

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax Held in the Council Chambers, Ajax Town Hall and Electronically on Monday, September 18, 2023

*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
	Councillors	R. Tyler Morin
		N. Henry
		L. Bower

Mayor Collier called the closed session meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Closed Session (6:46 p.m.)

3. Authority to Hold a Closed Meeting and Related In-Camera Session

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

That Council convene to a Closed Session pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees.

CARRIED

Open Meeting (6:48 p.m.)

3.1 Appointments to the Ajax Public Library Board

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

That Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi and Mallik Fernando of Ajax be appointed to the Ajax Public Library Board for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Council term, or until a successor is appointed.

CARRIED

Council recessed at 6:49 p.m.

Council resumed at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Acknowledgement of Traditional Treaty Lands

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

4. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 19, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on June 27, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the minutes of the Closed Meeting of Council held on June 27, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by: M. Crawford
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on September 5, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. 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.

6. Delegations, Presentations, and Public Meetings

6.1 Delegation: Winners of 2023 World Robotics Olympiad Competition National Final

Rice Rao, Director, Explorer Robotics Club, delivered a presentation recognizing winners of the 2023 World Robotics Olympiad Competition National Final. R. Rao noted that students won first place in the 2023 World Robotics (WRO) Elementary National Final, and first and third place in the 2023 World Robotics Olympiad (WRO) Future Engineer – Self Driving Car Competition National Final. R. Rao reported that two teams will represent Team Canada in competing in the WRO International Final in Panama in November 2023. R. Rao reviewed historical team successes.

Council Members asked questions regarding design, the team's affiliation with the Town of Ajax, and location of the training facility. Students and R. Rao responded to questions from Council Members.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Collier extended congratulations and presented congratulatory certificates to each of the winners on their win at the 2023 World Robotics Olympiad Competition National Final.

6.2 Presentation: Durham Regional Police Service Strategic Plan 2024 - Consultation

Shaun Collier, Chair, Durham Regional Police Service Board, noted that the purpose of the presentation is to provide an update regarding the status of the Durham Regional Police Service Strategic Plan 2024. S. Collier invited Council to provide their perspectives on community safety, priorities, and challenges noting that input from elected officials is essential to ensure that the goals for policing in the Region align with the views of the citizens. S. Collier discussed consultations to date and identified 3 broad goals identified in the Durham Regional Police Strategic Plan 2024.

Peter Moreira, Chief of Police, Durham Regional Police Service, provided a brief overview of the 2024 Strategic Plan and introduced Dr. Vidal Chavannes, Director – Strategy, Research & Organizational Performance, Durham Regional Police Service.

Dr. V. Chavannes delivered an update regarding the status of the Durham Regional Police Service 2024 Strategic Plan, highlighting the purpose of the strategic plan and process taken to date to develop the 2024 Strategic Plan. Dr. V. Chavannes introduced Dr. Amanda Couture-Carron – Senior Strategic Planner, Durham Regional Police Service.

Dr. A. Couture-Carron reviewed results of the community consultations namely roadway safety issues, community safety and neighbourhood crime issues, areas in which DRPS excels, areas for improvement, and requests from community service providers.

Dr. V. Chavannes reviewed results of the stakeholder consultations, strategic goals and objectives, and strategic plan format and content.

Council Members asked questions regarding community survey participation and representation, strategies to combat organized crime, phishing attack statistics, technological innovations in policing and crime prevention, member survey participation rate, survey frequency, staff resources and recruitment projections, automatic licence plate reader technology, mental health apprehensions, challenges associated with policing persons with mental illness, mobile crisis response teams, de-escalation rates, mental health apprehension programs, and opportunities to implement facial recognition technology. Dr. V. Chavannes and P. Moreira, responded to questions from Council Members.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Collier thanked P. Moreira, Dr. V. Chavannes, and Dr. A. Couture-Carron for their presentation.

