Minutes of the Meeting of the
Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax
Held in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall on
Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
accessibility@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Present: Mayor S. Collier
          Regional Councillors M. Crawford
                          S. Lee
                          J. Dies
                          R. Tyler Morin
                          A. Khan
                          L. Bower

Councillors

1. Call to Order

Mayor Collier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged traditional treaty lands.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: J. Dies
Seconded by: L. Bower

That the Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on June 17, 2019 be adopted. CARRIED

4. Question Period

Mayor Collier invited questions from the public on any items in the agenda.

There were no questions from the public.

5. Delegations and Petitions/Public Hearings

5.1 Mental Health Day – October 10, 2019

Carion Fenn, President and CEO, Carion Fenn Foundation, thanked members of Council for proclaiming October 10th, 2019 as Durham Mental Health Day. Ms. Fenn introduced Vieka Almanzar Bautista, Director of Programs, and Jake Farr, Resource Development Chair, who discussed programs and services provided by the Foundation, mental health and mental illness, the mental health forum to be held on October 10th, and how the Town can support mental health programming and awareness in Durham. Mayor Collier thanked the delegates and noted that the proclamation is included in the correspondence report on the meeting agenda.

5.2 October is Cyber Security Awareness Month

Lisa Hausz, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, noted that October is cybersecurity month and discussed the impacts of cyber threats on municipalities, businesses and individuals. L. Hausz introduced Ali Hirji, Al Hub project manager, Durham College, and Mahdi Raza, co-founder & CEO, SiberX, who reviewed public events being held across Durham to bring awareness to cybersecurity issues and help residents improve their online security.

Council members asked questions regarding ways residents can improve their online security, and new education programs. Mr. Hirji responded to questions from Council Members and discussed new programs and public events during the month of October.
Mayor Collier thanked the delegates and noted that the proclamation is included in the correspondence report on the meeting agenda.

5.3 Orange Shirt Day – September 30, 2019

Jai Sahak, Diversity & Community Engagement Coordinator, discussed the Town’s efforts to acknowledge Indigenous peoples and history in Ajax and introduced Angela Duckworth, Child/Youth Mental Health & Addictions Worker, Carea Community Health Centre. Ms. Duckworth discussed addiction and mental health support for Indigenous youth and families in Durham Region, effects of colonization and the residential school system on Indigenous peoples, and the history and significance of Orange Shirt Day in Canada.

Council Members thanked Ms. Duckworth for her efforts to support Indigenous youth in Durham and asked questions regarding programs and services available to Indigenous youth. Ms. Duckworth responded to questions from Council Members. Mayor Collier thanked the delegates and noted that the proclamation is included in the correspondence report on the meeting agenda.

5.4 Town of Ajax Declared a Bee City

Shelly Candel, Director, Bee City Canada, reviewed the Town of Ajax’s commitment to becoming a Bee City and discussed the importance of native bee populations to the environment and local ecology. Council Members asked questions regarding pollinator gardens and ways to support local bee populations. Ms. Candel responded to questions from Council Members and presented Council with a formal declaration acknowledging Ajax’s status as a Bee City.

5.5 Regional Chair’s Annual Address

John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Durham, thanked Council Members for the opportunity to address Ajax Council and reviewed key initiatives and examples of innovative work and creative partnerships being led by the Region. Chair Henry discussed the Region’s Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2024 and related public engagement opportunities, comprehensive review of the Region’s official land use plan, addressing provincial budget cuts in the areas of childcare and public health, the provincial decision to reconsider the Bowmanville GO Rail extension, increasing transit demand across Durham Region, regional applications through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), Durham’s ‘Vision Zero’ initiative to reduce road fatalities, investment in regional infrastructure and capital projects in Ajax, adapting to climate change impacts, implementation of the Durham Community Energy Plan, electrifying transportation, the Region’s Primary Care Outreach Program, Canada Learning Bonds, and addressing regional priorities with federal election candidates.

Council Members asked questions regarding the Primary Care Outreach Program, advocacy for the Bowmanville GO Rail extension Option 1, removal of tolls on Highway 412, and the potential for a future police station in Ajax. Chair Henry responded to questions from Council Members and discussed the history and success of the Primary Care Outreach Program, advocacy at AMO for the Bowmanville GO Rail extension, tolls on Highway 412, and the need for a new training facility for Durham Regional Police Service. Mayor Collier thanked Chair Henry for his address.

5.6 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan

Christie McLardie, Manager of Public & Strategic Affairs, delivered a presentation regarding the 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan. C. McLardie discussed the strategic plan journey, the plan by the numbers, goals and actions within each focus area, timing of the plan, top 22 priorities identified by Ajax residents, monitoring the plan, and public engagement opportunities.

With the consent of members present, Mayor Collier advanced item 7.4.1 ‘2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan’ in the order of business.

