Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

CW#13-25
Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cui (Chair)
Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Shiu

Committee Member present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz

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
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
G. Onizuka, Assistant City Solicitor
K. Chaudhry, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design
M. Kotylak, Manager, Procurement Services
A. Sornberger, Assistant Deputy Chief, Communications and Emergency Management
S. Huycke, City Clerk

R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Council Announcements

Councillor Thompson shared that the Eco Family Fest held this past Saturday at the Elgin Barrow Arena and Town Park was a huge success and extended his thanks to staff who helped organize the event, staff who volunteered at the various booths and to the event sponsors.

Mayor West echoed the comments made by Councillor Thompson that the Eco Family Fest held this past weekend was a great success giving residents many ideas on how to do things in a greener and more environmentally friendly way.

Mayor West wished the Toronto Blue Jays good luck in advance of tonight's game.

3. Introduction of Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

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

a) Correspondence from Sigmund Lee, 20 Hamills Crescent, dated October 7, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Davidson regarding Elect Respect: Strengthening Democracy Through Respect and Civility - (Item 11.6).

Carried

5. 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.*

6. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Committee consented to separate Item 12.1 for discussion.

7. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Mayor West, Committee adopted those items not identified for separate discussion.

8. Public Hearing(s)

There were no public hearings.

9. Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

10. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

11. Committee and Staff Reports

11.1 SRPBS.25.088 - Request for Direction - 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRPBS.25.088 regarding Request for Direction, 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement, be received;

b) That Council direct staff to withdraw its preliminary application to the Region of York's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for the 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement project.

Carried

11.2 SRCFS.25.033 - 2026 Municipal Elections Overview

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCFS.25.033 regarding 2026 Municipal Elections Overview, be received;

b) That, in respect to the establishment of the compliance audit committee required under Section 88.37 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the "Act"):

i. The establishment of a joint compliance audit committee for the 2026 to 2030 Term of Council with other interested York Region

municipalities and the process for establishing the joint compliance audit committee and the Terms of Reference as generally described in staff report SRCFS.25.033 be approved;

ii. In the event that no other York Region municipality decides to participate in a joint compliance audit committee, the City Clerk be directed to recruit members of a Richmond Hill Compliance Audit Committee for the 2026-2030 Term of Council using a process similar to the process for establishing a joint compliance audit committee as generally described in staff report SRCFS.25.033; and

iii. The City Clerk be authorized to present any by-law required to establish a compliance audit committee, including Terms of References, and any by-law required to appoint members of the compliance audit committee directly to Council for enactment.

c) That Council, in accordance with its obligations under Section 88.18 of the Act, approve the amended “Use of Corporate Resources for Election Campaign Purposes Policy” attached as Attachment A to staff report SRCFS.25.033;

d) That the “Municipal Elections Financing Policy”, attached as Attachment C to staff report SRCFS.25.033, be approved; and

e) That the “Allocation of Election Campaign Surpluses and Other Contributions Policy”, attached as Attachment E to staff report SRCFS.25.033, be repealed.

Carried

11.3 SRCFS.25.041 - Committee Appointment Policy Options

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCFS.25.041 regarding Committee Appointment Policy Options, be received;

b) That Council direct the City Clerk to amend the Terms of References for Committees as generally described in staff report SRCFS.25.041;

c) That staff be directed to report back to Council with a revised Appointment Policy that includes the following:

i. The ability for Permanent Residents (as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act) to be appointed;

ii. That mid-term appointments be made, in general, from applicants who applied at the beginning of the term;

iii. Citizen Members only be eligible for appointment to one Committee except in exceptional circumstances as generally described in staff report SRCFS.25.041; and

iv. That appointments of Citizen Members to Committees at the start of each new Term of Council be staggered over a two to three month period, prioritizing the Richmond Hill Public Library Board, Committee of Adjustment and the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee.

Carried

11.4 SRCFS.25.042 - Report - Non-Competitive Acquisitions

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCFS.25.042 regarding Non-Competitive Acquisitions be received for information purposes only.

Carried

11.5 SRCS.25.12 - Emergency Social Services Agreement

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCS.25.12 regarding Emergency Social Services Agreement be received;

b) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute an Emergency Social Services agreement with the Regional Municipality of York as outlined in staff report SRCS.25.12, and execute future amendments to the agreement, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Community Services.

Carried

11.6 Correspondence from Sigmund Lee, 20 Hamills Crescent, dated October 7, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Davidson regarding Elect Respect: Strengthening Democracy Through Respect and Civility - (refer to Item 12.1)

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the correspondence from Sigmund Lee, 20 Hamills Crescent, dated October 7, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by

Councillor Davidson regarding Elect Respect: Strengthening Democracy Through Respect and Civility, be received.

Carried

12. Other Business

12.1 Member Motion - Councillor Davidson - Elect Respect: Strengthening Democracy Through Respect and Civility

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

Whereas Ontario's municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

Whereas municipally elected officials, as representatives of their communities, have the right to conduct their democratic duties in an environment of respect and civility, and members of the public share a responsibility to uphold these standards; and

Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and call on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called *Elect Respect* to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the Council of the City of Richmond Hill supports the *Elect Respect* pledge and commits to:

    a) Treat each other, and others, with respect in all spaces, public, private, and online;

    b) Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks;

    c) Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks;

    d) Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office;

    e) Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats;

    f) Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.

2. That the Council of the City of Richmond Hill calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at electrespect.ca.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

    a) All municipalities in York Region;

    b) The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

    c) Ontario’s Big City Mayors;

    d) The Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

    e) MPP Daisy Wai;

    f) MPP Michael Parsa;

    g) MP Costas Menegakis;

    h) MP Vincent Ho;

    i) York Regional Police.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (9): Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor Thompson, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Davidson, Mayor West, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cui, Councillor Shiu

Opposed: (0): None

Carried Unanimously (9 to 0)

13. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Shiu

That the meeting be adjourned

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.