6.3 Presentation: Update on Shared E-Scooter / E-Bike Pilot Project

Armi De Francia, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided an updated regarding the Shared E-Scooter / E-Bike Pilot Project. A. De Francia discussed background and Council approved recommendations, budget, program objectives, community engagement, strategies to prevent illegal parking and sidewalk parking, proposed fee structure, projected revenues, pricing plans, next steps, and Town of Ajax communications channels.

Council Members asked questions regarding projected revenues, reporting channels, rationale and scope of partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University, parking locations, projected number of parking lots, and vandalism and theft statistics. A. De Francia and Pat Graham, Head of National Operations, Bird Canda, responded to questions from Council Members.

7. Correspondence

Members separated correspondence items 7.13, 7.15 and 7.24 for discussion.

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

That the balance of the report (Items 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.14, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18, 7.19, 7.20, 7.21, 7.22 and 7.23) dated September 18, 2023 containing Items of Correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Item 7.13

Council Members expressed support in favour of Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act. Council Members sought clarification regarding the difference between this motion and a previous motion that was endorsed however voted down. Mayor Collier sought further clarification regarding the motion included in the agenda package. Nicole Cooper, Director of Legislative & Information Services/Clerk, responded to the question.

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

That Item 7.13 (“The Women of Ontario Say NO – Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement”) of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 7.15

Council Members expressed support for the motion given pressures on the housing market.

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

That Item 7.15 (“Selwyn Township – Notice of Motion – Short-Term Rentals”) of the Correspondence Report be endorsed.

CARRIED

Item 7.24

Council Members expressed support for Municipal/Regional funding to support newcomers including refugees and asylum seekers.

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

That Item 7.24 (“Ontario’s Big City Mayors – Municipal/Regional Funding to Support Newcomers including Refugees and Asylum Seekers”) of the Correspondence Report be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Reports

8.1. Community Affairs & Planning Committee Report

8.1.1 Community Affairs & Planning Committee, September 5, 2023

None

8.2. General Government Committee Report

8.2.1 General Government Committee, September 11, 2023

Council Members asked questions related to ‘FIN-2023-22: 2024 User Fees and Charges’ namely the status of the bench dedication program and the tree dedication program including potential revenues, impacts to raising non-resident fees, Town of Ajax non-resident fees compared to municipal benchmarks, priority programming for residents, and opportunities for staff to report year over year on the outcome of increased non-resident fees. Dave Meredith, Director of Operations & Environmental Services, Chris Vida, Director of Recreation & Culture, and Shane Baker, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to questions from Council Members.

Main Motion

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the General Government Committee Report dated September 11, 2023 be adopted.

Amendment

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

That Item 4.5 FIN-2023-22: 2024 User Fees and Charges be amended as follows:

That non-resident fees be increased from 3.15% (Municipal Price Index) to 5%.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Main Motion

Moved by: S. Lee
Seconded by: J. Dies

That the General Government Committee Report dated September 11, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

8.3 Summary of Advisory Committee Activities

Moved by: L. Bower
Seconded by: N. Henry

That the Summary of Advisory Committee Activities Report dated September 18, 2023, as attached to the meeting agenda be received for information, and that the recommendations contained therein be referred to staff where applicable.

CARRIED

8.4 Departmental Reports

8.4.1. CAO-2023-15: Social Media Policy 055 Update

Council Members asked questions regarding blocking parameters. Devon Jarvis, Supervisor of Communications & Engagement, responded to questions from Council Members.

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

That the proposed update to Social Media Policy 055 (ATT-1) of the addition of section 3.3. *Management and Administration – Council Member Accounts* be approved.

CARRIED

8.4.2. AFES-2023-06: Contract Award – Replacement Aerial Fire Apparatus Unit #A42 (2006)

Council Members asked questions regarding ability to determine the outcome of capital financing vs. debenture and the debenture term. Dianne Valentim, Director of Finance/Treasurer, responded to questions from Council Members.

Main Motion

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

1. That council award the contract for the supply and delivery of an Aerial Fire Apparatus to Commercial Emergency Equipment in the amount of \$2,316,500.00 (inclusive of all taxes).
2. That Council provide pre-budget approval in the amount of \$1,576,080.00 funded from the Vehicle & Equipment Reserve.

