction work; potential claim against municipality related to Town by-law enforcement**);

f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, (**potential claim against municipality related to infrastructure construction work**);

Carried

1. Agenda and Minutes Review, Pecuniary Interest

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

1.2 Presentations/Announcements - N/A

1.3 Additions to Agenda - N/A

1.4 Prioritization of Agenda - N/A

1.5 Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Borneman Seconded by Councillor Ashford

That the Council agenda for November 5, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Carried

1.6 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

1.7 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Keith Seconded by Councillor McCann

That the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting held October 15, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Carried

2. Public Meeting - N/A

3. Questions of Staff

3.1 In response to Councillor Keith's inquiry regarding fire training in late October, Director of Development & Protective Services Dave Thompson reported on access to the Provincial Mobile Live Fire Training Unit for four days where area fire departments had the opportunity to get experience in live fire and safe smoke.

3.2 In response to Councillor Borneman's inquiry regarding any concerns resulting from a fire call on Edward St. this morning, Mr. Thompson reported that the major concern was that it took Lakeland Power almost 3 hours to arrive on the scene of a hydro pole on fire.

As a result of this report, Council agreed to direction that a letter be sent to Lakeland CEO Chris Litschko to set up a meeting to address this concern.

3.3 In response to Councillor Borneman's inquiry regarding traffic control at the Forest and George Street intersection, Mr. Kearns reported that initial findings of the traffic impact study are that the intersection in its current configuration is adequate. Mr. Kearns noted that should further traffic controls be considered, there are a couple of options, however the Forest St. hill makes it tricky for a multi-stop, as vehicles backed up on the hill may find it difficult to move forward in winter conditions. Mr. Kearns suggested that staff could review the merits of a "no left turn" coming off George to Forest Street.

Councillor Borneman requested that once that review was undertaken, that a report come back to Council for its consideration.

3.4 In response to Councillor Borneman's inquiry regarding how the electric vehicles purchased by the Town are functioning, Mr. Kearns reported that there are tracking devices to understand where vehicles are and what activities they're undertaking, which enables the generation of reports, although there may not yet be enough data collected to provide substantive information. Mr. Kearns also noted that staff considers the Town's commitment to net zero by 2050 when considering purchases, including small tools such as weed eaters, leaf blowers, etc. and the opportunity to convert to battery.

3.5 In response to Councillor McCann's inquiry regarding how traffic control standards are set, Mr. Kearns reported that there are Provincial Design standards which take into consideration such things as traffic volume, size and speed; line of sight changes with the geometry of road, the angle that roads meet each other, and the vertical and horizontal elevation changes; and design standards are not created for poor driving habits or exceeding the speed limit. From a litigation standpoint, Mr. Kearns cautioned against going outside engineering design standards.

4. Correspondence

4.1 MP Scott Aitchison response to Town Resolution 2024 - 162 re: SolvethetheCrisis.ca regarding Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions crisis - filed

4.2a Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) re Town of Parry Sound Bursary Impact report for period May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 - filed

4.2b Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) re 20th Anniversary

4.3 Township of the Archipelago re: Support Resolution requesting the Province to establish regulations for ridesharing services - filed

4.4 Township of McDougall re: Support Resolution requesting the Province to establish regulations for ridesharing services - filed

5. Deputations

5.1 Don Carmichael RE: Belvedere Heights 22-Bed Expansion

Using illustrations from a prepared power point presentation, Belvedere Heights Board of Management Chair Pam Wing gave an overview of the design of the planned 22-bed expansion of Belvedere Heights. Board Secretary/Treasurer Don Carmichael provided financing information for the new construction, milestones completed to date and a list of next steps for the project.

Mr. Carmichael asked for Town support through adoption of a draft resolution which would endorse the Belvedere Heights proposal to enter into a loan agreement with the Township of Carling to support a two-year construction funding loan with the guarantee that Belvedere Heights will provide funds from operating reserves as required in advance of all Infrastructure Ontario payment terms.

6. Mayor & Councillors' Reports

Members of Council gave reports on meetings attended, and matters arising.

7. Ratification of Matters From Closed Agenda - N/A

8. Consent Agenda - N/A

9. Resolutions and Direction To Staff

9.2.1 2025 Land Ambulance Budget

Spokesperson: Dave Thompson Director of Development and Protective Services

Resolution 2024 - 164

Moved by Councillor McCann

Seconded by Councillor McDonald

That Council approve the 2025 District Land Ambulance Budget in the total amount of \$13,650,076.08 including capital expenditures of \$500,000 from the EMS Capital Reserve and \$575,000 from the EMS Surplus Reserve.

Carried

9.2.2 NOHFC Funding Application for Bay Street Wharf repairs

Spokesperson: Dave Thompson, Director of Development and Protective Services

Resolution 2024 - 165

Moved by Councillor McDonald

Seconded by Councillor McCann

That the Council of the Town of Parry Sound approves the Stage 2 application to the NOHFC for the Bay Street Wharf repairs in the funding amount of \$500,000; and further That Council confirms the commitment to cover the Town's contribution towards the

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project in the amount of \$218,750 which will come from Capital Reserve Fund and that the Town will cover any project cost overruns should they occur.

Carried

9.2.3 2025 EMS Vehicle Purchase

Spokesperson: Dave Thompson, Director of Development and Protective Services

Resolution 2024 - 166

Moved by Councillor Borneman Seconded by Councillor McCann

That Council approve the purchase of two (2) Ambulances from Crestline in the amount of \$257,775+HST each as a sole source purchase and that the purchases be funded from the EMS Equipment Reserve Account.

Carried

9.2.4 Annual Building Department Report 2023

Spokesperson: Mark Vandermeer, Chief Building Official, Development & Protective

Resolution 2024 - 167

Moved by Councillor Borneman Seconded by Councillor McCann

That Council accept the 2023 Annual Report for the Building Department attached as Schedule A for information purposes.

Carried

9.3.1 Key Performance Objectives in Support of the Strategic Plan

Spokespersons: Clayton Harris, CAO; Senior Leadership Team

Resolution 2024 - 168

Moved by Councillor McCann Seconded by Councillor Borneman

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That Council approve the 2024 third Quarter progress report on the Town's Key Performance Objectives (KPOs) as set out in Schedule A.

Carried

9.3.2 Increasing the Supply of Housing

Spokesperson: Clayton Harris, CAO Administration

Resolution 2024 - 169

Moved by Councillor Borneman Seconded by Councillor McCann

That the report entitled "*Increasing the Supply of Housing*" be received for information purposes.

Carried

9.3.3 Rugged Shore Road Allowance

Spokesperson: Clayton Harris, CAO

Resolution 2024 - 170

Moved by Councillor Keith Seconded by Councillor Ashford

Whereas public access to the waterfront has always been important to the residents of Parry Sound and visitors to the area;

Whereas the portions of the Shore Road Allowance owned by the Town have always been of strategic importance to the Town of Parry Sound and its ratepayers;

Whereas the Town owns portions of the Shore Road Allowance along the waterfront;

Whereas the Shore Road Allowance is historically significant to Parry Sound as it was created to support logging and the transportation of goods along the waterways;

Whereas physical activity is essential to the mental and physical well being of all individuals;

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Whereas access to trails along the waterfront supports health and well being;

Whereas the Shore Road Allowance is a tourism attraction which is a driver of economic activity in Parry Sound; and

Whereas Town Council is supportive of Shore Road Allowances remaining in public ownership;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council reaffirms its intent the Town's Shore Road Allowances remain in public ownership; and

That the Surplus Land By-law be amended to make reference to this Resolution.

Carried

Direction

That a map identifying the areas being protected, be provided at the first Council meeting in December for approval.

Carried

9.4.1 Future Borrowing for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre

Spokesperson: Stephanie Phillips, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Finance

Resolution 2024 - 171

Moved by Councillor Keith

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

Whereas Council approved long-term borrowing for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre within the 2023 Capital Budget on April 4, 2023 prior to the commencement of the construction of the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre; and

Whereas the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre Joint Municipal Services Board does not currently have authority to borrow on a long-term basis; and

Whereas the projected fundraising of \$5 million towards the project budget is uncertain;

Therefore, Council wishes to reconfirm the Town's authorization for borrowing on a long-term basis through the issue of debentures in an amount up to the Town's proportionate share of the updated authorized budgeted expenditures of \$36,373,842 for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre as reinstated, effective as of its original approval date of April 4, 2023.

Carried

9.5.1 Proclamation of Economic Abuse Awareness Day

Resolution 2024 - 172

Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor Beleskey

Whereas Domestic Economic Abuse is a common but overlooked form of domestic violence that limits an individual's financial autonomy, including denying access and control over resources or constraining economic freedom;

Whereas barriers to economic resources undermine a survivor's independence, including the ability to flee abusive relationships;

Whereas Economic Abuse has detrimental effects on a survivor's mental and physical well-being and other social determinants of health;

Whereas Economic Abuse happens across socio-economic status, race, and age and is exacerbated by intersectional and systemic factors;

Whereas Economic Abuse survivors have the right to be free from violence and must feel empowered to regain control over their lives;

Whereas all levels of government must work to prevent Economic Abuse; and

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Whereas the Town of Parry Sound commits to supporting victim-survivors of Economic Abuse and encourages everyone to inform themselves about the signs and impacts of Economic Abuse.

