



Council Meeting

Minutes

C#24-21

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

An electronic Council meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 1 via videoconference.

Council Member present in Committee Room 1:

Acting Mayor DiPaola

Council Members present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
Councillor Beros
Councillor Muench
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor West
Councillor Chan

Regrets: Mayor Barrow

Staff Members present via videoconference:

S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
D. Joslin, Commissioner of Community Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
D. Dexter, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
D. Flaherty, Chief of Staff
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
D. Beaulieu, Manager, Manager, Development - Subdivisions
D. Giannetta, Manager, Development - Site Plans
G. Li, Manager, Fiscal Planning and Strategy
A. Dunn, Planner II - Development
F. Toniolo, Senior Planner - Development

Staff Members present in Committee Room 1:

M. Dempster, City Manager

S. Huycke, City Clerk

R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk

K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order/National Anthem

The Acting Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Public Forum (not to exceed 15 minutes)

Mehka Gnanendran, 1 Jazz Drive, on behalf of L.I.G.H.T. Policy Advocacy Branch, regarding their request for Land Acknowledgment Statements to be read at City of Richmond Hill Council Meetings as a step towards Indigenous recognition and reconciliation.

3. Council Announcements

Councillor Chan advised of the announcement yesterday that confirmed funding from the federal government for the Yonge North Subway Extension that would bring two subway stations into the municipality, and reiterated the statement made by the Acting Mayor that this was a “game changer” for the City of Richmond Hill. Councillor Chan extended an invitation for residents to attend the City Plan 2041 Workshops being held on May 13th for Bayview and Highway 7, and May 20th for East Beaver Creek and Highway 7, and noted that advance registration is required.

Councillor Muench advised that May 12th has been proclaimed as Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day in the City of Richmond Hill, and the month of May was MS Awareness Month, and highlighted the high rate of Richmond Hill and York Region residents who have been diagnosed with the disease and hoped that everyone could offer support where they could.

Councillor West echoed the comments made by Councillor Chan regarding the confirmed funding from the federal government for the Yonge North Subway Extension into Richmond Hill. Councillor West advised that this week was National Nursing Week, and following the news from Mackenzie Health who recognized and honoured their nurses, also acknowledged the work nurses and all healthcare workers do. In addition, Councillor West extended his thanks to Ms. Gnanendran for the comments she made during the Public Forum portion of the meeting related to Land Acknowledgement Statements.

Councillor Cilevitz acknowledged the messages and support she and her partner Derek have received since being diagnosed with COVID-19 and provided an update on their health, and in honour of National Nursing Week, extended her thanks to all of the healthcare workers.

4. Introduction of Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters raised by Members of Council.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Chan

Seconded by: Councillor West

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

6. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Councillor Cilevitz declared a pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* on Agenda Item 17.1 b) regarding to resolve into a closed session meeting, as she was named in the matter. Councillor Cilevitz left the electronic closed meeting and did not participate in the discussion or voting on that item.

7. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

7.1 Council Public Meeting C#16-21 held April 21, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Liu

Seconded by: Councillor West

That the minutes of Council Public Meeting C#16-21 held on April 21, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

7.2 Special Council Meeting C#17-21 held April 19, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Liu

Seconded by: Councillor West

That the minutes of Special Council Meeting C#17-21 held on April 19, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

7.3 Special Council Meeting C#18-21 held April 21, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor West

That the minutes of Special Council Meeting C#18-21 held on April 21, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

7.4 Council Meeting C#19-21 held April 28, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor West

That the minutes of Council Meeting C#19-21 held on April 28, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

8. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Council consented to separate Item 13.2.2 for discussion.

9. Adoption of Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Councillor Liu, seconded by Councillor Cilevitz, Council adopted those items, including the By-law, not identified for separate discussion.

10. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

11. Presentations

11.1 City of Richmond Hill 2020 School Board By-election Survey Results - Presentation by Dr. Nicole Goodman, Director at the Centre for e-Democracy and Associate Professor at Brock University

Stephen Huycke, City Clerk, provided introductory remarks in advance of the presentation regarding the City of Richmond Hill 2020 School Board By-election Survey Results. He advised that internet voting was used for the first time in the municipality for the By-election held in October 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the survey was solicited to obtain an understanding of voter's impressions of the system in preparation for the next municipal election to be held in October 2022. Mr. Huycke introduced Dr. Nicole Goodman, Director at the Centre for e-Democracy

and Associate Professor at Brock University, who was retained to conduct the survey and present the findings.

Dr. Nicole Goodman, Director at the Centre for e-Democracy and Associate Professor at Brock University, presented to Council the results of an exit survey of internet voters in the City of Richmond Hill's 2020 School Board By-election in Wards 1, 2 and 4 held in October 2020. She provided context to the survey that was conducted to better understand voter opinions and experiences related to online voting and possible use in future elections, and noted that a total of 434 surveys were completed reflecting a 9.2% response rate. She reviewed voter satisfaction of 96% which was comparable to voters in 2018 in Ontario who were surveyed regarding their satisfaction with online voting, addressed voter satisfaction by age, and explanations for both the positive and negative comments received. Dr. Goodman summarized voting issues and concerns, and provided an overview of future votes in Richmond Hill and takeaways from the 2020 School Board By-election. Dr. Goodman concluded the presentation by confirming that voters in the municipality were satisfied with the how the By-election was run, that the implementation of a multi-channel approach in future elections would provide voters with a choice of voting methods, and that if Richmond Hill decided to offer online voting as an option it was expected that it would be well received and could improve voter turnout.

Moved by: Councillor West

Seconded by: Councillor Chan

a) That the presentation by Dr. Nicole Goodman, Director at the Centre for e-Democracy and Associate Professor at Brock University, regarding the City of Richmond Hill 2020 School Board By-election Survey Results, be received with thanks.

Carried

12. Delegations

12.1 Mike Gurski, 159 Avenue Road, regarding the 2022 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy - (refer to Item 13.2.2)

Mike Gurski, 159 Avenue Road, addressed Council regarding the 2022 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy. He advised that he objected to a 0% tax rate increase for the 2022 operating budget, and expressed his concerns with the proposed strategy as in his opinion, it would impact Richmond Hill's ability to deliver all services, including those services that

are deemed essential, which potentially could put resident's health and safety in jeopardy. Mr. Gurski noted that the proposed budget strategy should take into consideration inflation, and expressed his concerns with the negative impact it would have on the City's assets and reserve funds in the long term.

13. Committee and Staff Reports

13.1 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#02-21 held February 9, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#02-21 held February 9, 2021 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

13.2 Minutes - Budget Committee of the Whole meeting BCW#02-21 held April 27, 2021

That the minutes of the Budget Committee of the Whole meeting BCW#02-21 held April 27, 2021 be adopted as circulated and the following recommendations be approved:

13.2.1 SRCFS.21.021 - 2021 Operating Forecast Q1 - (BCW Item 4.1)

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That staff report SRCFS.21.021 regarding the 2021 Operating Forecast Q1, be received for information purposes.

Carried Unanimously

13.2.2 SRCFS.21.012 - 2022 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy - (BCW Item 4.2)

Moved by: Councillor Muench
Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli

a) That staff report SRCFS.21.012 regarding the 2022 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy be received;

b) That staff present a 2022 Draft Capital Budget and Forecast that:

- i. Continues to manage the City’s capital program reflective of corporate priorities;
 - ii. Maximizes all funding from external sources, development charges and reserve funding;
 - iii. Incorporates Capital Sustainability Committee Outcomes;
 - iv. That the Tax Supported Capital Program be capped at \$16 million dollars;
 - v. Leverages the Enterprise Asset Management/Asset Management Plan to prioritize asset needs.
- c) That staff present a 2022 Draft Operating Budget that:
- i. Supports Council priorities;
 - ii. The tax rate increase be no more than 0%;
 - iii. The operating budget considerations outlined in staff report SRCFS.21.012 be used as a guideline in the development of the 2022 Operating Budget.
- d) That staff present a 2022 Draft Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Budget that reflects the wholesale rate increase from Region of York and reflects approved factors from the Water/Wastewater Financial Plan and the Stormwater Financial Plan; and
- e) That staff be directed to proceed with the 2022 Budget process in accordance with the timetable outlined in Appendix “A” and guidelines described in staff report SRCFS.21.012.

Carried Unanimously

13.3 SRPI.21.048 - Request for Approval - Permission to Apply to the Committee of Adjustment - 251, 253 and 259 Oxford Street - City File D02-21001

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 45(1.4) of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended, Duchess of Oxford Modern Homes Inc. is hereby permitted to submit a Minor Variance application to the Committee of Adjustment in order to seek relief from the

provisions of Zoning By-law 2523, as amended by By-law 59-19, prior to the second anniversary of the day on which the by-law was amended.

Carried Unanimously

13.4 SRPI.21.047 - Request for Approval - Deferral of Development Charges - Site Plan Application - Vitmont Holdings (Oak Ridges) Inc. - City File D06-15014 (Related Files D01-15001 and D02-15006)

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any agreements and any further documentation as necessary, between the City and Vitmont Holdings (Oak Ridges) Inc. and/or the Region of York to provide a comparable program to enable Vitmont Holdings (Oak Ridges) Inc. to be eligible for York Region's Rental Housing Development Charge Deferral Program with respect to the applicant's development proposal as outlined in staff report SRPI.21.047.

Carried Unanimously

14. Other Business

There were no other business items.

15. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

16. By-laws

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the following By-law be approved:

By-law 31-21 - A By-law to Amend By-law 2325-68, as amended, of the former Township of Markham and By-law 55-15, as amended, of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill.

Carried Unanimously

17. Closed Session

17.1 Resolution to Move into Closed Session and General Nature Thereof:

Moved by: Councillor West
Seconded by: Councillor Chan

That Council move into closed session:

a) To consider personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, and labour relations or employee negotiations, with respect to the appointment of an Interim Fire Chief (Section 239(2)(b) and (d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*);

b) To consider matters related to the receiving of advice that is subject to: solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and related to litigation affecting the municipality before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice – Divisional Court, Court File Nos. 196/19 and 1230/20 and Ontario Superior Court Court File No. CV-19-00139652-0000, The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill et al. ats. Karen Cilevitz (Section 239(2)(e) and (f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O; 2001, c. 25).

Carried

17.2 Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session

Council moved into closed and then returned to open session (11:27 a.m. to 1:12 p.m.)

17.3 Adoption of Recommendations Arising from the Closed Session Meeting (if required)

17.3.1 SRCS.21.09 - Appointment of an Interim Fire Chief - (Item A)

Moved by: Councillor Beros
Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli

- a) That Council approve the appointment of Bryan Burbidge as the Interim Fire Chief in accordance with Subsection 6 (1) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, S.O. 1997, C.21, Sch. A, as amended, effective May 28, 2021 for a six month period;
- b) That By-law 71-11 be repealed;
- c) That draft By-law 69-21 be approved; and,
- d) That the Commissioner of Community Services be delegated the authority to appoint:
 - i. an Acting Fire Chief in the absence of the Interim Fire Chief; and
 - ii. Deputy Fire Chiefs, including Acting Deputy Fire Chiefs, for the City of Richmond Hill.

Carried

The City Clerk advised that confidential direction was provided to staff in closed session for Item B and there were no recommendations to be made in open session.

18. By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at this Meeting

18.1 By-law 61-21

Moved by: Councillor West
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

That By-law 61-21, A By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting, be passed.

Carried Unanimously

19. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Chan

Seconded by: Councillor West

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Joe DiPaola, Acting Mayor

Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk