

Minutes
YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL
Special Meeting

April 15, 2021
Electronic Meeting

Members: W. Emmerson, M. Bevilacqua, G. Chan, J. DiPaola, M. Ferri,
R. Grossi, V. Hackson, D. Hamilton, J. Heath, 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, P. Jankowski, Dr. K. Kurji,
D. Kuzmyk, B. Macgregor, E. Mahoney, C. Raynor, M.F. Turner

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

Regional Councillor Perrelli declared a pecuniary interest regarding Item F.1 (Code of Conduct Complaint - Recommendation Report) in accordance with legal advice he received; and as such, he did not participate in voting on that matter.

C. Presentations

C.1 COVID-19 Verbal Update

Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region Medical Officer of Health provided a verbal update on the status of COVID-19 and responded to questions from Members of Council.

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Regional Councillor Chan

That Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS York Region is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has identified 114 high priority communities or “hot spots” based on postal codes, including 13 hot spots in The Regional Municipality of York; and,

WHEREAS York Region has been forced to prioritize five of these 13 hot spots due to lack of vaccine supply; and,

WHEREAS York Region has had to temporarily close vaccination clinics and adjust clinic hours due to a lack of supply; and,

WHEREAS The Province of Ontario has indicated individuals aged 18 and over in designated hot spots, as identified by postal code, are eligible for vaccination; and,

WHEREAS without additional vaccine, York Region cannot expand fully to protect the remaining eight of 13 provincially identified ‘hot spot’ areas, including residents and essential workers such as those working in manufacturing plants and educators; and,

WHEREAS other health units in the Province, including the City of Toronto and Region of Peel, appear to have vaccine supply to enable them to immunize persons in their hot spots over the age of 18; and,

WHEREAS this policy creates inequity for York Region residents in hot spots; and,

WHEREAS with a consistent supply of vaccine York Region has the infrastructure in place to vaccinate residents in eligible priority groups consistent with provincial direction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Province be requested to have an equitable distribution of vaccines to all 'hot spot' areas across Ontario to ensure consistency and equity in vaccine distribution.

Carried

D. Deputations

D.1 Jason Cherniak

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Regional Councillor Rosati

That Council receive the deputation from Jason Cherniak, Richmond Hill Resident.

Carried

E. Communications

E.1 Overview of the Integrity Commissioner Role

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council receive the memorandum from Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk dated April 7, 2021.

Carried

E.2 Joel Clements

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council receive the correspondence from Joel Clements, Richmond Hill Resident dated March 14, 2021.

Carried

F. Consideration and Adoption of Reports

F.1 Code of Conduct Complaint - Recommendation Report

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Regional Councillor Hamilton

That Council receive the report from Jeffrey A. Abrams and Janice Atwood-Petkovski, Co-Principals, Principles Integrity, dated March 30, 2021.

Carried

Moved by Regional Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by Regional Councillor Ferri

That Council direct staff to consider a social media policy for Members, starting with a Council Education Session on the matter in the fall of 2021.

Carried

Council recessed at 12:30 p.m. and resumed at 1:15 p.m.

G. Private Session

Moved by Mayor Hackson

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council resolve into private session at 1:18 p.m. to address Item G.1 and a matter involving Solicitor-Client Privilege related to the handling of Integrity Commissioner complaints.

Carried

At 2:14 p.m. Council resumed in public session and reported the following:

G.1 Update on Regional Corporations - Solicitor-Client Privilege and Labour Relations

Consideration of the private report was deferred to the April 22, 2021 Council meeting.

H. Confirmatory Bylaw

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council enact Bylaw No. 2021-16 to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council held on April 15, 2021.

Carried

I. Adjournment

The Council meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on April 22, 2021.

Regional Chair