Therefore the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby proclaims November 26th of each year as “Economic Abuse Awareness Day” in the Town of Parry Sound.

Carried

9.5.2 Ontario Deposit Return Program

Spokesperson: Councillor Keith

Resolution 2024 - 173

Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor Beleskey

Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for non-alcoholic beverages which presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers;

Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include non-alcoholic beverage containers which will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),

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Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Carried

9.5.3 Support for Ontario's Forest Industry in 2025 Ontario Budget

Spokesperson: Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2024 - 174

Moved by Councillor Beleskey

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby supports the Federation of Ontario Northern Municipalities' (FONOM) Resolution as attached, calling for the implementation of the Ontario Forest Industries Association's 2025 Ontario Budget Recommendations in support of attracting investment and maintaining forest operations and employment in Ontario; and

THAT this Resolution be sent to Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fedeli, Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products Kevin Holland, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy, Minister of Mines George Pirie, Minister of Energy and Electrification Steven Lecce, Associate Minister of Energy Intensive Industries Sam Oosterhoff, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, the leaders of the Opposition Parties, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA).

Carried

9.5.4 McDougall's Request for Authority to Enforce certain Building Code Provisions

Spokesperson: Councillor Ashford

Resolution 2024 - 175

Moved by Councillor Beleskey

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby supports the request of the Municipality of McDougall as identified in its Resolution 2024-106 to be granted authorization to enforce provisions of the Building Code Act and Part 8 (sewage systems) of the Ontario Building Code; and

That the authority be removed from the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and the Municipality of McDougall.

Carried

9.5.5 Redistribution of Provincial Land Transfer Tax & GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

Spokesperson: Councillor Borneman, Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2024 - 176

Moved by Councillor Beleskey

Seconded by Councillor Ashford

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

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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;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Town of Parry Sound Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Town of Parry Sound Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved 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

4. Be It Further Resolved 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, MP Scott Aitchison, MPP Graydon Smith, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Carried

9.5.6 Public Health Funding Review for Northern Ontario

Spokesperson: Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2024 - 177

Moved by Councillor Ashford

Seconded by Councillor Beleskey

Whereas the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Health are undertaking a review of the funding approach for local public health agencies; and

Whereas many factors such as the geography, dispersed population, and less robust infrastructure and service availability in northern Ontario drive up the cost of delivering public health services; and

Whereas residents of northern Ontario in general have poorer health outcomes compared to their southern counterparts, including a more than 50% higher average mortality rate, and an 300% higher rate of opioid-related deaths; and

Whereas the Perspectives from Northern Ontario on the Public Health Funding Review letter, outlines many of the equity considerations related to the funding approach for local public health agencies in northern Ontario;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound joins with the Medical Officers of Health for the 7 Northern Ontario Local Public Health Agencies, as well as the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit in endorsing the aforementioned and attached letter; and

Furthermore, be it resolved that copies of this resolution and letter be sent to Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kieran Moore, the Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, Executive Lead Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Elizabeth Walker, Boards of Health of Ontario, Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli, Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith, Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association.

Carried

9.5.7 Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

Spokesperson: Mayor McGarvey

Resolution 2024 - 178

Moved by Councillor McCann

Seconded by Councillor Borneman

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums and preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Parry Sound requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead, allowing Ontario's rural municipalities to make the

critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, the Ontario Good Roads Association, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

Carried

10. By-laws

10.1.1 4 Sports - BOCC Pro-Shop Agreement

Spokesperson: April McNamara, Manager of Parks & Recreation, Public Works

By-law 2024 - 7451

Being a By-law to authorize renewal of an agreement with 4-Sports Inc. for operation of a Pro-Shop at the Bobby Orr Community Centre for a three (3) year term.

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

10.1.2 OFSC - Carling Trailblazers agreement for continued use of Fitness Trail as a Snowmobile Trail

Spokesperson: Mike Kearns, Director of Public Works

By-law 2024 - 7452

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Being a By-law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Carling Trailblazers for the prescribed use of the Fitness Trail as a snowmobile trail.

Read a First time

The following direction was proposed:

Moved by Councillor Keith no seconder; no vote

That a term end be added to the MOU of October, 2025.

Read a Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

10.5.1 Confirming By-law

By-law 2024 - 7453

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

Read a First, Second and Third time, Passed, Signed and Sealed

11. Adjournment

Mayor McGarvey adjourned the meeting at 9:42 PM

Personal Information collected in Section 2. Public Meeting, Section 4. Correspondence and/or Section 5. Deputations is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), Section 21. (1) c and will be used to create a record available to the general public.