



Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

CW#09-23

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola (Chair)
Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Shiu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
E. Houdi, Chief of Staff
C. Thorne, Assistant City Solicitor
C. Debi, Director, Strategic Communications
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Center
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
L. Hood, Manager, Strategic Communications
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Building Services

D. Guy, Director, Community Standards

R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO

F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works

D. Terzievski, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Council Announcements

Councillor Shiu commented on businesses affected by suspected acts of arson this past weekend at Times Square, strongly condemned the criminal behavior, and advised that an investigation was underway by York Regional Police.

Mayor West advised that York Regional Police was looking into the criminal activity that occurred at Times Square and thanked the Fire Department for their quick response. He noted the disruption to the affected businesses, and wished them the best as they resume operations.

3. Introduction of Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters raised by Members of Committee.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following additions:

a) Delegation from Pat Pollock, 67 Drumern Crescent, regarding Sign By-law Amendments for Election Signs - (Item 10.1).

b) Delegations received regarding the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Mahsa Jina Amini – (Item 10.2).

c) Delegation from David Silverman, 53 Anchusa Drive, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Thompson with respect to Real Estate Open House Signs - (Item 10.3).

d) Delegation from Reza Moridi, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Mahsa Jina Amini - (Item 10.2).

Carried Unanimously

5. 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*.

6. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Committee consented to separate Items 11.5, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4 for discussion.

7. Adoption of Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Councillor Cilevitz, Committee adopted those items not identified for separate discussion.

8. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

9. Presentations

There were no presentations.

10. Delegations

10.1 Pat Pollock, 67 Drumern Crescent, regarding Sign By-law Amendments for Election Signs - (refer to Item 11.5)

Pat Pollock, 67 Drumern Crescent, expressed concerns with the proposed amendments to the Sign By-law for election signs, and shared her opinion on the number of signs that should be permitted on private property, noting that consent be required from the property owner. P. Pollock shared her opinion that signs placed in contravention of Regional and City by-laws be removed immediately, and that the City collaborate and align their rules with adjacent municipalities to minimize confusion. P. Pollock shared her belief that a simple to understand and fair by-law was needed that placed limits on sign placement.

10.2 Delegations received regarding the Member Motion submitted by Regional and Local Councillor Chan regarding Mahsa Jina Amini - (refer to Item 12.1)

Shilan Sedighi, MP Leah Taylor's Office, 12820 Yonge Street, submitted an application to appear, but did not address Committee when called.

Marjan Kasirlou, 54 Carousel Crescent, on behalf of the Persian community, thanked Regional and Local Councillor Chan and Council members for bringing the motion forward to commemorate Mahsa Jina Amini. She noted her personal loss at the hands of the Iranian regime, and the trauma experienced by Iranians, including those that have immigrated to Richmond Hill. M. Kasirlou shared her belief that the memorial will be important in the fight the people of Iran will continue to have for democracy, and will highlight the name of the woman who shone a light on the uprising of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.

Rezi Moridi, former parliamentarian and Minister, thanked Regional and Local Councillor Chan for his initiative in submitting the member motion to commemorate the anniversary of Masha Jina Amini's death, and for his support of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. R. Moridi suggested that the tree, bench and memorial plaque be located on the grounds of the Central Library. He explained why the area was appropriate, and suggested the wording on the plaque refer to the mass demonstration that was held at the grounds of the Central Library on October 1, 2022, in protest to the death of Mahsa Jina Amini.

10.3 David Silverman, 53 Anchusa Drive, regarding the Member Motion submitted by Councillor Thompson with respect to Real Estate Open House Signs - (refer to Item 12.4)

David Silverman, 53 Anchusa Drive, advised that he took issue with the volume of real estate signs on City and Regional roads, and shared his observation that most real estate agents in the City failed to follow the existing by-laws. D. Silverman shared his opinion that the City and Region looked unsightly due to the vast number and type of signs. He questioned if By-law Enforcement staff will be out on weekends to enforce the amendment, and shared his belief that the number of signs will increase, and the problem of non-compliance will become worse if the proposed member motion passed.

11. Committee and Staff Reports

11.1 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#01-23 held February 28, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#01-23 held February 28,2023 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

11.2 SRCM.23.15 - Delegated Authority Summer Recess Accounting - Reference By-law 86-20 as amended by By-law 113-20 (July 17 to August 31, 2023)

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That staff report SRCM.23.15 regarding Delegated Authority Summer Recess Accounting be received for information.

Carried Unanimously

11.3 SRCFS.23.040 - Semi Annual Report - Non Competitive Acquisitions

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That staff report SRCFS.23.040 regarding Semi Annual Report, Non-Competitive Acquisitions, be received for information purposes only.