7.4.1 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan

Council Members asked questions regarding the availability of the Strategic Plan booklet and how the action items will be performed and presented to Council. C. McLardie responded to questions from Council Members and discussed timing for publication of the Strategic Plan booklet and how progress on action items will be reported to Council. Council Members thanked Ms. McLardie and Town staff for their efforts in preparing the 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan.
Moved by:  J. Dies  
Seconded by:  A. Khan

That Council endorse the draft 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan framework and actions; and

That staff design and distribute a final 2018-2022 Ajax Strategic Plan booklet entitled 'Stronger Together' for residents and the community to monitor and be involved in.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:
In Favour:  Councillor Bower, Regional Councillor Crawford, Regional Councillor Dies, Councillor Khan, Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Tyler Morin, Mayor Collier
Opposed:  None

5.7  Economic Development Strategy Launch and Public Open House

Lisa Hausz, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, announced the official launch of the development of the Town's new five-year Economic Development Action Plan, and discussed upcoming public engagement opportunities. L. Hausz discussed the various ways that residents can engage and share ideas, reviewed upcoming public events and information sessions, and noted that the final plan will be presented in early 2020. Council Members thanked Ms. Hausz for her presentation.

5.8  Innovation & Technology Hub Update

Lisa Hausz, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, delivered a presentation regarding the development of the Innovation Village in Ajax. L. Hausz discussed partner groups and organizations across Durham, spaces and services to be provided at the Innovation Village, bringing Pickering Village’s unique history into a vision for the future, AI and cybersecurity educational events and information sessions, Town facilities that will house the Innovation Village, and the importance of innovation for attracting and retaining a talented workforce.

Council Members asked questions regarding private sector partnerships and investment, costs and monetization, metrics for success, promoting women in the field of cybersecurity, and timeline for becoming operational. L. Hausz responded to questions from Council Members and discussed potential partnership opportunities, how success will be measured, upcoming public events and information sessions, next steps, and timeline to launch the Innovation Village. Council Members thanked Ms. Hausz and Town staff for their work on this initiative.

6.  Correspondence

Council Members separated items 2 and 5 from the correspondence report for consideration. Members discussed traffic concerns on Williamson Drive West and the correspondence received regarding the Onley Report recommendations for amendments to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Motion

Moved by:  A. Khan  
Seconded by:  S. Lee

That the correspondence item ‘Residents of Williamson Drive West: Petition to Town of Ajax – Traffic Calming Along Williamson Drive’ be referred to staff for study.

CARRIED

Motion

Moved by:  A. Khan  
Seconded by:  L. Bower

That the correspondence item ‘City of Sudbury Accessibility Advisory Panel: Onley Report Recommendations’ be referred to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for further consideration.

CARRIED
Moved by: L. Bower  
Seconded by: A. Khan  

That the report dated September 16, 2019 containing Items of Correspondence be adopted.  

CARRIED  

7. Reports  

7.1 Community Affairs & Planning Committee Report  

Council Members separated item 4.1 from the report for consideration.  

Council Members discussed a petition received from residents of Finley Avenue and Burden Crescent regarding a proposed development in the area. Members discussed the requests contained within the petition, concerns raised by residents, and the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) appeal process for development applications.  

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin  
Seconded by: A. Khan  

That item 4.1 of the Community Affairs & Planning Committee Report dated September 3, 2019 be adopted.  

CARRIED  

Recorded Vote:  
In Favour: Regional Councillor Crawford, Councillor Khan, Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Tyler Morin, Mayor Collier  
Opposed: Regional Councillor Dies, Councillor Bower  

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin  
Seconded by: A. Khan  

That the balance of the Community Affairs & Planning Committee Report dated September 3, 2019 be adopted.  

CARRIED  

7.2 General Government Committee Report  

Moved by: A. Khan  
Seconded by: L. Bower  

That the General Government Committee Report dated September 9, 2019, be adopted.  

CARRIED  

7.3 Summary of Advisory Committee Activities  

Moved by: A. Khan  
Seconded by: J. Dies  

That the Summary of Advisory Committee Activities dated June, 2019 as attached to the meeting agenda be received for information, and that the recommendations contained therein be referred to staff where applicable.  

CARRIED  

7.4 Departmental Reports  

Mayor Collier noted that item 7.4.1 was addressed earlier in the meeting.  

7.4.2 Mayor’s Office – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Briefing  

Mayor Collier reviewed the contents of the briefing and discussed the Town’s activities and issues raised at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference.
Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: S. Lee

That the Mayor’s Office – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMP) Annual Conference Briefing be received for information

CARRIED

8. Regional Councillors’ Report

8.1 Durham Vision Zero Briefing

Regional Councillor Crawford reviewed the contents of the briefing and discussed the objective of the Region’s Vision Zero program to reduce road fatalities in Durham.

Council Members asked questions regarding potential locations for installation of automated speed enforcement and red light cameras in Ajax. Regional Councillor Crawford responded to questions from Council Members and discussed the criteria for selection of locations.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: S. Lee

That the Durham Vision Zero Briefing be received for information.

CARRIED

There were no further updates from Regional Council members.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: S. Lee

That the Regional Councillors’ Reports of September 16, 2019 be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Business Arising from Notice of Motion

9.1 Single-use Plastics Ban

Mayor Collier vacated the Chair. Deputy Mayor Crawford assumed the Chair.

Mayor Collier introduced the motion and reviewed its contents. Council Members discussed plastic litter on public properties and ways to reduce plastic waste.

Moved by: S. Collier
Seconded by: L. Bower

Whereas plastic waste ends up in our landfills and incinerators, litters our parks and beaches, clogs our storm sewers and drains, and pollutes our rivers, lakes, and oceans; and

Whereas improperly disposed of plastic products take decades or more to decompose, are harmful to our environment and pose serious and potentially fatal risk to birds, turtles, fish, and marine mammals; and

Whereas the Government of Canada estimates that less than 10 per cent of plastics used in Canada are recycled, and further, 57 million straws are used every day and 15 billion plastic bags are used each year; and

Whereas the federal government intends to ban single-use plastic products, including bags, straws, cutlery, and more throughout Canada by 2021; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario is studying ways of reducing and eliminating single-use plastics in Ontario; and

Whereas the Town of Ajax proactively introduced a waste reduction plan in 2010, green procurement policy in June 2013 and a green events policy in April 2016 aimed at reducing overall waste, increasing waste diversion, encouraging active transportation and eliminating bottled water at meetings, events and in Town facilities;
Therefore be it resolved that Town staff examine the feasibility of a ban on unnecessary single-use plastics, including straws, bags, plates, cups, and/or packaging corporately within the Town; and

That staff provide fulsome recommendations about how a ban would apply to and impact Town facilities, meetings, and Town-run special events; and

That included in the report will be a business outreach plan to encourage our partners and stakeholders to re-evaluate their single-use plastic usage; and

That this motion be distributed to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Rod Phillips, MPP, Hon. Mark Holland, MP and all candidates for the upcoming federal election, the Region of Durham and Durham municipalities.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:
In Favour: Mayor Collier, Councillor Bower, Regional Councillor Dies, Councillor Khan, Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Tyler Morin, Regional Councillor Crawford
Opposed: None

Mayor Collier resumed the Chair.

9.2 Climate Emergency Declaration

Regional Councillor Lee introduced the motion and reviewed its contents. Council Members discussed the contents and wording of the motion, Ajax’s historic leadership on environmental sustainability, and local and national impacts of climate change.

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: A. Khan

WHEREAS climate change is well documented as a real phenomenon which poses serious risks to social, economic and environmental well-being in communities globally;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined the need for a significant and structural reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further economic, ecological, and societal losses due to the climate change crisis;

AND WHEREAS Canada is, according to Environment Canada’s April 2019 Changing Climate Report, recording warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet, with Northern Canada experiencing three times the increase in average temperature, compared to the global average;

AND WHEREAS infrastructure failures linked to the climate change crisis may cost Canada $300 billion over the next decade;

AND WHEREAS local governments hold the power to adopt policy and conduct their operations in a manner that responds to the reality of climate change; have a direct relationship with citizens to educate and encourage actions that will help reduce climate change impacts; and can call on senior levels of government for responses which are suitable to the urgent nature of our climate reality;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of climate change have been felt in the Town of Ajax for a number of years, with an increase in extreme rain events, ice storm events and drought conditions, resulting in property damage, energy and transportation disruptions, injury, and economic impacts in the community;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax has taken a proactive, environment-first approach as the first municipality in Ontario to adopt Official Plan policies that integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into local land use planning; adopting and implementing Community and Corporate Local Action Plans in 2013 that identify programs and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and adopting the Ajax Climate Risk & Resiliency Plan in 2019;
AND WHEREAS The Town’s commitment is further evident in several initiatives, partnerships, and significant work completed to date, including participation in the Partners for Climate Protection program that established a 6% community greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2020, which was achieved 5 years early, and a 20% corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Town of Ajax declare a climate emergency to acknowledge the impacts of climate change and reaffirm our commitment to proactively mitigating and adapting to those impacts wherever possible through the Town’s continued leadership, advocacy and intergovernmental partnerships; and

THAT Council and staff continue to uphold their commitment to 2020 greenhouse gas reduction targets, promote and implement climate change mitigation measures and prioritize implementation of the actions in the Ajax Climate Risk and Resiliency Plan to ensure that resiliency is a top priority across the municipality; and

THAT this declaration be shared with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Rod Phillips, MPP, Hon. Mark Holland, MP, the Region of Durham and Durham Region municipalities.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:
In Favour: Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Bower, Regional Councillor Crawford, Regional Councillor Dies, Councillor Khan, Councillor Tyler Morin, Mayor Collier
Opposed: None

10. By-laws

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: S. Lee

That By-law numbers 49-2019 to 54-2019 be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

11. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

12. New Business - Notices & Announcements

Council members reviewed upcoming and ongoing events, including ward community meetings, Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan open houses, ‘Live with the Mayor’ town hall series, upcoming Region of Durham events, and the Town’s ‘Feed the Need’ challenge.

13. Confirming By-Law

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: L. Bower

That By-law number 55-2019 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax at its regular meeting held on September 16, 2019 be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED
14.  Adjournment

Moved by:  S. Lee
Seconded by:  A. Khan

That the September 16, 2019 meeting of the Council of the Town of Ajax be adjourned.
(9:27 p.m.)

CARRIED

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Mayor

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D-Clerk