Council Meeting

Minutes

C#27-25
Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 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, October 15, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

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

Council Member present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz

Council Member regrets:

Mayor West

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
P. Masaro, Commissioner of Infrastructure and Engineering Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
M. Flores, Acting, Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
A. Adari, Assistant City Solicitor
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
R. Rendon, Manager, Sustainability
D. Lau, Project Manager, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

H. Zhang, Administrative Assistant to Members of Council
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

D. Giannetta, Director, Development Planning
A. Sornberger, Assistant Deputy Chief, Communications and Emergency Management
J. Smith, Urban Design/Heritage Planner

1. Call to Order

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:32 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

Deputy Mayor Chan advised that the 7th Urban Economy Forum Conference was currently being held, noting Mayor West's participation. He reported attending the event yesterday, highlighted the keynote speakers, and the event's focus was on reshaping urban economies.

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 Thompson
Seconded by: Councillor Shiu

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

a) Correspondence from Bryan Purcell, The Atmospheric Fund, dated October 14, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Shiu with respect to Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2) Municipal Support Confirmation - 25 Mural Street, Richmond Hill – (Item 15.3).

Carried Unanimously

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 Public Meeting C#25-25 held September 23, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

That the minutes of Council Public Meeting C#25-25 held on September 25, 2025, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

9.2 Council Meeting C#26-25 held September 24, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Liu
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

That the minutes of Council Meeting C#26-25 held on September 24, 2025, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

10. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Council consented to separate item 16.1 for discussion.

11. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Liu, Council unanimously adopted those items not identified for separate discussion.

12. Public Hearing(s)

There were no public hearings.

13. Presentation(s)

13.1 Presentation by Sherry Adams, Commissioner, Corporate and Financial Services, in recognition of Stephen Huycke, City Clerk, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks

Sherry Adams, Commissioner, Corporate and Financial Services, announced that Stephen Huycke, City Clerk, has been awarded with the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). She highlighted that the designation recognizes individuals who have completed rigorous educational requirements and who have made significant contributions to their local government, community and province. She noted that S. Huycke is one of 14 Canadians to hold this distinction and congratulated him on his achievement.

Stephen Huycke, City Clerk, expressed his gratitude to S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services, Darlene Joslin, City Manager, and Members of Council, for their recognition on achieving the MMC designation, and stated that he was honoured and privledged to serve Council and the citizens of Richmond Hill as City Clerk.

14. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

15. Committee and Staff Reports

15.1 Minutes - Affordable Housing Strategy Implementation Committee meeting AHSIC#01-25 held April 15, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

a) That the minutes of the Affordable Housing Strategy Implementation Committee meeting AHSIC#01-25 held April 15, 2025, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

15.2 Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#13-25 held October 8, 2025

That the minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#13-25 held October 8, 2025, be adopted as circulated and the following recommendations approved:

15.2.1 SRPBS.25.088 - Request for Direction - 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement - (CW Item 11.1)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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 Unanimously

15.2.2 SRCFS.25.033 - 2026 Municipal Elections Overview - (CW Item 11.2)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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 Unanimously

15.2.3 SRCFS.25.041 - Committee Appointment Policy Options - (CW Item 11.3)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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 Unanimously

15.2.4 SRCFS.25.042 - Report - Non-Competitive Acquisitions - (CW Item 11.4)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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

Carried Unanimously

15.2.5 SRCS.25.12 - Emergency Social Services Agreement - (CW Item 11.5)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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 Unanimously

15.2.6 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 - (CW Item 11.6)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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 Unanimously

15.2.7 Member Motion - Councillor Davidson - Elect Respect: Strengthening Democracy Through Respect and Civility - (CW Item 12.1)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

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.

Carried Unanimously

15.3 Correspondence from Bryan Purcell, The Atmospheric Fund, dated October 14, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Shiu with respect to Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2) Municipal Support Confirmation - 25 Mural Street, Richmond Hill - (refer to Item 16.1)

Moved by: Councillor Davidson
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

a) That the correspondence from Bryan Purcell, The Atmospheric Fund, dated October 14, 2025, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Shiu with respect to Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2) Municipal Support Confirmation for 25 Mural Street, Richmond Hill, be received.

