



Council Meeting

Minutes

C#04-26

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

A Council meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Shiu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
G. Galanis, Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
P. Masaro, Commissioner of Infrastructure and Engineering Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
M. Lam, Manager, Revenue Billing
A. Bodrova, Fitness Supervisor
J. Cockburn, Program Coordinator - Recreation Outdoor Education and Summer Camp
L. Colacci, Corporate Communications Specialist
P. Collins, Arena Program Coordinator
N. Conboy, Partnership and Sales Associate
M. Logue, Project Manager, Development Partnerships

C. Neisen, Fitness Coordinator
M. Wong, Executive Assistant to the City Manager
A. Fung, Library Technician, Richmond Hill Public Library
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Council/Committee Coordinator

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Adari, Assistant City Solicitor
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
K. Chaudhry, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design
J. Walters, Manager, Engineering Subdivisions and Infrastructure Planning

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We are gathering on lands that have been home to First Nations Peoples from time immemorial. We acknowledge that what we now call Richmond Hill is on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations of the Williams Treaty. We also recognize that we are on part of the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat.

We would also like to acknowledge all First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples from across North America, also known as Turtle Island, who now reside in the City of Richmond Hill. We are committed to rebuilding constructive and cooperative relationships.

3. National Anthem

The National Anthem was played.

4. Public Forum (not exceeding fifteen minutes)

There were no members of the public who addressed Council during the Public Forum.

5. Council Announcements

Councillor Cilevitz shared that today marked her mother's 95th birthday and expressed her heartfelt wishes in celebration of this significant milestone.

Mayor West extended happy birthday wishes to Councillor Cilevitz's mother.

Mayor West advised that he was honoured to visit Chief Donna Big Canoe of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation yesterday, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to discuss their respective communities, and noted that he looked forward to continued discussions and taking positive steps forward together.

6. Introduction of Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

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

7. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Seconded by: Councillor Cui

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following addition:

a) Delegation from Donna Genova, 26 Painted Rock Avenue, with respect to the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Water Leak Adjustment Program - (Item 14.1).

Carried

8. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by Members of Council under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

9. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

9.1 Council Meeting C#03-26 held February 11, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz-

Seconded by: Councillor Cui

That the minutes of Council Meeting C#03-26 held on February 11, 2026, be adopted.

Carried

10. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Council consented to separate items 15.2 and 16.1 for discussion.

11. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Davidson, Council unanimously adopted those items not identified for separate discussion, including the By-laws.

12. Public Hearing(s)

There were no public hearings.

13. Presentation(s)**13.1 Presentation by Darlene Joslin, City Manager, to Colin Jenkins, Director, Corporate Donor Relations, and Tarana Rahimi, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Greater Toronto, on behalf of the City of Richmond Hill 2025 United Way Campaign Committee**

Darlene Joslin, City Manager, and 2025 United Way Campaign Chair, recognized the success of the campaign, staff's support, local and regional agencies that will benefit, and acknowledged members of the 2025 United Way Campaign Committee. D. Joslin alongside Mayor West, on behalf of the City, presented Colin Jenkins, Director, Corporate Donor Relations and Tarana Rahimi, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Greater Toronto, with a cheque in the amount of \$33,179.54.

C. Jenkins joined by T. Rahimi expressed appreciation for the successful campaign and valued partnership with the City. He highlighted that the funds raised would support local agencies and referenced the Community Real Estate Initiative, which helps secure and retrofit space for social service organizations across York Region, and noted the return of the Mega Bike event to Richmond Hill in June.

Mayor West expressed his gratitude to the 2025 United Way Campaign Committee for their efforts in supporting the United Way, and extended appreciation to staff for their generosity, noting the positive impact of the funds raised on the community.

14. Delegation(s)**14.1 Donna Genova, 26 Painted Rock Avenue, with respect to the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Water Leak Adjustment Program - (refer to Item 16.1)**

Donna Genova, 26 Painted Rock Avenue, addressed Council with respect to the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Water Leak Adjustment Program. She advised that her February

2025 water bill was approximately \$1,000 higher than usual, due to a silent internal toilet leak, which was repaired following a City inspection. She noted that the City offered an interest-free payment plan, but did not provide a refund of the excess charges, and shared that nearby municipalities offer a leak adjustment program providing a one-time relief for residents in similar situations. D. Genova requested a full refund of the excess water charges and urged Council to support the Member Motion to implement a leak adjust program to help prevent financial hardship for residents in the future.

