



A meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Waterloo was held on December 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 100 Regina Street South, Waterloo, Ontario and streamed live via YouTube.



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 2023

2:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Dorothy McCabe, Councillor Sandra Hanmer, Councillor Royce Bodaly, Councillor Hans Roach, Councillor Diane Freeman, Councillor Jen Vasic, Councillor Mary Lou Roe, Councillor Julie Wright

Councillor Vasic in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

No disclosure of pecuniary interest was declared by any member of Council at this point in the meeting.

2. CLOSED MEETING

Moved by Councillor Roe, Seconded by Councillor Wright:

That Council hold a closed meeting for the purposes of considering the following subject matter:

- a) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees (committee appointments);
- b) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (potential lease of city-owned land);
- c) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (OLT Appeal, planning related); and,
- d) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board (OLT Appeal, planning related).

Carried Unanimously

Council meeting recessed:

(Time: 2:02 p.m.)

Council meeting reconvened:

(Time: 4:00 p.m.)

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Councillor Freeman declared a conflict with respect to the closed meeting due to a conflict of interest as it relates to place of employment.

4. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Vasic opened the meeting with the following Territorial Acknowledgement:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we are gathering from today is the land traditionally cared for by the Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabe and Neutral People. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.

5. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Councillor Vasic provided Council with a moment of reflection.

- a) The 'holiday season' is language with a shared understanding of dominant cultures; it generally means the celebration of American Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's between November and January. If we change our perspective and acknowledge that there are additional holidays celebrated by friends, colleagues, and neighbours during that period, we arrive at the recognition of a season of many holidays.

Alongside Christmas and New Year's in Canada, which are steeped in meaningful personal traditions of gatherings, food, and sentiment for those that celebrate, are equally significant celebrations:

- Diwali was celebrated on November 12
- Hanukkah occurs from December 7 to 15
- Bodhi Day, a Buddhist celebration, is December 8, 2023
- Winter Solstice is December 21
- Dongzhi Festival, celebrated in Japan, China and Taiwan is from December 21 to 23
- Christmas is December 25
- Kwanzaa is from December 26 to January 1
- New Year's Day is January 1
- Orthodox Christmas is January 7
- Maghi, a Sikh observance, will take place on January 13

- Lohri, the Punjab Winter Festival, is January 13
- Haudenosaunee Mid-winter Ceremonies will be celebrated during the new moon in January and lasts for approximately eight days
- Lunar New Year will take place on February 10
- Vasant Panchami, a Hindu observance, is February 14
- Magha, a Buddhist observance, will take place on February 24

Despite the notable differences such as religion, date and appeal, together these holidays remind us of human desires to be connected to each other.

For many years, traditional Christmas decorations have been put up in municipal facilities and spaces across Waterloo. This décor is intended to recognize the joy of the holiday season with the community. To create a more inclusive and welcoming environment, banners recognizing the season of many celebrations will be displayed in City of Waterloo facilities until February.

- b) During the 16 Days of Activism, Canadians reflect on the presence of gender based violence in our own country. On December 6, many in our community and across Canada will pause to remember the 14 young women murdered at Polytechnique Montreal and all women who have suffered gender-based violence.

These days of remembrance and activism push us to consider the links between sexism, transphobia and homophobia, and the greater risks faced by women, trans people, non-binary people and gender-diverse people. The additional impact of racism and colonialism put Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit people at even greater risk, similarly the impact of ableism on women with disabilities.

As a City, we recognize the importance of taking action on the devastating impacts of gender-based violence. We are also mindful that challenging sexist and transphobic systems must not be limited to a few observances throughout the year but an ongoing action.

At the beginning of this Council meeting, we pause to think about the needs of our community. May we show wisdom and compassion in all our decisions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

That the previous meeting minutes be approved.

a) November 6, 2023 – Council Meeting

Moved by Councillor Wright, Seconded by Councillor Roach:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on November 6, 2023 be approved as printed.

Carried Unanimously

7. STAFF REPORTS

- a) Title: Urban Forest Management Strategy
Introduction**
Report No.: COM2023-037
Prepared By: Derek Brick

Derek Brick introduced the report and the consultant, and noted there were changes in some of the numbers since the report was published, including that the current tree canopy was 32.5% rather than the reported 15%, and that the current funding gap is \$400,000 rather than the reported \$7.5 million.

Mayor McCabe left the meeting. (Time: 4:18 p.m.)

Mayor McCabe joined the meeting. (Time: 4:18 p.m.)

John McNeil, Managing Partner, McNeil Urban Forestry Inc. gave a presentation outlining the Urban Forest Management Strategy, highlighting the link to the new strategic plan and the benefits to citizens. They then responded to questions of Council. Robin Milne and Derek Brick also responded to questions of Council.

Moved by Councillor Roe, Seconded by Councillor Bodaly:

1. That Council receive report COM2023-037 as information.

Carried Unanimously

- b) Title: Boulevard Gardens**
Report No.: IPPW2023-049
Prepared By: Ainsley Rego and Grant Curlew

Masha Kuznetsova, Resident of Waterloo gave a presentation asking the City to consider making further changes to the Lot Maintenance By-law, which include increasing the grass height, removing the Buffer Strip around naturalized areas, and encouraging homeowners to transition to natural lawns. They then responded to questions of Council.

Grant Curlew, Ainsley Rego, Jenny Renaud, Nicole Papke, Derek Brick, Mark Dykstra, Robin Milne and Francis Reyes also responded to questions of Council.

Moved by Mayor McCabe, Seconded by Councillor Freeman:

1. That Council approve report IPPW2023-049;
2. That the Highway Occupancy By-law 2014-054 be updated with the amendments contained herein;
3. That Lot Maintenance By-law 2011-123 be updated with the amendments contained herein;
4. That General Administrative Penalties By-law 2023-038 be updated with the amendments contained herein; and,
5. That Council receive the Boulevard & Cul-de-sac Garden guideline as outlined in Appendix A as information.
6. That Council direct staff to report back on the use of artificial turf.

Carried Unanimously

- c) **Title:** **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Office Furniture - Award of Tender RFQ23-27**
Report No.: COM2023-038
Prepared By: Koohyar Samiee

Moved by Councillor Freeman, Seconded by Councillor Hanmer:

1. That Council approve report COM2023-038.
2. That Council approve the award of RFQ23-27 Supply, Delivery and Installation of Office Furniture (RE: Ministry Vendor of Record (VOR) – Tender 13685 Office Seating and Furniture) for the submitted price of \$638,226.93 plus unrecoverable HST in the amount of \$11,232.79 for a total award value of \$649,459.72.
3. That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Waterloo and Teknion Limited, and any other documents related to this project, subject to the satisfaction of the City's Solicitor.

Carried Unanimously

- d) **Title:** **Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement - Declaration of Compliance – City of Waterloo Older Adult Programs**
Report No.: COM2023-039
Prepared By: Jim Bowman

Moved by Councillor Freeman, Seconded by Councillor Hanmer:

1. That Council approve report COM2023-039.
2. That the Mayor be authorized to sign the necessary document associated with the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement (MSAA) Schedule F – Declaration of Compliance and any other MSAA documents related to City of Waterloo's delivery of older adult programs, subject to the satisfaction of the City's Solicitor.

Carried Unanimously

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

a) Mayor McCabe – Protection of Waterloo's Natural Heritage Areas and Green Space for consideration December 4, 2023

Moved by Mayor McCabe, Seconded by Councillor Roe:

WHEREAS in November 2022, the Government of Ontario passed Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act*, as part of Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan with the goal of building 1.5 million new homes in Ontario by 2031, and

WHEREAS Bill 23 mandates that, upon legislative proclamation, all land use planning be transitioned from regional governments – the Region of Waterloo – to local municipalities such as the City of Waterloo, and

WHEREAS Waterloo City Council has and continues to value and take measures to conserve significant natural features *and systems through adoption of environmental policies* and municipal decision-making, and understands the importance of conserving significant green spaces in a natural state and to minimize disturbances to such spaces, and

WHEREAS Waterloo City Council's Official Plan, Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy outline a long term commitment to building a community that is vibrant, diverse and sustainable as the city continues to intensify and urbanize, and

WHEREAS Waterloo City Council acknowledges and understands the importance of rural communities and their contributions particularly with food security, preservation of sensitive natural heritage areas/systems and other green spaces, and economic development, and

WHEREAS Waterloo City Council understands and appreciates that the Countryside Line is a boundary that protects the cultural, economic, and environmental heritage of our neighbouring municipalities' rural lands from the pressures of urban sprawl and that the Countryside Line protects the integrity of rural communities from suburban expansion, and

WHEREAS the City of Waterloo has, for decades, actively planned to grow inward through a comprehensive growth management (intensification) strategy, and accordingly has sufficient land currently and until 2050 to accommodate the growing population within Waterloo's existing municipal boundaries, and

WHEREAS past and present Waterloo City Councils have been leaders in environmental protection and understand that it is our responsibility to protect our environment, and that sound urban planning helps protect the environment while enabling the city to grow,

THEREFORE be it resolved that Waterloo City Council reaffirm its longstanding practice of acquiring and protecting sensitive natural heritage areas/systems and green spaces from development, and managing growth in a sustainable manner.

Carried Unanimously

9. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Hanmer wanted to shout out the facilities staff at RIM Park and Albert McCormick Community Centre for their hard work during the USA Canada Cup, run by the Waterloo Girls Hockey Association. There were 78 Under 22 and Under 18 AA female hockey teams from all over Canada and USA, and over 100 scouts from NCAA Universities, Canadian Universities, and Hockey Canada. She offered a special shout out to the paramedics and fire team.

Councillor Roe wanted to mention that last Thursday, November 30, she, Mayor McCabe and Councillor Roach met with YMCA of Three Rivers Immigration Services, and they brought newcomers to Canada into Council Chambers to explain municipal government, explain the two-tier system, and answer questions.

Councillor Freeman wanted to shout out the Professional Fire Fighters Association who stood in the rain on December 3rd during the Lights of Love by Hospice Waterloo Region, where hundreds of people gathered to remember loved ones who had passed.

Councillor Wright mentioned the tree lighting at Waterloo Public Square on Friday, December 1st, with a shout out to the BIA and City staff for their support. She also offered her thanks to the Dunn Family for donating the tree.

Mayor McCabe wanted to thank all the vendors that came out to the Holiday Pop-up Market held on December 1st and 2nd in the Waterloo Public Square.

Mayor McCabe also thanked the staff for helping to organize the disability seminars at the Waterloo Main Library.

10. ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Wright, Seconded by Councillor Freeman:

That the By-laws listed below be read a first, second and third time and finally passed, numbered sequentially commencing with By-law Number 2023-098 and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign them accordingly.

- a) By-law to Amend City of Waterloo By-law #2011-123 (IPPW2023-049, Council December 4, 2023)
- b) By-law to Amend City of Waterloo By-law #2023-038 to Provide for the Update of Monetary Penalties and Administrative Fees Schedule (IPPW2023-049, Council December 4, 2023)
- c) By-law to Amend No. 2014-054, being a By-law to Regulate Work on Highways and Boulevards under the Jurisdiction of the City of Waterloo (IPPW2023-049, Council December 4, 2023)
- d) By-law to Amend By-law No. 2018-050 being a Zoning By-law Controlling Land Use Development within the City of Waterloo. General Amendments to Zoning By-law 2018-050: City Wide (IPPW2023-055, Council November 27, 2023)
- e) By-law to confirm all actions and proceedings of Council, December 4, 2023

Carried Unanimously

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Freeman, Seconded by Mayor McCabe:

That the meeting adjourn.

(Time: 5:31 p.m.)

Carried Unanimously

READ AND APPROVED, January 15, 2024

Mayor

City Clerk