



Minutes
YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL
Special Meeting

December 10, 2020
Electronic Meeting

Members: W. Emmerson, D. Barrow, M. Bevilacqua, J. DiPaola, M. Ferri,
R. Grossi, V. Hackson, D. Hamilton, J. Heath, L. Jackson, J. Jones,
J. Li, I. Lovatt, T. Mrakas, S. Pellegrini, C. Perrelli, M. Quirk,
G. Rosati, F. Scarpitti, J. Taylor, T. Vegh

Staff: D. Basso, K. Chislett, P. Freeman, K. Kurji, D. Kuzmyk, S. Love,
J. Petrungaro, B. Macgregor, E. Mahoney, L. Mirabella, C. Raynor,
M.F. Turner, E. Wilson

A. Call to Order

Regional Chair Emmerson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and made the following remarks:

“We acknowledge the land we are meeting on today is the traditional territory of many First Nations, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

These lands are now home to many diverse Indigenous peoples.

We also acknowledge that York Region falls under Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties with several Mississauga and Chippewas First Nations.”

B. Disclosures of Interest

None

C. Presentations

C.1 2021-2022 Budget - Financial Impacts of COVID-19

Moved by Mayor Barrow

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council receive the presentation by Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance.

Carried

D. Deputations

None

E. Communications

None

F. Consideration and Adoption of Reports

F.1 Establishment of Pandemic Management Reserve Fund

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Regional Councillor Heath

That Clause 2 be deleted from the recommendations in the report dated November 27, 2020 from the Commissioner of Finance:

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Barrow, DiPaola, Hamilton, Heath, Jones, Li, Rosati, Scarpitti, Vegh (9)

Against: Bevilacqua, Emmerson, Ferri, Grossi, Hackson, Jackson, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Perrelli, Quirk, Taylor (12)

Defeated

Moved by Mayor Barrow

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council adopt the following recommendations in the report dated November 27, 2020 from the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Council establish a Pandemic Management Reserve Fund to help fund any future tax-supported expenditure or revenue shortfall that may arise due to COVID-19.
2. Council approve the temporary suspension of the Surplus Management Policy and authorize the contribution of any future tax-supported operating surpluses to the Pandemic Management Reserve Fund.
3. Council approve the contribution of any unrestricted COVID-19 related funding from other levels of government, including the Municipal funding under the Safe Restart Agreement, to the Pandemic Management Reserve Fund.
4. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare the necessary bylaw.

Carried

F.2 2021 Water and Wastewater User Rates

Moved by Mayor Barrow

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council adopt the following recommendations in the report dated November 27, 2020 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services and the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Regional Council confirm the previously approved 2.9% increase in the combined water and wastewater wholesale rate for the year beginning April 1, 2021, increasing the rate from the existing \$3.07 per cubic meter to a rate of \$3.16 per cubic meter.
2. Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities.

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council amend Clause 1 to confirm a zero percent increase in the combined water and wastewater wholesale rate for the year beginning April 1, 2021, maintaining the rate at the existing \$3.07 per cubic meter.

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini
Seconded by Mayor Bevilacqua

That Council defer consideration of this item to the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 14, 2021.

Defeated

Following the defeated deferral motion, a recorded vote on the amendment was as follows:

For: Barrow, Bevilacqua, DiPaola, Ferri, Hackson, Hamilton, Heath, Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Rosati, Scarpitti (13)

Against: Emmerson, Grossi, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Perrelli, Quirk, Taylor, Vegh (8)

Carried

Council then voted on the main motion, as amended, as follows:

1. Regional Council confirm a zero percent increase in the combined water and wastewater wholesale rate for the year beginning April 1, 2021, maintaining the rate at the existing \$3.07 per cubic meter.
2. Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities.

Carried

Council recessed at 12:57 p.m. and reconvened at 1:46 p.m.

G. Introduction and Consideration of Bylaws

G.1 2020-59 - Pandemic Management Reserve Fund

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini
Seconded by Mayor Bevilacqua

That Council approve and enact bylaw 2020-59.

Carried

H. Motions

H.1 Province of Ontario's Health Table - Review Control Red Restrictions

Moved by Mayor Lovatt

Seconded by Mayor Mrakas

Whereas the impact of COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on our local economies and small business owners; and

Whereas there is no data demonstrating that restaurants, gyms, and local independent retail stores are a source of community spread of COVID-19 in York Region; and

Whereas many restaurants have a seating capacity well beyond 10, the current limit under the Control-Red restrictions; and

Whereas it seems contradictory for a restaurant that has a capacity of 16 to allow 10 patrons, the same as a restaurant with the capacity of 200; and

Whereas the accepted COVID-19 safety standard for physical distancing is 2 meters; and

Whereas restaurants and stores are already subject to all COVID 19 Public Health safety protocols and inspections and have an excellent record of compliance on a % basis; and

Whereas restaurants and stores have invested tens of thousands of dollars in training, PPE, Sanitizers, Air Filtration & Purification Systems to protect and ensure the highest levels of safety for their staff and their patrons; and

Whereas many restaurants have to maintain large staff compliments to remain open, even when serving only 10 patrons indoors; and

Whereas British Columbia's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bonnie Henry and Alberta's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw have both publicly shared data on transmissions in their provinces and have acknowledged that restaurants operating at 50% capacity with proper safety measures in place can provide a safe environment to meet with family members; and

Whereas the closure of in-person dining has driven people to congregate in homes where there is clear data and contact tracing of community spread of COVID-19 through these gatherings; and

Whereas a number of restaurants have already closed permanently with many more facing the same fate throwing owners into financial ruin and their employees into poverty; and

Whereas retail establishments have no set capacity limits under Control-Red restrictions;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. York Region Council request the Province of Ontario's Health Table, moving forward, to review its Control Red restrictions and consider the following changes:

Restaurants

- Replace the limit of 10 patrons and cap operations at 50% capacity as sanctioned by local Fire and Public Health
- Require patrons to be seated at tables 3 metres apart minimum, or impermeable barrier between tables
- Limit of 4 people seated together unless from the same family unit living together
- Establishments must close in-person dining by 10:30 p.m., last call at 10 p.m.

All Retail & Gyms

- Operations at 25% capacity as sanctioned by local Fire and Public Health
2. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Provincial Health Table, Premier, Deputy Premier, all York Region MPPs, all Regional Chairs & Regional Medical Officers of Health in the GTHA.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Perrelli

That Council end debate and vote on the pending motion.

Carried

A recorded vote on the pending motion was as follows:

For: Barrow, Bevilacqua, DiPaola, Emmerson, Ferri, Grossi, Hamilton, Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Perrelli, Rosati, Scarpitti (16)

Against: Hackson, Quirk, Taylor (3)

Absent: Heath, Vegh (2)

Carried

H.2 Not in Support of a Lockdown in York Region

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

York Region Council, on the advice of the Regional Medical Officer of Health, continues not to support a lockdown, but, if the Provincial Government does pursue a lockdown in York Region, they be requested not to proceed with it until after December 24, 2020.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Barrow, DiPaola, Emmerson, Ferri, Grossi, Hackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Quirk, Rosati, Taylor (14)

Against: (0)

Absent: Bevilacqua, Hamilton, Heath, Jackson, Perrelli, Scarpitti, Vegh (7)

Carried

I. Other Business

I.1 COVID-19 Update

Regional Chair Emmerson advised that the COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force is continuing enhanced enforcement through the holiday season. The Chairman also indicated that efforts are being made to identify local and regional staff who may be able to support vital COVID-19 work, including non-clinical support at York Region's two long-term care homes.

I.2 International Human Rights Day

Regional Chair Emmerson announced that today is International Human Rights Day, with this year's theme focused on ensuring human rights are central to COVID-19 recovery efforts.

I.3 COVID-19 Update from Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region Medical Officer of Health provided updates on COVID-19 vaccine development and provincial discussions regarding lockdown and responded to questions from Members of Council.

J. Private Session

None

K. Confirmatory Bylaw

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Regional Councillor Li

That Council enact Bylaw No. 2020-60 to confirm the proceedings of this special meeting of Council held on December 10, 2020.

Carried

L. Adjournment

The special meeting of Council adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on December 17, 2020.

Regional Chair