15. Committee and Staff Reports

15.1 Minutes - Committee of the Whole meeting CW#02-26 held February 18, 2026

That the minutes of Committee of the Whole meeting CW#02-26 held February 18, 2026, be approved as circulated and the following recommendations approved:

15.1.1 SRIES.26.002 - 2025 Municipal Infrastructure Assumption Summary under Delegated Authority - (CW Item 11.1)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

a) That staff report SRIES.26.002 regarding the 2025 Municipal Infrastructure Assumption Summary under Delegated Authority, be received.

Carried Unanimously

15.1.2 SRPBS.26.001 - Request for Approval - Yonge Street and Garden Avenue Gateway Lighting Feature Final Concept Design - (CW Item 11.2)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

a) That Staff Report SRPBS.26.001 regarding the Yonge Street and Garden Avenue Gateway Lighting Feature be received; and

b) That staff report back to Council at a future Council meeting on proposed lighting and signage enhancements for the Dave Barrow Civic Square, including associated funding.

Carried Unanimously

15.1.3 Member Motion - Councillor Thompson - Consolidation of Conservation Authorities - (CW Item 12.1)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced its intention to modernize and consolidate Ontario's Conservation Authorities to improve efficiency, consistency, and service delivery; and

Whereas the City of Richmond Hill is located within the Ontario Greenbelt, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area, and the Rouge River watershed, where flood protection, environmental protection, and development decisions depend on strong, locally informed watershed governance; and

Whereas the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) provides these services for Richmond Hill and is a well-established and trusted watershed agency with significant technical capacity, long-standing intergovernmental partnerships, and a broad, multi-municipal service area that already functions in many respects as a regional hub.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Richmond Hill supports the province's goal of improving efficiency and consistency within Conservation Authorities, provided that any new regional structure serving the Toronto Region Conservation Authority area:

- preserves strong watershed-based decision-making for the Oak Ridges Moraine and Rouge River system,
- ensures meaningful municipal representation and funding clarity for Richmond Hill, and
- maintains uninterrupted front-line flood protection, environmental review, and permitting services; and

That the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) name, identity, boundaries, and operating continuity be retained in order to preserve public trust, regulatory certainty, and institutional relationships relied upon by the City of Richmond Hill and that the costly proposed re-naming of TRCA to Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation be abandoned; and

That all costs of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and proposed regional consolidation with any transition, be entirely borne by the Province; and

That this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP, Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Honourable Michael Parsa, MPP, Aurora- Oak Ridges- Richmond Hill, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Daisy Wai, MPP, Richmond Hill

The Regional Municipality of York

Carried Unanimously

15.1.4 Member Motion - Councillor Liu - Strengthening Oversight and Enforcement of Snow Clearing Obligations in New Subdivisions - (CW Item 12.2)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

Whereas in newly developed subdivisions, the responsibility for winter maintenance, including snow clearing on roads and sidewalks, rests with the developer and not the municipality;

Whereas residents in these subdivisions have raised concerns that snow clearing is not being carried out in a timely or adequate manner by developers;

Whereas inadequate snow removal poses significant risks to public safety, emergency vehicle access, pedestrian mobility, and overall community well-being; and

Whereas the municipality has an interest in ensuring that developers meet their contractual and regulatory obligations during the subdivision assumption period;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

a) That Council direct staff to review current policies, agreements, and enforcement practices for developer-led snow clearing in

unassumed subdivisions, including improvements to complaint processes, increased penalties for non-compliance, and the potential inclusion of windrow removal; and

b) Staff report back to Council before Summer Recess of 2026.

Carried Unanimously

15.2 SRCM.26.07 - York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool Program

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

a) That staff report SRCM.26.07 regarding York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool Program, be received;

b) That Council approve the City of Richmond Hill's participation in the York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool;

c) That Council direct the Treasurer to negotiate and, if negotiations are successful, recommend for execution all required agreements with the Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, Township of King, Town of Newmarket, York Region, and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to establish the Insurance Pool for a five-year term, with the option of two additional five-year extensions, on business terms satisfactory to the Treasurer and legal terms satisfactory to the City Solicitor;

d) That should any negative financial or risk related changes arise that affect the provisions as outlined in staff report SRCM.26.07, staff will report back to Council for approval prior to proceeding, as determined by the Treasurer;

e) That Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any documents necessary to give effect to Richmond Hill's participation in the Insurance Pool, including the Subscriber Agreement, upon the recommendation of the Treasurer and City Solicitor; and

f) That Council appoint the Treasurer as the City of Richmond Hill's representative on the Insurance Pool Board, consistent with the governance structure established by the participating municipalities.