Amendment

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

1. That clause 2 be amended to read as follows:

That Council provide pre-budget approval in the amount of \$1,576,080.00 and that the full project amount be financed from debenture financing.

2. That the motion be amended by adding the following clause:

That Council approve an exemption from Policy 124 (Debt Management) to permit the use of debt for the purchase of the Aerial Fire Apparatus.

CARRIED

Main Motion as Amended

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

1. That council award the contract for the supply and delivery of an Aerial Fire Apparatus to Commercial Emergency Equipment in the amount of \$2,316,500.00 (inclusive of all taxes).
2. That Council provide pre-budget approval in the amount of \$1,576,080.00, and that the full project amount be financed from debenture financing.
3. That Council approve an exemption from Policy 124 (Debt Management) to permit the use of debt for the purchase of the Aerial Fire Apparatus.

CARRIED

8.4.3. **FIN-2023-21: Utilizing Debentures for Capital Projects**
(Referred from June 27, 2023 Special Council)

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

That the report entitled “Utilizing Debentures for Capital Projects” be received for information.

CARRIED

8.4.4. **OES-2023-20: Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Qualified Residents**

Council Members asked questions regarding scope of work and costs associated with the different service delivery models, contracted services, program auditing, opportunities to implement a tiered system, service delivery inclusions, grant funding opportunities, service delivery impacts, program costs, status of the volunteer snow removal program, service delivery response times, completion timelines, additional staff resources, amount subsidized. D. Meredith, Cassandra Cruciano, Senior Advisor, Grants & Partnerships, S. Baker, and C. Vida, responded to questions from Council Members.

Main Motion

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

1. That staff be authorized to modify the current Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Qualified Residents to include the plowing of the windrow, the driveway apron, and the municipal sidewalk.
2. That staff be authorized to recruit eight (8) part-time staff and procure the required equipment to enable the service modifications, to be effective December 1st, 2023, outlined in Recommendation 1, as detailed in this report.
3. That new staffing costs be managed through the 2023 operating budget management policy and included as new seasonal part-time staff in the 2024 operating budget.
4. That the fee to be charged for this service be set at \$408.00 (plus HST).

Amendment

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

1. That clause 1 be amended to read as follows:

That staff be authorized to modify the current Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Qualified Residents to include the plowing of the windrow, the driveway, the walkway to the front door, the driveway apron, and the municipal sidewalk.

2. That clause 4 be amended as follows:

That the fee to be charged for this service be set at \$300.00 (plus HST).

Amendment to Amendment

Moved by: N. Henry
Seconded by: J. Dies

That clause 2 of the amendment proposed by Mayor Collier be further amended by setting the fee for service at \$225.00 (plus HST).

MOTION LOST

Amendment

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

1. That clause 1 be amended to read as follows:

That staff be authorized to modify the current Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Qualified Residents to include the plowing of the windrow, the driveway, the walkway to the front door, the driveway apron, and the municipal sidewalk.

2. That clause 4 be amended as follows:

That the fee to be charged for this service be set at \$300.00 (plus HST).

CARRIED

Main Motion as Amended

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

1. That staff be authorized to modify the current Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Qualified Residents to include the plowing of the windrow, the driveway, the walkway to the front door, the driveway apron, and the municipal sidewalk.
2. That staff be authorized to recruit eight (8) part-time staff and procure the required equipment to enable the service modifications, to be effective December 1st, 2023, outlined in Recommendation 1, as detailed in this report.
3. That new staffing costs be managed through the 2023 operating budget management policy and included as new seasonal part-time staff in the 2024 operating budget.
4. That the fee to be charged for this service be set at \$300.00 (plus HST).

CARRIED

9. Regional Councillors' Report

9.1 Regional Councillor's Report – M. Crawford – September 18, 2023

Regional Councillor Crawford reported that users can now tap a debit card on a PRESTO device to use Durham Region Transit.

Moved by: J. Dies
Seconded by: N. Henry

That the report titled "Regional Councillor's Update – M. Crawford – September 18, 2023" be received for information.

CARRIED

Regional Council Dies provided updates regarding housing initiatives across Durham Region.

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

That the Regional Councillors' Reports of September 18, 2023 be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Business Arising From Notice of Motion

10.1 Utilizing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design at the Harwood Plaza

Councillor Bower and Regional Councillor Dies introduced the motion and reviewed its contents. Council Members asked is Town staff are CPTED qualified and if Town staff have capacity to undertake an annual CPTED review of the Harwood Plaza D. Meredith and G. Romanowski, responded to questions from Council Members.

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

WHEREAS Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments to reduce crime and minimize fear of crime;

AND WHEREAS the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) recently completed a CPTED scan of the Harwood Plaza;

AND WHEREAS DRPS made the following recommendations:

- Remove the low sidewalk-adjacent shrubs, which could be used to conceal or hide items;
- Trim tree limbs on mature trees to 2.1 metres (7 feet) from ground level to improve sight lines and prevent easy climbing;
- Regularly maintain all landscaping;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax is responsible for the maintenance of the Harwood plaza parking lot and sidewalks up to the building;

AND WHEREAS Town Operations and Environmental Services performs daily morning maintenance to ensure that the area is clear of debris and a welcoming environment to users;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Operations and Environmental Services be directed to immediately remove shrubs along the sidewalk at Harwood Plaza; and
2. By the end of Fall 2023, Operations and Environmental Services be directed to prep and fill the shrub with mulch, and where necessary trim the limbs of trees along the sidewalk; and
3. Operations and Environmental Services staff offer recommendations on beautification for the beds where shrubs have been removed by Spring 2024; and
4. That Planning and Development Services staff be directed to perform an annual CPTED review of the Harwood Plaza.

CARRIED

10.2 Provincial Sharing of HST

Regional Councillor Lee and Councillor Bower introduced the motion and reviewed its contents.

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

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are facing increasing fiscal challenges given inflationary pressures, population growth, higher interest rates, strained household/taxpayer affordability, reduced property taxes available from the non-residential sector, and social issues such as homelessness, new immigrants and refugee claimants;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are facing further pressure as a result of increasing servicing costs and community infrastructure needs directly related to the province's call on municipalities to build more homes and play a significant role in addressing the current housing crisis;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for sustainable funding models, beyond existing mechanisms, like the Canada Community-Building Fund;

AND WHEREAS trusted municipal voices such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Ontario's Big City Mayors have advocated to the two higher orders of government to work with municipalities to address the need for increased funding and supports;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Durham Finance and Administration Committee received a staff recommendation at their September 12, 2023 meeting that the Province of Ontario be requested to provide municipalities with a share of the provincial portion of the HST;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario's total sales tax, collected and remitted by the Canada Revenue Agency has grown 51 per cent since 2016 to \$35.4 billion;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Ajax Council request that the Province of Ontario provide a share of the provincial portion of the HST to Ontario municipalities;
2. A copy of this motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, Patrice Barnes, MPP for Ajax, John Henry, Durham Regional Chair, Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

11. By-laws

Members of Council divided by-law 51-2023, Deputy Mayor By-law in order to ask questions. Mayor Collier and N. Cooper, responded to questions from Council Members.

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

That By-law numbers 47-2023 to 50-2023 and 52-2023 to 53-2023 be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

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

That By-law number 51-2023 be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

12. Notice of Motion

None

13. New Business - Notices & Announcements

Council Members highlighted upcoming events and activities including a 'Truth and Reconciliation Day March' hosted by Durham Region on September 22, 2023 and a community Ward 1 meeting on September 26, 2023.

Regional Councillor Crawford commended the Town of Ajax Operations Department for their clean up efforts of the abandoned encampment at Duffins Creek. Regional Councillor Crawford announced that she has been elected to the 2025 Durham Region Strategic Plan Advisory Group.

14. Confirming By-Law

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

That By-law number 54-2023 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax at its meeting held on September 18, 2023, be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED

15. Adjournment

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

That the September 18, 2023 meeting of the Council of the Town of Ajax be adjourned (10:07 p.m.)

CARRIED

Mayor

D-Clerk