



Minutes

The Council of The Regional Municipality of York

November 28, 2024
Electronic and In-Person Meeting
Council Chambers
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Members: W. Emmerson, G. Chan, M. Chan, N. Davison, S. Del Duca, J. DiPaola, M. Ferri, V. Hackson, A. Ho, L. Jackson, J. Jones, J. Li, I. Lovatt, T. Mrakas, S. Pellegrini, M. Quirk, M. G. Racco, G. Rosati, F. Scarpitti, J. Taylor, T. Vegh, D. West

Staff: D. Basso, Dr. S. Erdman, L. Gonsalves, D. Kuzmyk, E. Mahoney, L. Mirabella, L. McDowell, C. Raynor

A. Call to Order

Regional Chair Emmerson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Regional Chair Emmerson made the following remarks:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

C. Disclosures of Interest

Mayor Quirk declared a conflict on the York Regional Police Budget relating to Items G.2, G.5 and H.2 Clauses 1(a), 1(c), 3 and 4 as her husband is a retired York Regional Police Officer and her stepson is a current York Region Police Officer. Mayor Quirk did not participate in the discussion or vote on this matter.

Regional Councillor Davison declared a conflict on the Community Health Services Budget and in relation to Public Health and hospitals relating to Item H.2 Clauses 1(a), 1(c) and 3 as her sibling is employed by York Region as a Public Health Nurse and she

is employed by Southlake Regional Health Centre. Regional Councillor Davison did not participate in any discussion or voting on this matter.

D. Minutes of Council

D.1 Council Meeting held on October 24, 2024

Moved by Mayor Quirk

Seconded by Regional Councillor Ferri

Council confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on October 24, 2024.

Carried

E. Presentations

None

F. Deputations

F.1 African Asylum Seekers

Moved by Regional Councillor Racco

Seconded by Regional Councillor Li

Council receive the deputation from Isaac Opong, Miracle Arena.

Carried

G. Communications

G.1 Withdrawal of Development Charges Complaint - 4134 16th Avenue - City of Markham

Moved by Regional Councillor Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Li

Council receive the correspondence from Signe Leisk, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP dated November 7, 2024, Counsel to Metropia Minto (Sixteenth) Holdings Inc.

Carried

G.2 Proposed Adjustments to 2025-2026 Regional Budget Tabled on October 24, 2024

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Mayor Del Duca

Council receive and amend proposed 2025 Regional Budget tabled on October 24, 2024, as outlined in the memorandum from Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer dated November 18, 2024 to reflect updated

information for provincial funding allocations, as well as updated estimates for assessment growth revenue, not available for inclusion at the time of tabling.

(See Item H.2)

Carried

G.3 Advocacy to Increase and Sustain Community Housing

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Mayor Hackson

Council receive the memorandum dated November 25, 2024 from Lisa Gonsalves, Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

Carried

G.4 Federal Government Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments Initiative Funding

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Mayor Quirk

Council receive the memorandum dated November 25, 2024 from Lisa Gonsalves, Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

Carried

G.5 Government Grant Funding and Allocation to York Regional Police

Moved by Regional Councillor Jackson

Seconded by Mayor Pellegrini

Council receive the correspondence dated November 27, 2024 from Anitra Basant Sisavang, Executive Director, The Regional Municipality of York Police Service Board and endorse the resolution.

Carried

G.6 Requesting the Redistribution of Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Regional Councillor Davison

Council receive the correspondence dated November 18, 2024 from Denny Timm, Township Clerk, King Township.

(See Item J.1)

Carried

H. Consideration and Adoption of Reports

H.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting - November 7, 2024

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Mayor West

Council adopt the recommendations in relation to the York Regional Police Budget in the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 7, 2024.

Mayor Quirk did not participate in any discussion or vote on this portion of the minutes.

Carried

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Mayor Del Duca

Council adopt the recommendations in relation to Public Health and hospitals within the Community Health Services Budget in the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 7, 2024.

Regional Councillor Davison did not participate in any discussion or vote on this portion of the minutes.

Carried

Moved by Mayor Lovatt

Seconded by Mayor Hackson

Council adopt the remaining recommendations in the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 7, 2024.

Carried

H.2 2025 to 2026 Regional Budget

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini

Seconded by Mayor Del Duca

Council adopt recommended Clauses 1(a), 1(c), 3 and 4 in the report of the Commissioner of Finance dated November 28, 2024 as amended by memorandum item G.2 as they relate to York Regional Police.

A recorded vote on this item was as follows:

For: Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Racco, Rosati, Scarpitti, Taylor, Vegh, West, G. Chan, M. Chan, Davison, Del Duca, Emmerson, Ferri, Hackson, Ho (20)

Conflict : Quirk (1)
Absent : DiPaola (1)

Carried

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini
Seconded by Mayor Del Duca

Council adopt the recommended Clauses 1(a), 1(c) and 3 in the report of the Commissioner of Finance dated November 28, 2024 as amended by the memorandum item G.2 as they relate to Public Health and hospitals.

A recorded vote on this item was as follows:

For: Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Quirk, Racco, Rosati, Scarpitti, Taylor, Vegh, West, G. Chan, M. Chan, Del Duca, Emmerson, Ferri, Hackson, Ho (20)

Conflict : Davison(1)
Absent : DiPaola (1)

Carried

Moved by Mayor Pellegrini
Seconded by Mayor Del Duca

Council adopt the following recommendations in the referred report dated October 16, 2024 from the Commissioner of Finance, as amended by the memorandum item G.2, for consideration at the November 28, 2024 Council meeting, except for those parts of Clauses 1(a), 1(c), 3 and 4 relating to York Regional Police and Public Health and hospitals:

1. Council approve operating and capital budgets as follows:
 - a. 2025 operating budget, resulting in a tax levy increase of 3.55% as detailed on page 46 in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book (Attachment 1)
 - b. A Rapid Transit / Infrastructure Levy, resulting in a tax levy increase of 1% as summarized on page 46 in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book
 - c. 2025 capital expenditures and Capital Spending Authority by project and by program group and associated funding sources detailed on pages 60-61 in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book
2. Council approve a 3% transit fare increase, annually, in July of each of 2025 and 2026, to address increasing service costs, as noted on page 86 in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book.
3. Council endorse the proposed 2026 operating outlook and 10-year capital plan, as detailed on pages 47 and 58-59 in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book.

4. Council approve debt authority and related items as follows:
 - a. Debt authority for capital projects up to amounts specified in the “Debt Authority Requirements” appendix of the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book, starting on page 341
 - b. Approve a contribution of \$204.8 million to Sinking Fund Reserve to meet the Region’s 2025 sinking fund obligations as shown on page 229 of the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book
 - c. Authorize funding of capital projects previously approved for debt financing from reserves where there are sufficient funds available and at the discretion of Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer
 - d. Affirm the Region’s Long Term Debt Management Plan (Attachment 2)
5. Council endorse reconciliation of 2025 Budget to full accrual basis of accounting, as required under Ontario Regulation 284/09, as detailed in the “Accrual Budget Presentation” chapter of the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book, starting on page 63.
6. Council authorize repayment of \$13,424,169 of user rate debt originally planned to be refinanced in 2025, with \$11,431,256 from Capital Asset Replacement Reserve - Wastewater and \$1,992,913 from Capital Asset Replacement Reserve – Water.
7. Council approve the following items specific to reserves and authorize Regional Solicitor to prepare and/or amend the necessary bylaws:
 - a. Close Tax Stabilization Reserve and amend Fiscal Stabilization Reserve to fund unforeseeable expenditures or temporary revenue shortfalls
 - b. Rename Capital Reserve to Capital Contingency Reserve and amend its purpose to fund capital contingencies or any other purpose as approved by Regional Council
 - c. Rename Debt Reduction Reserve to Debt Avoidance Reserve
8. Council approve revisions to the following policies:
 - a. Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy, to amend Surplus Management to include Fiscal Stabilization Reserve (Attachment 3)
 - b. Investment Policy, to clarify delegated authorities and staff responsibilities (Attachment 4)
9. Council authorize Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer to:
 - a. Make any necessary adjustments within approved net budget to reflect organizational changes and other reallocation of expenditures

10. Apply for, accept and adjust Budget and Capital Spending Authority for any additional Provincial, Federal, and/or other external funding provided there is no tax levy impact.

11. Authorize the Regional Solicitor to prepare the necessary bylaws including bylaws to authorize the fees and charges relating to transit and water and wastewater detailed on pages 86 and 93, respectively, in the 2025 to 2026 Budget Book.

A recorded vote on this item was as follows:

For: Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Quirk, Racco, Rosati, Scarpitti, Taylor, Vegh, West, G. Chan, M. Chan, Davison, Del Duca, Emmerson, Ferri, Hackson, Ho (21)

Absent : DiPaola (1)

Carried

I. Introduction and Consideration of Bylaws

Moved by Mayor Lovatt

Seconded by Mayor West

Council approve and enact the following bylaws:

I.1 2024-58 Amendment to Delegation Bylaw

A bylaw to amend Bylaw 2023-31 Delegation Bylaw

I.2 2024-59 Amendments to the Fiscal Stabilization Reserve Fund and the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2012-4, a bylaw to establish the Fiscal Stabilization Reserve Fund and repeal Bylaw No. A-0315-2002-098, a bylaw to establish a Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund and Bylaw No. 2017-57, a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. A-0315-2002-098

I.3 2024-60 Amendment to Capital Reserve

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. A-233-97-106, a bylaw to establish a Capital Reserve

I.4 2024-61 Amendment to the Debt Reduction Reserve Fund

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2013-97, a bylaw to establish a Debt Reduction Reserve Fund

Carried

J. Motions

J.1 Motion from Mayor Mrakas

Moved by Mayor Mrakas

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

Motion to Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

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;

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

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Regional Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities;

AND 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 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the 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 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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

J.2 Motion from Regional Councillor Racco

Moved by Regional Councillor Racco

Seconded by Regional Councillor Li

WHEREAS, Christianity is the most followed religion in Canada;

WHEREAS, recognizing and celebrating Christian Heritage Month provides an opportunity to honour the contributions of Christians to our region's past, present, and future, while promoting inclusivity, unity, and respect for all residents.

WHEREAS, December is a month marked by significant events and celebrations in the Christian calendar, commencing with the observance of Advent and culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED:

1. That The Regional Municipality of York officially proclaim every month of December as Christian Heritage Month

Carried

K. Notices of Motion to Reconsider

None

L. Other Business

L.1 Council Recognition to Chairman Emmerson

Mayor Scarpitti on behalf of all Members of Council celebrated and reflected on the contributions of the Chairman, Wayne Emmerson at his final meeting of Regional Council. Noting the Chairman's commitment to serve with integrity that truly has set the tone for what leadership really means. Mayor Scarpitti indicated that it has been a privilege for all of Council to work with Regional Chair Emmerson.

L.2 Chairman's Farewell

Regional Chair Emmerson thanked past and present Members of Council, York Region MPs, Premier Ford, MPPs of York Region, York Region's Chief of Staff, the Chairman's Office, Senior Management Team and all York Region staff, York Regional Police, York Regional Police Service Board and staff, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board members and staff, developers, planners, and consultants and the Building Industry and Land Development Association and his family for all the support.

L.3 Governor General's Emergency Services Exemplary Service Medal First Bar

Regional Chair Emmerson noted that retired York Region Paramedic Robert Farley was honoured with the Governor General's Emergency Services Exemplary Service Medal First Bar celebrating 30 years of distinguished service.

L.4 Observances and Days of Significance

Regional Chair Emmerson noted special awareness days and observances in November/ December:

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - November 25, 2024
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Canada - November 25, 2025
- World AIDS Day - December 1, 2024

L.5 Coat Drive

Regional Chair Emmerson announced a coat drive in support of Blue Door and Inn from the Cold taking place November 29 to December 13, 2024.

M. Private Session

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Regional Councillor Vegh

Council resolve into private session at 9:44 a.m. to consider the following items:

M.1 Private Memorandum - Business Continuity Plan - Labour Relations

M.2 Private Report - CUPE 905 York Region Unit Negotiations Mandate - Labour Relations

M.3 Private Report - Ontario Nurses' Association Collective Bargaining Update - Labour Relations

M.4 Private Verbal Update - Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual

Carried

Council resumed in public session at 10:04 a.m.

M.1 Private Memorandum - Business Continuity Plan - Labour Relations

M.2 Private Report - CUPE Negotiations Mandate - Labour Relations

M.3 Private Report - Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) Collective Bargaining Update - Labour Relations

M.4 Private Verbal Update - Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual

Moved by Regional Councillor Rosati

Seconded by Mayor Quirk

Council appoint Lisa Gonsalves as the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

A recorded vote on this item was as follows:

For: Taylor, Vegh, West, G. Chan, M. Chan, Del Duca, DiPaola, Emmerson, Ferri, Hackson, Ho, Jackson, Jones, Li, Lovatt, Mrakas, Pellegrini, Quirk, Racco, Rosati, Scarpitti, (21)

Conflict : Davison(1)

Carried

N. Confirmatory Bylaw

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Mayor Hackson

Council enact Bylaw No. 2024-62 to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council held on November 28, 2024.

Carried

O. Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Quirk

Seconded by Mayor Lovatt

Council adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Carried

Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on December 5, 2024.

Regional Chair