



Special Council Meeting

Minutes

C#11-20

Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Room 2

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

**(Electronic Meeting during an Emergency, pursuant to Section 238(3.3)
of the Municipal Act, 2001)**

An electronic Emergency Special Council meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2 via videoconference.

Council Members Present via videoconference:

Mayor Barrow
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
Councillor Beros
Councillor Liu
Councillor West
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Chan

Council Members Present:

Councillor Muench

Staff Members Present:

M. Dempster, Interim City Manager
S. Adams, Acting Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
D. Dexter, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
M. Gandhi, Director, Strategy Innovation and Engagement
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator

Staff Members Present via videoconference:

- D. Joslin, Acting Commissioner of Community Services
- K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services
- P. Masaro, Acting Commissioner of Environment and Infrastructure Services
- A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
- B. Ellsworth, Deputy Fire Chief and Interim EOC Director, COVID-19 Task Force

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Beros
Seconded by: Councillor West

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (9): Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli, Councillor Beros, Councillor Chan, Councillor West, Councillor Muench, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cilevitz, Mayor Barrow, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Opposed: (0): None

Carried Unanimously (9 to 0)

2. 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*.

3. Scheduled Business

3.1 Update on Richmond Hill's Response to COVID-19 - Presentation by Mary-Anne Dempster, Interim City Manager

Mary-Anne Dempster, Interim City Manager, provided an update on Richmond Hill's response to COVID-19, highlighting the work being done daily at the Emergency Operations Centre by the COVID-19 Task Force, and the numerous measures that have been taken to protect residents. She advised that through the use of different technology, Council meetings were able to continue in order to keep residents informed, and noted that different methods were being explored to conduct mandatory meetings and permit remote delegations going forward. M. Dempster reviewed actions being taken to protect staff and keep them updated, discussed how the regular business of the municipality was being maintained in a different way, and addressed economic development in the community and how staff were assisting

local businesses during this time of transition. M. Dempster concluded the presentation by providing Council with recommendations related to continued response to COVID-19 within the City of Richmond Hill for consideration.

Moved by: Councillor Beros
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That Council support the closure of all facilities, including Civic buildings and the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts to the public until May 31, 2020;
- b) That Council support the closure of all parks and playgrounds until May 31, 2020;
- c) That Council support the cancellations of all City-run Community and Council events and third party events until June 30, 2020; and
- d) That Council support the postponement of yard waste collection until May 19, 2020.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (9): Mayor Barrow, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli, Councillor Muench, Councillor Chan, Councillor Liu, Councillor West, Councillor Beros, Councillor Cilevitz

Opposed: (0): None

Carried Unanimously (9 to 0)

3.2 SRPRS.20.066 - Protocol for Electronic Delegations for Various Council and Committee Meetings During an Emergency

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz
Seconded by: Councillor Beros

- a) That Council adopt the procedures outlined in staff report SRPRS.20.066;
- b) That the Clerk be authorized to establish and amend any and all protocols and procedures necessary to facilitate electronic delegations and public submissions at Council and Committee meetings during an emergency, and any such protocols and procedures are deemed to be part of Article 12 of the Procedure By-law 74-12 as amended;

- c) That the Committee of Adjustment meeting scheduled for April 9, 2020, be rescheduled at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee of Adjustment; and,
- d) That the Council Public Hearing tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2020 be cancelled.

Carried Unanimously

3.3 Property Tax and Other Financial Relief - Presentation by David Dexter, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer

David Dexter, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, provided an update regarding property tax and other financial relief within the City of Richmond Hill. He summarized the approved recommendations and direction given to staff at the March 25, 2020 Emergency Special Council meeting related to the deferral of property taxes, property tax initiatives at the provincial level, what has been requested from the Region of York, and what other municipalities have implemented to provide financial relief. He provided an update regarding tax collection methods, cash flow scenarios and contingency measures for the municipality, and water/wastewater rate and stormwater rate increase deferrals. D. Dexter concluded the presentation by providing Council with recommendations related to property tax and other financial relief within the City of Richmond Hill for consideration.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
Seconded by: Councillor Beros

1. That the waiving of Penalties and Interest charges for late payment of taxes be extended to January 1, 2021 to assist those residents/businesses dealing with financial hardship related to the COVID-19 virus, and that residents/businesses who can afford to pay their taxes be strongly encouraged to do so at respective due dates;
2. That the approved Water/Wastewater retail rate increase of 7.5% for 2020 be deferred, subject to the Region deferring their wholesale rate increase;
3. That the waiving of Water/Wastewater late payment charges for overdue accounts, be extended to January 1, 2021;
4. That the approved Storm-water fee rate increase of 7.5% for 2020 be deferred to 2021; and

5. That the City's Returned Cheque Fee of \$45 be waived for the balance of 2020.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (8): Mayor Barrow, Councillor Cilevitz, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Liu, Councillor Beros, Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli, Councillor Chan, Councillor West

Opposed: (1): Councillor Muench

Carried (8 to 1)

4. Closed Session

4.1 Resolution to Move into Closed Session and General Nature Thereof

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That Council resolve into a Closed Session meeting:

a) To consider labour relations or employee negotiations with respect to an update from the Interim City Manager regarding employee matters (Section 239(2) (d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*);

b) To consider litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees, with respect to an employee matter (Section 239(2)(e) and (b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*).

Carried

4.2 Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session

Council moved into closed session and then returned to open session (12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.)

4.3 Adoption of Recommendations Arising from the Closed Session Meeting (if required)

4.3.1 Update on Richmond Hill's Response to COVID-19 - (Item A)

Moved by: Councillor Chan

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the COVID-19 employee and labour relations proposals outlined in the confidential closed session presentation of the Interim City Manager be approved.

Carried Unanimously

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

5.1 By-law 42-20

Moved by: Councillor Chan
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That By-law 42-20, A By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting, be passed.

Carried

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Chan
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Dave Barrow, Mayor

Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk