



Minutes

The Council of The Regional Municipality of York

February 24, 2022

Electronic Meeting

Members: W. Emmerson, 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, D. West

Staff: D. Basso, K. Chislett, P. Freeman, D. Kuzmyk, B. Macgregor, E. Mahoney, Dr. B. Pakes, C. Raynor, K. Strueby, 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

None

C. Minutes of Council

C.1 Council Meeting held on January 27, 2022

Moved by Regional Councillor Grossi

Seconded by Regional Councillor Vegh

That Council confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on January 27, 2022

Carried

C.2 Council Special Meeting held on February 3, 2022

Moved by Regional Councillor Grossi

Seconded by Regional Councillor Vegh

That Council confirm the Minutes of the special meeting of Council held on February 3, 2022.

Carried

D. Presentations

D.1 Transition Planning for COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Moved by Regional Councillor Grossi

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jackson

That Council receive the presentation by Dr. Barry Pakes, Medical Officer of Health, York Region.

Carried

D.2 Corporate Update #7 - York Region Response to COVID-19

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Mayor Quirk

That Council receive the presentation by Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer.

Carried

E. Deputations

None

F. Communications

F.1 February Committee of the Whole Agenda Item F.2.1 – Designating an Additional York Regional Forest Tract for Off-Leash Dog Walking Based on Future Demand

Moved by Mayor Hackson

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council receive the memorandum from Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services dated February 10, 2022.

Carried

F.2 Motion from City of Richmond Hill to Respond to the Infrastructure Ontario High Tech Transit Oriented Community Plan

Moved by Mayor West

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jones

That Council receive the correspondence from Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk, City of Richmond Hill dated February 10, 2022.

Carried

F.3 Proclamation Request For World Down Syndrome Day - March 21, 2022

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Regional Councillor Heath

That Council receive the correspondence from Domenic Gentilini, President, Down Syndrome Association of York Region dated February 16, 2022 and recognize March 21, 2022 as World Down Syndrome Day.

Carried

F.4 2022 Provincial Budget Consultation

Moved by Mayor Lovatt

Seconded by Mayor Bevilacqua

That Council receive the memorandum from Kelly Strueby, Acting Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer dated February 24, 2022.

Carried

F.5 Managing Dogs in the York Regional Forest

Moved by Mayor Hackson

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

That Council receive the following correspondence:

F.5.1 Angela Farr, dated February 22, 2022

F.5.2 Darryl Burke, dated February 22, 2022

Carried

(See Item G.1 - Committee of the Whole Item F.2.1)

F.6 Town of Aurora Council Resolution - Request to Dissolve Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)

Moved by Regional Councillor Perrelli

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jackson

That Council receive the correspondence from Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Town of Aurora dated February 22, 2022 and refer it to staff for a report at the March 24, 2022 Regional Council meeting.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Bevilacqua, DiPaola, Ferri, Jackson, Jones, Pellegrini, Perrelli, Quirk, Rosati, Taylor (10)

Against: Emmerson, Grossi, Hackson, Hamilton, Heath, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Scarpitti, Vegh, West (11)

Defeated

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Hackson

That Council receive the correspondence from Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Town of Aurora dated February 22, 2022 and that York Region supports the following motion from the Town of Aurora, *as amended*:

WHEREAS Municipalities across this province collectively spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money and municipal resources developing Official Plans that meet current Provincial Planning Policy; and

WHEREAS an Official Plan is developed through months of public consultation to ensure, “that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of (our) community”; and

WHEREAS our Official Plan includes provisions that encourage development of the “missing middle” or “gentle density” to meet the need for attainable housing in our community; and

WHEREAS our Official Plan is ultimately approved by the province; and

WHEREAS it is within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to approve Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that better the community or fit within the vision of the Town of Aurora Official Plan; and

WHEREAS it is also within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to deny Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that do not better the community or do not fit within the vision of the Town of Aurora Official Plan; and

WHEREAS municipal planning decisions may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT; formerly the Ontario Municipal Board or “OMB”), an unelected, appointed body that is not accountable to the residents of Aurora; and

WHEREAS the OLT has the authority to make a final decision on planning matters based on a “best planning outcome” and not whether the proposed development is in compliance with municipal Official Plans; and

WHEREAS all decisions—save planning decisions—made by Municipal Council are only subject to appeal by judicial review and such appeals are limited to questions of law and or process; and

WHEREAS Ontario is the only province in Canada that empowers a separate adjudicative tribunal to review and overrule local decisions applying provincially approved plans; and

WHEREAS towns and cities across this Province are repeatedly forced to spend millions of dollars defending Official Plans that have already been approved by the province in expensive, time consuming and ultimately futile OLT hearings; and