Carried Unanimously

16. Other Business

16.1 Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Chan - Water Leak Adjustment Program

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Whereas the mission of the City of Richmond Hill is “where Council and staff work with the community to make decisions and deliver quality services for today and tomorrow”;

Whereas the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 of Richmond Hill is based on three pillars, and Pillar 3 “Strengthening our Foundations” includes a “focus on quality customer service and a continuous improvement mindset to support innovation and be responsive to residents, stakeholders, businesses, the private sector and colleagues”;

Whereas residents who receive water use statements with exceedingly high charges due to accidental, unintentional or undetected water leaks may sustain financial hardship, and have no option but to pay the billed amounts; and

Whereas certain municipalities such as Vaughan, Guelph, Belleville, Georgina, Hamilton, Sarnia, London, Loyalist Township, Welland, and Peel Region have implemented assistance programs to offer relief to residents faced with unexpectedly high water bills;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

Staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of offering a one-time relief program to assist eligible residents with unexpected high water bills due to accidental undetected leaks and report back by September 2026.

Motion to Amend:

Moved by: Councillor Thompson
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the following clause of the motion be amended to read as follows:

Staff be directed to provide a memorandum outlining the following:

- The number of high-water bill inquiries received over the past three to five years related to undetected leaks;
- The average financial impact per occurrence;
- Existing relief mechanisms currently available (e.g. payment plans, fee waivers); and
- A high-level estimate of administrative and financial implications should Council wish to pursue a formal leak adjustment policy.

And that staff report back to Council prior to considering whether a full feasibility study is warranted.

Motion to Amend Carried

Main Motion as Amended:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Whereas the mission of the City of Richmond Hill is “where Council and staff work with the community to make decisions and deliver quality services for today and tomorrow”;

Whereas the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 of Richmond Hill is based on three pillars, and Pillar 3 “Strengthening our Foundations” includes a “focus on quality customer service and a continuous improvement mindset to support innovation and be responsive to residents, stakeholders, businesses, the private sector and colleagues”;

Whereas residents who receive water use statements with exceedingly high charges due to accidental, unintentional or undetected water leaks may sustain financial hardship, and have no option but to pay the billed amounts; and

Whereas certain municipalities such as Vaughan, Guelph, Belleville, Georgina, Hamilton, Sarnia, London, Loyalist Township, Welland, and Peel Region have implemented assistance programs to offer relief to residents faced with unexpectedly high water bills;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

Staff be directed to provide a memorandum outlining the following:

- The number of high-water bill inquiries received over the past three to five years related to undetected leaks;
- The average financial impact per occurrence;
- Existing relief mechanisms currently available (e.g. payment plans, fee waivers); and
- A high-level estimate of administrative and financial implications should Council wish to pursue a formal leak adjustment policy.

And that staff report back to Council prior to considering whether a full feasibility study is warranted.

Main Motion as Amended Carried Unanimously

17. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

18. By-laws

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

That the following By-laws be approved:

18.1 By-law 3-26 - A By-Law to assume above and belowground municipal services.

18.2 By-law 9-26 - A By-Law to Assign Names to Certain Private Roads

18.3 By-law 12-26 - A By-Law to Amend By-law 93-25, as amended, of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

18.4 By-law 13-26 - A By-law to Amend By-law 128-04, as amended, and By-law 55-15, as amended, of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

18.5 By-Law 19-26 - A By-Law to assume aboveground and belowground municipal services.

18.6 By-law 20-26 - A By-Law to assume aboveground and belowground municipal services

Carried Unanimously

19. Closed Session

Council consented not to resolve into a closed session meeting to consider personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees, with respect to the membership of the Board of Management of the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council, pursuant to Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and adopted the following recommendations:

Confidential Memorandum from Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, dated February 25, 2026, regarding Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management - Resignation and Director Appointment – (Item A)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Cui

a) That the resignation of Dariush Ebrahimi as Director of the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management be received; and

b) That, as recommended by the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management at its meeting held on February 12, 2026, Sameul Sanglakhi be appointed Director of the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management for the remainder of the current Term of Council.

Carried Unanimously

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

20.1 By-law 30-26

Moved by: Councillor Cui

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That By-law 30-26, A By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting, be passed.

Carried

21. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Cui

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

David West, Mayor

Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk