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General Government Committee

Minutes

Date: September 9, 2024
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers or Electronic Participation
Municipal Administrative Centre
40 Temperance Street, 2nd Floor
Bowmanville, Ontario

Members Present: Mayor A. Foster, Councillor G. Anderson, Councillor S. Elhajjeh, Councillor L. Rang, Councillor C. Traill, Councillor W. Woo, Councillor M. Zwart

Staff Present: M. Dempster, J. Newman, L. Turcotte, R. Maciver, T. Pinn, J. Gallagher, L. Reck, L. Backus

Other Staff Present: M. Westover

1. Call to Order

Councillor Zwart called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Councillor Rang joined later in the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Councillor Anderson led the meeting in the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest stated at this meeting.

4. Announcements

Councillor Rang joined the meeting.

Members of Committee announced upcoming community events and matters of community interest.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1 Presentation by Shaun Collier, Board Chair, Durham Region Police Service Board, Regarding Community Safety in Durham Region

Shaun Collier, Board Chair, Durham Region Police Service Board was present regarding Community Safety in Durham Region. Using an electronic presentation, Shaun provided an overview of the Board responsibilities, composition, and the current areas of focus which included the 2024 Strategic Plan, 2025 Budget, implementation of *Community Safety and Policing Act and Regulations*, and community engagement. S. Collier outlined the community safety issues and answered questions from Members of Committee.

Resolution # GG-114-24

Moved by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Mayor Foster

That the Delegation of Shaun Collier, Board Chair, Durham Region Police Service Board, regarding Community Safety in Durham Region, be received with thanks and further that the Council of the Municipality of Clarington expresses support, confidence, and appreciation for the members and efforts of the Durham Region Police Services.

Carried

5.2 Delegation by Jennifer Kanters, Office Administrator and Stuart Robinson, Head Coach, Darlington Soccer Club, Regarding Bowmanville Indoor Soccer Field Construction

Jennifer Kanters, Office Administrator, Darlington Soccer Club, was present regarding the Bowmanville Indoor Soccer Field Construction. Jennifer provided the Club's background and noted that they are excited about the dome because they can start adding additional kids from their waitlist. J. Kanters stated that the Club has office space in the existing building and uses the facility the most. Jennifer added that the Club contributed \$500,000 for the development of the existing field. J. Kanters explained that they are unable to use the space during the construction of the dome and have been working with Staff to relocate programs and gain more hours for indoor space. Jennifer thanked Staff for their assistance and answered questions from Members of Committee.

Resolution # GG-115-24

Moved by Councillor Woo
Seconded by Councillor Rang

That the Delegation of Jennifer Kanters, Office Administrator, Darlington Soccer Club, Regarding Bowmanville Indoor Soccer Field Construction, be received with thanks.

Carried

5.3 Delegation by John Wildeboer, Co-Director, Brunchkins, Regarding Community Funding Grant Appreciation

John Wildeboer, Co-Director, Brunchkins was called upon but was not present.

5.4 Delegation by Judith Hanson, CEO, Autism Home Base Durham Inc., Regarding Request for Funding Through External Agencies Budget

Judith Hanson, CEO, Autism Home Base Durham Inc., was present regarding a Request for Funding Through the External Agencies Budget. Judith shared a video, providing an overview of Autism Home Base Durham Inc.'s programs and services. J. Hanson expressed the challenges and barriers of programming and requested an annualized operating grant through Clarington's external agency budget. Judith noted that the Municipality of Clarington is their longest-standing and important partner and answered questions from Members of Committee.

Resolution # GG-116-24

Moved by Councillor Elhajjeh
Seconded by Councillor Rang

That the Delegation of Judith Hanson, CEO, Autism Home Base Durham Inc. regarding a Request for Funding Through External Agencies Budget, be received with thanks.

Carried

6. Consent Agenda

Resolution # GG-117-24

Moved by Mayor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Rang

That all items listed in Section 6, with the exception of Items 6.4, 6.6, and 6.9, be approved on consent, in accordance with the Agenda.

Carried

6.1 Correspondence from Ontario Medical Association and Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Regarding Physician Shortage in Ontario

Resolution # GG-118-24

Whereas the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years;

And whereas it has become increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario;

And whereas the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario are expected to retire in the next five years; and (Northern Ontario only)

And whereas Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, paramedicine, and other investments;

And whereas the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 per cent in 2022;

And whereas per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada;

And whereas a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Clarington urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in the Municipality of Clarington and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.

6.2 Correspondence from Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario, Regarding Municipal Elections Act Recommendations

Resolution # GG-119-24

Whereas elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

And whereas legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

And whereas the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

And whereas the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

And whereas the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

And whereas with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

And whereas the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

And whereas while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

And whereas to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

And whereas the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

And whereas AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Clarington calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections; and

That this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), the Honourable Todd McCarthy, M.P.P., Durham – (Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org), the Honourable David Piccini, M.P.P., Northumberland-Peterborough South (David.Piccini@pc.ola.org), and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

6.3 Correspondence from Canadian Urban Institute, Regarding Provincial Funding in Libraries and Museums

Resolution # GG-120-24

Whereas the provincial funding for public libraries is currently based on population levels from 31 years ago, which fails to reflect the substantial growth and has led to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%; the Municipality of Clarington Council wishes to draw your attention to the report of 2023 from the Canadian Urban Institute, "Overdue: The Case for Canada's Public Libraries" which emphasizes the pivotal role libraries play in various aspects of community life, including knowledge distribution, culture, health, reconciliation, belonging, and our democracy;

And whereas libraries and museums, situated at the heart of our communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs;

And whereas, the Clarington Public Library, Museums and Archives (CLMA) provide essential services such as election information centres, job search facilities, health clinics, language learning centres for newcomers, and spaces for educational and community events;

And whereas every month, 204,000 Canadians obtain job-seeking help at their library and, every month, 16,000 Canadians access training classes at their library;

And whereas, over 6,000 lbs of food was distributed through the CLMA in 2023;

And whereas libraries, as Auditor Generals of every order of government repeatedly cite, public libraries have the highest return on investment of any publicly funded program;

And whereas every dollar invested in the CLMA results in \$7.45 in benefits;

And whereas the average annual savings by using the CLMA is \$743.73;

And whereas, while over 90% of library and museum funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial for providing stability to budgets, especially in times of inflation, technological changes, and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs;

And whereas Cultural institutions, particularly museums, play a vital role in shaping and preserving our community's identity;

And whereas cultural institutions contribute to tourism, social participation, senior well-being, skill-building, and learning;

And whereas, as the largest government funder for most of Ontario's smaller museums, municipalities create value in their communities through the work of these institutions;

And whereas recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being, and community resilience;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Clarington Council urges the Provincial Government to consider increasing the Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) and the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) to both public libraries and community museums to address critical shared priorities and community needs; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, local MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Clarington Public Library, Museums and Archives Board.

6.5 LGS-031-24 - Clarington Accessibility Design Standards

Resolution # GG-121-24

That Report LGS-031-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That the CAO is authorized to approve Clarington Accessibility Design Standards, and to apply the standards to municipally owned facilities unless it is not technically and/or financially feasible to do so;

That the CAO is authorized to approve updates to the standards as Provincial Legislation changes and best practices in the industry emerge; and

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-031-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

6.7 LGS-033-24 - Surplus Declaration of Road Allowance Between Lots 34-35, Con 1, Former Township of Darlington

Resolution # GG-122-24

That Report LGS-033-24, be received;

That the unopened road allowance between Lots 34 and 35, Concession 1, Former Township of Darlington described in Report LGS-033-24 be declared surplus and conditionally approved for sale to the Applicant;

That the Applicant shall pay the cost to prepare and register a reference plan for the property to be conveyed;

That the Applicant shall pay the cost for the Municipality to obtain an appraisal of the property to be conveyed;

That the Deputy CAO/Solicitor is authorized to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale with the applicant with a purchase price consistent with the appraisal obtained for the value of the property, and any other terms considered necessary by the Deputy CAO/Solicitor;

That the Applicant shall pay the non-refundable processing fee;

That once all conditions have been fulfilled by the Applicant, the Deputy CAO/Solicitor shall prepare the necessary by-law to give effect to the closure and conveyance of the Road Allowance; and

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-033-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

6.8 FSD-035-24 - Autism Home Base Durham Lease Extension – 132 Church Street

Resolution # GG-123-24

That Report FSD-035-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That approval be granted to extend the lease to the Autism Home Base, office space located on the second floor of 132 Church Street for a period of five years beginning January 1, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2029, and subject to the terms of the existing lease agreement dated January 1, 2020, including a yearly rent increase based on the Consumer Price Index, All Items Ontario, as published by Statistics Canada;

That the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to execute the lease agreements on behalf of the Municipality; and

That all interested parties listed in Report FSD-035-24 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

6.10 FSD-039-24 - Electric Van for Animal Services

Resolution # GG-124-24

That Report FSD-039-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That Highbury Ford Sales Limited with a total bid amount of \$60,870.80 (Net HST Rebate) being the lowest compliant bidder meeting all terms, conditions and specifications of Q2024-9 be awarded the contract for supply and delivery of the electric van as required by Animal Services:

That the total funds required for this project in the amount of \$60,870.80 (Net HST Rebate) which includes applicable fees such as licensing be approved; and

That all interested parties listed in Report FSD-039-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

6.4 CAO-003-24 - Name for New Neighbourhood Park at 3301 Middle Road

Resolution # GG-125-24

Moved by Councillor Woo

Seconded by Councillor Traill

That Report CAO-003-24 be referred back to Staff to recommend another name for the park at 3301 Middle Road, Bowmanville.

Carried

6.6 LGS-032-24 - Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens

Resolution # GG-126-24

Moved by Councillor Traill

Seconded by Councillor Rang

That Report LGS-032-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That Clarington approves the keeping of backyard chickens, using the suggested guidelines outlined in Section 6.3 of this Report; and

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-032-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Motion Lost

Resolution # GG-127-24

Moved by Mayor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Anderson

That Report LGS-032-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received; and

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-032-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Carried

6.6.1 Correspondence from Martin Field, Regarding Report LGS-032-24 - Exotic Pet By-law - Backyard Chickens

This matter was considered during Item 6.6.

6.9 FSD-037-24 - 2024 Contract Awards During Summer Recess

Resolution # GG-128-24

Moved by Councillor Woo
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

That Report FSD-037-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received for information.

Carried

7. Items for Separate Discussion

7.1 LGS-030-24 - Appointments to the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee and Property Standards Committee

Resolution # GG-129-24

Moved by Mayor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Rang

That Report LGS-030-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That the resignation of Marven Whidden, from the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee and Property Standards Committee, be received with thanks;

That the Committee consider the applications for appointments to the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee and Property Standards Committee, and that the vote be conducted to appoint the citizen representatives, in accordance with the Appointment to Boards and Committees Policy; and

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-030-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Carried

Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee

That Karen Graham be appointed to the Ganaraska Forest Recreational User Committee for a term ending December 31, 2026, or until a successor is appointed.

Property Standards Committee

That Patricia Brazeau be appointed to the Property Standards Committee for a term ending December 31, 2026, or until a successor is appointed.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 LGS-026-24 - Delegation of Authority By-law (Referred from the June 6, 2024 General Government Committee Meeting)

Resolution # GG-130-24

Moved by Mayor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Woo

That Report LGS-026-24, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;

That the draft Delegation of Authority By-law, attached to Report LGS-026-24, as Attachment 2, excluding the columns titled "Recommended Action" and "Notes", be approved; and

That the following be rescinded and replaced with the delegation of authority within the draft by-law:

- a. The Council approval of Resolution #GG-077-23 from March 20, 2023, regarding the authority to enter into Defibrillator Program Agreements;
- b. The Council approval of Resolution #GG-201-23, from December 4, 2023, regarding the authority to execute any future amendments to the trail Licence Agreement required to accommodate the operational needs of either Ontario Power Generation or the Municipality;
- c. The last paragraph of Resolution #C-190-15, from June 1, 2015, regarding the authority to appoint private parking enforcement officers.

That the Flag Protocol Policy and Proclamation Policy be updated to refer to the Delegation of Authority By-law;

That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-026-24, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Referred, Later in the Meeting

Resolution # GG-131-24

Moved by Councillor Traill
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

That the foregoing Resolution #GG-130-24 be amended by adding the following:

That all Court Matters be removed from the Delegation of Authority By-law, except Court Matters - Small Claims - Write off.

Yes (1): Councillor Traill

No (6): Mayor Foster, Councillor Anderson, Councillor Elhajjeh, Councillor Rang, Councillor Woo, and Councillor Zwart

Motion Lost on a recorded vote (1 to 6)

Later in the meeting.

Resolution # GG-132-24

Moved by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Elhajjeh

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to delay the scheduled break at 12:00 noon by 30 minutes.

Carried

Resolution #GG-131-24 was then lost on a recorded vote.

Resolution # GG-133-24

Moved by Councillor Elhajjeh
Seconded by Councillor Traill

That Report LGS-026-24 be referred back to Staff.

Carried

9. New Business

9.1 November 11, 2024 Planning and Development Committee Meeting Cancellation and Call of Special Meeting - Mayor Foster

Resolution # GG-134-24

Moved by Mayor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Rang

Whereas the November 11, 2024, Planning & Development Committee (PDC) meeting is scheduled for 5:00 pm on Remembrance Day;

And whereas there are several Remembrance Day events taking place that day, including one at 7:00 pm in Newcastle;

And whereas Members of Council wish to move the start time of the meeting to accommodate both the PDC meeting and the events;

Now therefore be it resolved that, in accordance with subsection 4.16.1(b) of the Procedural By-law, the 5:00 pm November 11, 2024, PDC meeting, be cancelled;

That, in accordance with subsection 4.4.2 of the Procedural By-law, a Special PDC meeting be called for 4:00 pm November 11, 2024, in the Council Chambers and via electronic means, to consider planning reports and any related delegations and presentations, excluding Public Meetings for the purpose of the Planning Act.

Carried

10. Confidential Items

11. Adjournment

Resolution # GG-135-24

Moved by Councillor Elhajjeh
Seconded by Councillor Woo

That the meeting adjourn at 12:08 p.m.

Carried