WHEREAS lengthy, costly OLT hearings add years to the development approval process and acts as a barrier to the development of attainable housing;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that *the Government of Ontario be requested to immediately engage municipalities to determine an alternative land use planning appeals process in order to dissolve the OLT and eliminate one of the most significant sources of red tape delaying the development of more attainable housing in Ontario; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of the Liberal and Green Party, all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario, the Small Urban GTHA Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for consideration.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Bevilacqua, DiPaola, Emmerson, Ferri, Grossi, Hackson, Hamilton, Heath, Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Quirk, Rosati, Scarpitti, Taylor, Vegh, West (20)

Against: Perrelli (1)

Carried

F.7 Small Urban GTHA Mayor's Response to the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Quirk

That Council receive the correspondence from Mayor Tom Mrakas, Chair, Small Urban GTHA Mayors Group, dated February 18, 2022.

Carried

Council recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 12:51 p.m.

G. Consideration and Adoption of Reports

G.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 10, 2022

Moved by Mayor Bevilacqua

Seconded by Mayor West

That Council adopt the recommendations in the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 10, 2022.

Carried

G.2 Audit Committee Meeting - January 20, 2022

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Regional Councillor Hamilton

That Council adopt the recommendations in the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on January 20, 2022; and

That the portion of Item G.1 of the January 20, 2022 Audit Committee meeting minutes containing the York Region Rapid Transit Committee (YRRTC) Audit Report be referred to YRRTC and Regional staff with a follow-up report containing YRRTC's comments to be provided to a future meeting of the Audit Committee.

Carried

G.3 Budget Reprofiting - Cornell Bus Terminal

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Mayor Bevilacqua

That Council adopt the following recommendation in the report dated February 18, 2022 from the Acting Commissioner of Finance:

1. Council approve a reprofiling adjustment of unspent budget from 2021 to 2022 for York Region Rapid Transit Corporation's capital program 90992: Bus Rapid Transit Facilities and Terminals in the amount of \$10.3 million for the gross expenditures, Capital Spending Authority and associated funding sources, as detailed in Attachment 1.

(See Item L.2)

Carried

G.4 Response to Provincial Housing Affordability Task Force Recommendations

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Taylor

That Council receive the report dated February 22, 2022 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Chief Planner; and

That staff be directed to provide a proposed response, developed in consultation with local planning staff and generally aligning with Small Urban GTHA Mayors' statement, to the March 3, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried

H. Introduction and Consideration of Bylaws

None

I. Motions

None

J. Notices of Motion to Reconsider

None

K. Other Business

K.1 Housing York Inc. Board Meeting - Cancellation

Regional Chair Emmerson announced that the March 10, 2022 meeting of the Housing York Inc. Board of Directors is cancelled.

K.2 2022 Winter Olympics

Regional Chair Emmerson noted the conclusion of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics which saw Canada bring home 26 medals, including a gold medal in Women's Hockey, supported by York Region residents Erin Ambrose and Laura Stacy.

K.3 Canada's Agricultural Day

Regional Chair Emmerson noted that February 22, 2022 was Canada's Agricultural Day, celebrated annually to recognize the agriculture and agri-food community.

K.4 Pink Shirt Day

Regional Chair Emmerson noted that February 23, 2022 was Pink Shirt Day, or Anti-Bullying Day, which has evolved into a global call to action against bullying and discrimination. In honour of Pink Shirt Day, the clock tower outside York Region's Administrative Centre was illuminated pink to encourage everyone in our communities to stand up to bullying.

K.5 Ukraine

Regional Chair Emmerson noted the Russian invasion of Ukraine and offered thoughts and prayers to the Ukrainian people.

L. Private Session

Moved by Mayor Hackson

Seconded by Regional Councillor Li

That Council resolve into private session at 1:58 p.m.

Carried

At 2:07 p.m. Council resumed in public session and reported the following:

L.1 Ontario Nurses' Association Negotiations Mandate - Labour Relations

Moved by Mayor West

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council adopt the confidential recommendations in the private report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services dated February 24, 2022.

Carried

L.2 Cornell Bus Terminal - Litigation Update - Litigation and Solicitor-Client Privilege

Moved by Mayor West

Seconded by Regional Councillor Grossi

That Council receive the private memorandum from the Regional Solicitor & General Counsel dated February 18, 2022.

Carried

M. Confirmatory Bylaw

Moved by Regional Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by Mayor Bevilacqua

That Council enact Bylaw No. 2022-07 to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council held on February 24, 2022.

Carried

N. Adjournment

The Council meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on March 24, 2022.

Regional Chair