Carried Unanimously

16. Other Business

16.1 Member Motion - Councillor Shiu - Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2) Municipal Support Confirmation - 25 Mural Street, Richmond Hill

Moved by: Councillor Shiu
Seconded by: Councillor Liu

Whereas, the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP) window will be the largest

competitive electricity procurement to increase the Province's electrical supply to meet identified needs emerging from 2029–2034;

Whereas, the LT2 RFP will consider eligible energy projects from resources such as wind, solar, bioenergy, energy storage, combined heat and power facilities, hydroelectric, and natural gas, that are 1 megawatt (MW) or greater, and capable of achieving commercial operation by May 1, 2030 (20-year contract term);

Whereas, the LT2 RFP process requires Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC) to confirm that the Proponent has undertaken or is committed to undertake engagement activities to the satisfaction of the City of Richmond Hill and that the City of Richmond Hill supports the submission of the Proposal;

Whereas, the Council approved Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2021) identifies actions to support the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, including the increase in solar power;

Whereas, the City of Richmond Hill has received a request for a MSC as part of the IESO's LT2 RFP from Moose Power Inc., on behalf of Dream Industrial REIT, for a proposed 2 MW rooftop solar project at an existing industrial building located at 25 Mural Street (Municipal Project Lands);

Whereas, the proposal and location of the Municipal Project Lands in Ward 6, south of 16th Avenue and east of Leslie Street and within the Beaver Creek Business Park, minimizes potential impacts on surrounding land uses and the environment; and

Whereas, the proposal to install solar panels on the Municipal Project Lands shall support the community energy needs and reduce GHG emissions.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the City of Richmond Hill supports the submission of a Proposal for the Long-Term Energy Project located on the Municipal Project Lands;

2. That this resolution's sole purpose is to satisfy the mandatory requirements of Section 4.2(c)(iii) of the IESO's LT2(e-1) RFP and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of approval in relation to the Proposal or Long-Term Energy Project or for any other purpose;

3. That the Proponent has committed to undertake, Indigenous and community engagement activities (if needed) in respect of the Long-Term Energy Project to the satisfaction of the Municipality;
4. That the Municipal Project Lands does not include lands designated as Prime Agricultural Areas in the City of Richmond Hill's Official Plan;
5. That the Proponent, if successfully selected as part of the IESO's LT2(e-1) RFP, is required to obtain all necessary municipal approvals and/or applicable permits;
6. That Council hereby adopts the resolution attached to this Member Motion, as Attachment A, titled "Exhibit A – Form of Municipal Resolution in Support of Proposal Submission" (the "Resolution"); and
7. That the Mayor and Clerk be directed to sign the attached Resolution as evidence of municipal support for the proposal on the Municipal Project Lands.

A recorded vote was taken:

In Favour: (7):	Councillor Cilevitz, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Deputy Mayor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Shiu, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cui
Opposed: (1):	Councillor Davidson
Absent: (1):	Mayor West

Carried (7 to 1)

17. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

18. By-laws

Moved by: Councillor Cui
Seconded by: Councillor Shiu

That the following By-laws be approved:

18.1 By-law 104-25 - A By-law to assume aboveground and belowground municipal services, assume lands as public highway, establish lands as public highway

18.2 By-law 106-25 - A By-law to Designate 1591 Elgin Mills Road East (Peter Heise House) Under the Ontario Heritage Act

18.3 By-law 107-25 - A By-law to Designate 734 King Road (Temperanceville Methodist Church and Cemetery) Under the Ontario Heritage Act

18.4 By-law 108-25 - A By-law to Designate 317 Mill Street (Jesse Good House) Under the Ontario Heritage Act

18.5 By-law 109-25 - A By-law to Designate 10201 Yonge Street (Richmond Hill Methodist Church) Under the Ontario Heritage Act

18.6 By-law 110-25 - A By-law to Designate 11901 Yonge Street (Summit Clubhouse) Under the Ontario Heritage Act

18.7 By-law 115-25 - A By-law to Remove Certain Lands from Part Lot Control

18.8 By-law 116-25 - A By-law to Remove Certain Lands from Part Lot Control

18.9 By-law 117-25 - A By-law to Remove Certain Lands from Part Lot Control

Carried Unanimously

19. Closed Session

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

Moved by: Councillor Cui
Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

That Council move into Closed Session:

a) To consider personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees, with respect to Citizen appointments to the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council, pursuant to Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Carried Unanimously

19.2 Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session

Council moved into closed and then returned to open session (10:17 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.).

19.3 Adoption of Recommendations Arising from the Closed Session Meeting

19.3.1 SRCFS.25.043 - Citizen Appointments to the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee - (Item A)

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the Terms of Reference for the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee be changed to require between four (4) and nine (9) citizen members for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council only.

Carried Unanimously

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

20.1 By-law 120-25

Moved by: Councillor Cui
Seconded by: Councillor Shiu

That By-law 120-25, A By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting, be passed.

Carried Unanimously

21. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Cui
Seconded by: Councillor Shiu

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

_____
Godwin Chan, Deputy Mayor

_____
Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk