

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax Held Electronically on Monday, March 27, 2023

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

Present:	Mayor Regional Councillors Councillors	S. Collier M. Crawford S. Lee R. Tyler Morin N. Henry
Regrets:	Regional Councillor Councillor	J. Dies L. Bower

1. Call to Order & Acknowledgement of Traditional Treaty Lands

Mayor Collier called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and acknowledged traditional treaty lands.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: R. Tyler Morin

That the following minutes of previous Council meetings be adopted:

- Special Meeting of February 23, 2023;
- Closed Meeting of February 23, 2023;
- Regular Meeting of February 27, 2023; and
- Special Meeting of February 28, 2023

CARRIED

4. Question Period

Mayor Collier noted that members of the public were advised they could submit questions regarding the agenda to the Town Clerk up until noon on the day of the meeting. Jason McWilliam, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk, noted that no questions had been received regarding the contents of the meeting agenda.

5. Delegations, Presentations, and Public Meetings

5.1 Delegation: The Women of Ontario Say No – Seek Support for Bill 5

Jenn Morton, Member, The Women of Ontario Say No, presented a request to Council to endorse Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act. She discussed how enactment would permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence or harassment policies.

Members of Council inquired about the origin of the movement. J. Morton responded to the question. Members of Council expressed support for the request to support Bill 5 and encouraged J. Morton to bring her delegation forward to Regional Council.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Collier thanked J. Morton for her presentation.

5.2 Delegation: Pitch Proposal for the Game of Cricket

Aditya Singh, General Secretary, Durham Champions Cricket Club and Shishir Saxena, Facility Officer, Durham Champions Cricket Club, delivered a presentation regarding a request to build a natural cricket pitch in open public spaces or parks in Ajax.

Members of Council asked questions regarding whether similar natural pitches exist in other municipalities, if the Durham Champions Cricket Club has contacted other leagues in Ajax, and where the club currently plays.

A. Singh and S. Saxena responded to questions D. Meredith noted that the request aligns with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Mayor Collier thanked A. Singh and S. Saxena for their presentation.

5.3 Delegation: Stop Pedestrian Road Violence in Ajax!

Elliot Kelly, Ajax Land Owner, presented a delegation to Council recounting his experience with pedestrian road violence on Kingston Road in Ajax. He discussed the Strong Towns initiative and shared actionable steps to improve road and pedestrian safety in Ajax.

Mayor Collier informed E. Kelly that Kingston Road is under Regional jurisdiction and noted he may wish to bring forward his delegation to Regional Council.

Mayor Collier thanked E. Kelly for his delegation.

5.4 Delegation: Mr. Vic Jagmohan – Agenda Item 9.1 – Temporary Sign By-law and Election Sign By-law Updates

Moved by: N. Henry

Seconded by: S. Lee

That Council waive the rules of procedure to permit a delegation by Mr. Vic Jagmohan respecting Agenda Item 9.1 – Temporary Sign By-law and Election Sign By-law Updates.

CARRIED on 2/3rds

Vic Jagmohan, Ajax resident, provided an overview of concerns with limiting mobile advertising during election campaigns. He discussed limitations for candidates to promote awareness of candidacy during an election with sign restrictions proposed to the Temporary Sign By-law and Election Sign By-law.

Members of Council asked questions of the delegate regarding methods used to promote candidacy during the election, any challenges encountered, illegal sign placement, awareness of sign size restrictions, and awareness of complaints received regarding the mobile sign vehicle. V. Jagmohan responded to questions.

5.5 Presentation: Recognition of Durham West Lightning U13AA

On behalf of Council, Mayor Collier extended congratulations and presented a certificate of recognition to the Durham West Lightning U13AA hockey team on their historic win as the First Female Team Champions of the Quebec International Peewee Tournament.

Bob Hunt, Head Coach and Brad Cann, Assistant Coach, thanked the Town for its support and funding received through the Ajax Partnership Fund and discussed the international recognition of the team's achievement. Members of Council asked questions relative to how long both coaches have been involved in the sport, and the whereabouts of the trophy. B. Hunt and B. Cann, responded to questions.

5.6 Presentation: 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

Christie McLardie, Manager of Public & Strategic Affairs, presented the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan – Action 26. She discussed the purpose of developing a strategic plan, provided an overview of Action 26, including the core pillars, key priorities, and supporting action items. C. McLardie noted that the Plan will be unveiled during the forthcoming Live with the Mayor event.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Collier thanked C. McLardie for her presentation.

6. Correspondence

Members separated correspondence items 6.6, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11, 6.12 and 6.13 for discussion.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: R. Tyler Morin

That the balance of the report (Items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, and 6.14) dated March 27, 2023 containing Items of Correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Item 6.6

Council Members discussed the motion.

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

That the Mayor send a letter of response to the City of Pickering indicating the Town:

- a. Has not been consulted on the Secondary Plan for Northeast Pickering;
- b. Has not entered into an agreement with Dorsay Pickering Limited and/or any other Landowners in North East Pickering;
- c. Continues to support the protection of the Carruthers Creek headwaters and maintains that there are significant environmental and financial concerns pertaining to development in North East Pickering which have not been satisfied;
- d. Requests that the City of Pickering, North East Pickering Landowners Group, and their consultants pause the Secondary Plan for North East Pickering to satisfy concerns through consultation with the Town; and

That the Mayor send a letter to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, requesting that the decision on Pickering's MZO request to develop the Carruthers Creek headwaters in North East Pickering be deferred until the Town has been consulted and concerns regarding the project have been satisfied.

CARRIED

Item 6.9

Council Members expressed support for the motion.

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

That Item 6.9 ("The Regional Municipality of Niagara – Motion Respecting Declarations of Emergency for Homelessness, Mental Health and Opioid Addiction") of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 6.10

Council Members expressed support for the motion.

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

That Item 6.10 ("Town of Cobourg – Homeless and Unsheltered Persons") of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 6.11

Council Members expressed support for the motion.

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

That Item 6.11 ("City of Belleville – A Call to the Provincial Government to End Homelessness in Ontario") of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 6.12

Council Members expressed support for the motion.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: N. Henry

That Item 6.12 (“Municipality of North Perth – School Bus Stop Arm Cameras”) of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 6.13

Council Members expressed support for the motion.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: R. Tyler Morin

That Item 6.13 (“City of Cambridge – Barriers for Women in Politics”) of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1. Community Affairs & Planning Committee Report

7.1.1 Community Affairs & Planning Committee, March 6, 2023

None

7.2. General Government Committee Report

7.2.1 General Government Committee, March 20, 2023

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: N. Henry

That the General Government Committee Report dated March 20, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

7.3 Summary of Advisory Committee Activities

None

7.4 Departmental Reports

7.4.1. CAO-2023-05: 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

Main Motion

That the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (Action 26) including the framework and action plan (ATT-1) be approved.

Amendment

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin
Seconded by: M. Crawford

That the Internal Action Plan, Modernizing Our City Sec. 1.2 be amended to move the completion of the Pet Waste Diversion in Parks Feasibility Report to 2024; and

That Planning and Development Staff be directed to bring the feasibility report to the General Government Committee in April 2024.

CARRIED

Main Motion as Amended

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: N. Henry

That the Internal Action Plan, Modernizing Our City Sec. 1.2 be amended to move the completion of the Pet Waste Diversion in Parks Feasibility Report to 2024;

That Planning and Development Staff be directed to bring the feasibility report to the General Government Committee in April 2024; and

That the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (Action 26) including the framework and action plan (ATT-1) be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote

In Favour: Mayor Collier, Regional Councillor Crawford, Councillor Henry, Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Tyler Morin,
Opposed: None

7.4.2. CAO-2023-06: Ajax Anti-Black Racism Taskforce Update

Members of Council asked questions relating to how racism is experienced by different communities, whether other municipalities are reviewing the scope of their Anti-Black Racism Task Force, if the Task Force met its objectives, the importance of broadening the mandate, and whether the Black community will receive less support if the mandate of the Task Force is expanded. N. Sharma responded to questions.

Main Motion

That Council approves Option 1: Rescope and Renew, as outlined in this report.

Amendment

Moved by: N. Henry
Seconded by: None

That the Motion be amended to read as follows:

That Council approves the re-creation of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force as it was, with the addition of an Anti-Racism Task Force for the 2022-2026 Council Term.

LOST (*no seconder*)

Main Motion

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

That Council approves Option 1: Rescope and Renew, as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

7.4.3. RC-2023-01: Contract Award – 3D Ajax Letters Signature Sign

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin
Seconded by: N. Henry

That Council award the contract for the 3D Ajax Letters Signature Sign to FASTSIGNS of Durham – Ajax/Whitby, in the estimated amount of \$232,721.43 (inclusive of all taxes); and

That Council approve funding of \$80,530.16 to be allocated to Capital Account No. 1039811 from Capital Contingency Reserve.

CARRIED

7.4.4. CAO-2023-02: Council Ward Constituent Newsletter Update

Main Motion

That Council approve Ward Constituent Newsletter A delivery option.

Amendment

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

That the motion be amended to approve Ward Constituent Newsletter Option C delivery.
CARRIED

Motion as Amended

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: R. Tyler Morin

That Council approve Ward Constituent Newsletter C delivery option.
CARRIED

8. Regional Councillors' Report

Regional Council Members provided updates regarding recent Regional Works, Finance, Planning and Police Services Board meetings, including acknowledgement of CLOCA's Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival, Durham Region Police Service Change of Command Ceremony, discussions and presentations regarding police time allocated to mental health response, as well as the development of a non-police-led response team.

Regional Councillor Crawford thanked Enbridge for connecting with the Town to meet and debrief a recent gas leak in Ward 1 and discuss communication improvements. It was noted that Regional Councillor Crawford was appointed as a director of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

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

That the Regional Councillors' Reports of March 27, 2023 be received for information.
CARRIED

9. Business Arising from Notice of Motion

Mayor Collier vacated the Chair. Regional Councillor Crawford assumed the Chair.

9.1 Temporary Sign By-law and Election Sign By-law Updates

Mayor Collier vacated the Chair. Regional Councillor Crawford assumed the Chair.

Regional Councillor Lee and Mayor Collier introduced the motion and reviewed its contents.

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: S. Collier

WHEREAS Ajax Council has implemented a number of changes to Town by-laws in recent years to improve compliance with temporary and election sign regulations, including making investments in a new proactive enforcement program, in an effort to address waste, sightline issues on roadways, and other nuisance issues;

AND WHEREAS enforcement of these by-laws continues to require considerable time and effort from the Ajax By-law Services division;

AND WHEREAS Election Sign Deposit Programs are commonplace amongst Ontario municipalities as a means of improving compliance with Election Sign By-laws and recovering some of the cost of enforcement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That staff be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend the Town's Temporary Sign By-law and Election Sign By-law, no later than May 2023, to:

- Prohibit the use of mobile advertising devices that include the use of amplified voice or music and/or digital or animated lights, posters or images; and,
 - Remove any option for an individual to pay a recovery fee to the Town for the return of an impounded sign.
2. That staff investigate options for an “Election Sign Deposit” program that would require election candidates to pay the Town a deposit that can be drawn upon by the Town for the removal of all illegally placed election signs in the Town, and provide a report on same to General Government Committee by the end of 2023.

CARRIED

9.2 Utilizing Debentures for Major Purchases

Mayor Collier and Regional Councillor Lee introduced the motion and reviewed its contents. Council Members asked questions regarding application of debentures for capital purchases. D. Valentim provided clarification on the Debt Policy.

Moved by: S. Collier
Seconded by: S. Lee

WHEREAS to meet the needs of the community, the Town must invest in the purchase of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary for municipal operations;

AND WHEREAS the Town may purchase vehicles or heavy equipment using funds from discretionary reserves, or through some form of financing;

AND WHEREAS through the issuance of debentures, a type of long-term business debt, the impact of a major purchase can be spread out and lessen the immediate impacts to Town reserves;

AND WHEREAS the Town has a policy in place which dictates that the maximum term for debt may not exceed the expected useful service life of an asset (the Tangible Capital Asset policy);

AND WHEREAS reserves may be better leveraged for strategic investment over the life of the asset;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Staff be directed to report back to Council in June on the feasibility of purchasing vehicles and equipment over \$100,000 through the issuance of debentures to ensure fulsome leveraging of Town reserves.

CARRIED

Mayor Collier resumed the Chair.

9.3 Support for Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act

Regional Councillor Crawford and Councillor Henry introduced the motion and reviewed its contents.

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: N. Henry

WHEREAS currently the most severe penalty that can be imposed on an elected official is suspension and loss of pay for 90 days, even in cases of workplace harassment or abuse;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no process to remove an elected official from office, even in cases of confirmed workplace harassment or abuse;

AND WHEREAS a fundamental, underlying principle of broadening diversity, equity and inclusion in politics rests on the assumption that the workplace is safe;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5, the Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act would require all elected officials to comply with the workplace violence and harassment policies of the municipality they represent, permit a municipality to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence and harassment policies as well as restrict officials whose seat has

been vacated from seeking re-election in any resulting by-election;

AND WHEREAS at least 27 municipalities have formally endorsed and communicated public support for Bill 5, including Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Barrie, Orillia, and Richmond Hill;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5 would both hold accountable and protect all municipal officials;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Ajax Council express its support for Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act; and
- A copy of this motion be circulated to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Patrice Barnes, MPP for Ajax, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Regional Council and Durham Region municipalities.

CARRIED

9.4 A Call to the Provincial Government to End Homelessness in Ontario

In the absence of the mover, the motion was postponed to the next meeting of Council.

9.5 Motion to Suspend the Rules of Procedure

Moved by: N. Henry

Seconded by: S. Lee

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to introduce a motion without notice regarding the appointment of Marilyn Crawford to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors.

CARRIED on 2/3rds

Regional Councillor Crawford vacated the Chair. Regional Councillor Lee assumed the Chair.

9.6 Endorsement of Regional Councillor Marilyn Crawford's Appointment to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors

Moved by: S. Collier

Seconded by: R. Tyler Morin

WHEREAS Regional Councillor Marilyn Crawford has been selected for appointment to the Regional & Single Tier Caucus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for the 2022-2024 term;

AND WHEREAS AMO requires endorsement of the selection by the Council of the Town of Ajax.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- Council endorse Regional Councillor Marilyn Crawford's appointment to the Regional & Single Tier Caucus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term; and
- Expenses associated with this appointment be funded through the Office of the CAO; and
- The Clerk forward Council's resolution expressing support to AMO by March 28, 2023.

CARRIED

Mayor Collier resumed the Chair.

10. By-laws

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin

Seconded by: N. Henry

That By-law number 08-2023 to 09-2023 be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

11. Notice of Motion

None

12. New Business - Notices & Announcements

Council Members highlighted upcoming events and activities including the virtual Live with the Mayor event on March 28, 2023 and Ward 3 Community Meeting on March 30, 2023.

Members of Council asked questions regarding when Live with the Mayor events would resume in an in-person format, and the reach of virtual Councillor events compared to in-person. CAO Baker responded to questions.

13. Confirming By-Law

Moved by: R. Tyler Morin

Seconded by: S. Lee

That By-law number 09-2023 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax at its meeting held on March 27, 2023, be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

14. Adjournment

Moved by: N. Henry

Seconded by: M. Crawford

That the March 27, 2023 meeting of the Council of the Town of Ajax be adjourned (9:41 p.m.)

CARRIED

Mayor

D-Clerk