Carried Unanimously

11.4 SRCS.23.19 - Sole Source Acquisition of Parts and Maintenance Services for Highly Specialized Equipment

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the contract for the provision of parts and maintenance services for highly specialized equipment, including ancillary attachments, be awarded non-competitively to Joe Johnson Equipment, Viking-Cives Ltd., Brandt Tractor, and Turf Care Canada Inc., for a term of five (5) years and for a cost not exceeding \$3,330,000 (exclusive of taxes), pursuant to Appendix "B", Part I, section (c) of Procurement By-Law 113-16;

b) That the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to execute any and all necessary documentation to affect the contract.

Carried Unanimously

11.5 SRCS.23.17 - Sign By-law Amendments for Election Signs

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That staff report SRCS.23.17 regarding Election Sign amendments to the Sign By-law be received;
- b) That By-law 96-23 (Attachment 1 to staff report SRCS.23.17) be enacted to amend the Election Sign component of the Sign By-law 52-09, Municipal Code Chapter 740.

An Amendment was:

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

That Clause b) of the main motion be amended to read as follows:

- b) That By-law 96-23 (Attachment 1 to staff report SRCS.23.17) be enacted to amend the Election Sign component of the Sign By-law 52-09, Municipal Code Chapter 740, with the following changes:

- 1) Section 7.14.3 be changed to be the following:

“7.14.3 No Person shall erect or display, or cause to be erected or displayed, more than one Election Sign per candidate per frontage in the form of either a Portable Sign or a Window Sign on any Premises within a Private Property referred to in subsection 7.14.2.”

- 2) Election signs be permitted on public boulevard immediately in front of private property.

Motion to Refer:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That Staff Report SRCS.23.17 - Sign By-law Amendments for Election Signs, be referred back to staff to report back with a revised draft By-law that includes the following changes:

- 1) That one Election Sign per candidate per frontage be permitted;
- 2) Election signs be permitted on the public boulevard adjacent to private property.

A recorded vote was taken on clause 2):

In favour: (5): Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Shiu, Councillor Cui

Opposed: (4): Mayor West, Councillor Liu, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Cilevitz

Carried (5 to 4)

A recorded vote was taken on clause 1):

In favour: (6): Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Shiu, Councillor Cui, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cilevitz

Opposed: (3): Councillor Davidson, Mayor West, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Carried (6 to 3)

The complete motion to read as follows:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That Staff Report SRCS.23.17 - Sign By-law Amendments for Election Signs, be referred back to staff to report back with a revised draft By-law that includes the following changes:

- 1) That one Election Sign per candidate per frontage be permitted;
- 2) Election signs be permitted on the public boulevard adjacent to private property.

Carried

12. Other Business

12.1 Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Chan - Commemoration of Mahsa Jina Amini

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

Whereas on September 16, 2022, Mahsa Jina Amini, a 22 year old woman was arrested in Iran for allegedly wearing her hijab improperly and subsequently died while under detention by police;

Whereas Richmond Hill was the rally venue where over 50,000 Iranian Canadians gathered to mourn the passing of Mahsa Jina Amini and show support for freedom and equality of Iranian women on October 1, 2022;

Whereas Iranian Canadian community continues to hold rally in Richmond Hill in support of the movement for “Woman, Life, Freedom” since October 2022;

Whereas all three levels of Government officials had attended the rally in Richmond Hill on October 1, 2022, including Mayor West and Council members to support the cause of the Iranian Canadian community;

Whereas Richmond Hill Council stand in solidarity with the Iranian Canadians in the call for freedom and democratic rights for all and equality for women in Iran; and

Whereas September 16, 2023 will be the first anniversary of the death of Mahsa Jina Amini;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Council declare September 16, 2023 as “Mahsa Jina Amini Memorial Day”.
2. Council direct staff to identify the appropriate location to plant a tree and install a bench with memorial plaque in Richmond Hill to commemorate the anniversary of Mahsa Jina Amini ‘s death and support the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement, and report back on the timing of tree planting and bench installation.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (9): Mayor West, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cui, Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor Shiu

Opposed: (0): None

Carried Unanimously (9 to 0)

12.2 Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Chan - Time Capsule in Commemoration of Richmond Hill 150th Anniversary

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

Whereas Richmond Hill celebrates 150th anniversary in the year 2023, and the City has launched initiatives such as murals, photo contest as part of the celebration throughout the year;

Whereas it has been a customary practice to preserve a collection of informational materials such as news articles, and memorabilia at significant milestone in time capsules;

Whereas Richmond Hill Heritage Centre has been distributing free time capsule kit to residents of Richmond Hill;

Whereas there will be an opportunity to prepare the collection items to be sealed in a City Time Capsule at the Merry Market, a City event scheduled for November 2023 for the holiday season;

Whereas there has been examples in Canadian municipalities such as Thunder Bay, Ontario created a time capsule in 1995 to mark the occasion of 25th anniversary as a city after amalgamation to be opened in another 25 years in 2020; and

Whereas it is desirable to engage Richmond Hill Public Library and Heritage Centre regarding archival value in collecting the present informational materials for the future;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

Council direct staff to prepare and implement a City Time Capsule, identifying the appropriate collections in consultation with the Richmond Hill Public Library and Heritage Centre, as an official initiative to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Richmond Hill funded from approved budgets identified by City Staff.

Carried Unanimously

12.3 Member Motion - Councillor Davidson - Prioritizing Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Measures

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Whereas, Richmond Hill residents are concerned about traffic and road safety in our communities and it is an urgent priority; and

Whereas, every day, residents reach out to Members of Council to demand that visible and measurable actions be taken to make our roads safer; and

Whereas, Richmond Hill Members of Council recognize and prioritize the importance of community safety, reducing vehicular speeding and traffic congestion in neighbourhoods, around school zones, community centres and park areas; and

Whereas, on August 24, 2023, the York Regional Police Community Safety Data Portal showed the following data that was captured against the same period a year ago in Richmond Hill:

- 3549 total traffic collisions up 20.2%
- 2726 traffic collisions resulting in property damage up 21.4%
- 499 traffic collisions -fail to remain up 23.2%
- 347 counts of careless driving up 1.2%
- 321 traffic collisions with personal injury up 7.7%
- 250 counts of driving disqualified up 42.9%
- 77 counts of dangerous driving up 79.1%; and

Whereas, this data does not include the many drivers who do not get caught driving dangerously and who continue to break the law showing a complete disregard for the safety of others; and

Whereas, the City of Richmond Hill Traffic Operations and Safety Study that is to provide a clear set of policies, procedures, and pre-approved “tools” on how the City can efficiently and effectively address traffic safety and was approved as part of the 2016 Capital Budget has yet to be finalized; and

Whereas, many municipalities have prioritized and already instituted traffic calming measures including the City of Vaughan which undertook a Neighbourhood Area Traffic Calming Policy, Design and Speed Management Study in the Fall 2022 with pilot tests of five neighbourhoods that commenced Summer 2023.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. The Council directs appropriate city staff to prioritize a report back to Council by November 15, 2023, that identifies, with associated costs, quick build temporary traffic calming measures to be installed in six targeted neighbourhoods, one pilot in each ward, with installation commencing in the Spring of 2024; and
2. That staff be directed to include in the report the following, but not limited to, quick build measures:
 - a. boulevard streetscaping enhancements
 - b. in-road flexible signs
 - c. bollards

- d. new pavement markings in school zones and 40 kilometre per hour neighbourhoods
 - e. temporary road narrowing with pavement markings
 - f. raised crosswalks / Intersections
 - g. temporary rubber speed cushions
 - h. temporary curb extensions; and
3. That staff be directed to report back to Council by March 2024 the selection criteria and recommendations for six pilot neighbourhoods including which appropriate traffic calming and speed management approaches to test for each pilot; and
4. That staff work collaboratively with various city departments, Members of Council, external stakeholders, and partners to develop selection criteria and determine potential pilot sites; and
5. That staff develop criteria to evaluate the pilot projects and report back to Council by November 2024 with a plan to expand the pilot traffic calming measures that proved effective; and
6. That Council recommends that the 2024 Capital Budget include the costs associated with the implementation of the six traffic calming measures; and
7. That staff be directed to finalize the Traffic Operations and Safety Study providing a clear set of policies, procedures, and “tools” on how the City can efficiently and effectively address traffic safety going forward.

Carried Unanimously

12.4 Member Motion - Councillor Thompson - Real Estate Open House Signs

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Whereas currently Richmond Hill’s Sign By-law permits a maximum of one (1) Real Estate Open House Sign to be displayed per road frontage in connection with any one (1) Open House; and

Whereas a number of Real Estate Agents have expressed a concern that Open House Signs are frequently used in the real estate industry to guide drivers and pedestrians to the address of the Open House event; and

Whereas these signs are an important part of real estate marketing strategies; and

Whereas the number of Open House signs permitted by neighbouring municipalities are generally more than one but no more than six; and

Whereas a more wholesome By-law review is currently underway.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

That as an “interim” measure, until a more wholesome By-law review is complete, that By-law 52-09 be amended to:

a) Provide permissions for up to an additional four (4) Open House Real Estate Signs to be installed under a set of restrictions, in addition to the maximum of one (1) Real Estate Open House Sign displayed on each street frontage of the property where the Open House is being held; and

b) That the signs must clearly display the words “Open House”; the municipal address of the Open House; and the date and time of the Open House.

A recorded vote was taken:

In favour: (8): Mayor West, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Cui, Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor Shiu

Opposed: (1): Councillor Liu

Carried (8 to 1)

13. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

14. Closed Session

There were no closed session matters.

15. Adjournment

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.