



Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

CW#02-24

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 9:30 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, February 7, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

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

Council Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Liu
Councillor Shiu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
G. Galanis, Acting Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
A. Adari, Assistant City Solicitor
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
A. Dickinson, Strategy and Government Relations Coordinator
S. Huycke, City Clerk

R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator

Staff Members present via videoconference:

C. Debi, Director, Strategic Communications
D. Guy, Director, Community Standards
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Council Announcements

Councillor Cilevitz announced that tomorrow evening the Ward 5 Civic Engagement Committee was holding a meeting at the Richmond Hill Public Library, 2nd Floor, Rooms A and B, at 7 p.m., regarding Richmond Hill winter maintenance and snow removal services. She advised that Frank Quarisa, Director of Public Works Operations, and Diogo Oliveira, Manager of Water, Wastewater and Roads, would be making a presentation, and extended an invitation to residents to attend the meeting to learn about the service.

Councillor Cui advised that this weekend was Lunar New Year and on behalf of City Council, extended a Happy Lunar New Year to everyone celebrating.

Regional and Local Councillor Chan announced that this coming Saturday was the first day of the Lunar New Year and extended best wishes to everyone in the community who was celebrating.

Regional and Local Councillor Chan advised of his successful New Year's Levee that was held this past Sunday, and noted the high turnout, attendance, and extended thanks to all volunteers and participants.

Councillor Liu advised that last night was the first of six Public Safety and Operations events that was held at the Bayview Hill Community Centre, and extended his gratitude to staff who helped organize the successful and well attended event. He advised that he looked forward to staff bringing forward a staff report regarding Traffic Safety and Operations Strategy in March 2024, that five more sessions were being held in various wards, and encouraged residents to participate and learn about the City's Traffic Safety Strategy and Operations.

Mayor West advised of the successful Winter Carnival Festival that was held this past weekend and extended congratulations to the Winter Carnival Committee, staff and everyone involved in organizing the event. He advised that the event

was very well attended and shared that it was heartwarming to see multigenerational families who make the Winter Carnival an annual tradition to attend.

Mayor West advised that he was invited to attend the Auto-theft Summit in Ottawa tomorrow, noted the rising auto-theft and personal property crimes levels in the Greater Toronto Area, including Richmond Hill, and shared his belief that other levels of government needed to assist and address these issues.

Mayor West reminded everyone that February was observed as Black History Month, acknowledged the many black citizens in the community, and noted that many events were planned in Richmond Hill, including an event hosted by York Region Police at their Headquarters on Saturday.

Mayor West extended a Happy Lunar New Year to the community and advised of his participation at many celebrations held in the city.

Mayor West announced that the Christian community was observing Lent from February 14 to March 28, 2024; the Orthodox community was observing Lent from March 18 to May 5, 2024; and advised that February 13th was Shrove Tuesday, which made it a good reason to have maple syrup for dinner.

Mayor West announced that the Maple Syrup Festival was being held on April 6th at Richmond Green and Sports Centre and Park and extended an invitation to the community to participate in the event and enjoy pancakes and maple syrup.

Councillor Davidson warned residents to exercise caution when walking near Lake Wilcox and Bond Lake, and to stay away from the water during this time of year due to the unpredictable weather conditions.

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: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

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 11.3, 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3 for discussion.

7. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Mayor West, Committee adopted those items not identified for separate discussion.

8. Public Hearing(s)

There were no public hearings.

9. Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

10. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

11. Committee and Staff Reports

**11.1 Minutes - Capital Sustainability Steering Committee meeting
CSSC#02-20 held June 22, 2020**

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the minutes of the Capital Sustainability Steering Committee meeting CSSC#02-20 held June 22, 2020 be adopted.

Carried

**11.2 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#06-23 held
September 14, 2023**

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#06-23 held September 14, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

11.3 SRCM.24.02 - Draft 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

a) That the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan attached as Appendix A to staff report SRCM.24.02, be approved.

Carried

12. Other Business

12.1 Member Motion - Mayor West - Association of Municipalities of Ontario: Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review

Moved by: Mayor West

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

Whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

Whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

Whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

Whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

Whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

Whereas property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

Whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

Whereas municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Council for the City of Richmond Hill requests that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario (refer to Attachments 1, 2 and 3);

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that the City Clerk send this motion to Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ontario Leader of Opposition, and Leaders of other Parties, the Local Members of Parliament (MPs); the Local Members of Provincial

Parliament (MPPs); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Ontario Big Cities Mayors Caucus (OBCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario; the Small Urban GTHA Mayors as well as York Region and its member municipalities.

Carried

12.2 Member Motion - Mayor West - Remembering Flight PS-752

Moved by: Mayor West

Whereas, on January 8, 2020, Flight PS-752 was shot down by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) personnel and claimed the lives of 176 innocent souls that day; and,

Whereas, January 8, 2020, will live on as day of great mourning and great sadness for a large number of families in our community;

Whereas, the loss had a profound impact on the citizens of Richmond Hill where a number of families learned that they had lost a grand-mother or grand-father, mother, daughter, brother, aunt, cousin, uncle, son, father, fiancée, friend; and,

Whereas, the intentional downing of Flight PS752 marked the largest loss of Canadian lives in an air disaster since 1985 and is also the largest mass loss of life for Richmond Hill in a single day on foreign soil; and,

Whereas, Richmond Hill City Council on behalf of the entire City wishes to continue to convey our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families who lost love ones that day; and,

Whereas, cities such as North Vancouver, Windsor, and Winnipeg have established memorials or created spaces to commemorate the victims of PS752;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that City staff be directed to consult with other cities on their memorial plans as well as families of victims and groups that would be interested in commemorating those who were so tragically lost that fateful day. and;

Be it further resolved, that staff be directed to report back on the outcome of the consultation with recommendations and/or options for establishing a memorial in Richmond Hill for PS725.

Carried Unanimously

12.3 Member Motion - Mayor West - Support for Small Business Centre Funding

Moved by: Mayor West

Whereas, for more than 25 years, the 47 Small Business Enterprise Centre's (SBEC's) across Ontario have supported entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing the essential fundamentals, tools, and contacts they need to start and grow their businesses;

Whereas, the Small Business Enterprise Centre's, or SBEC's, are often the first stop on an entrepreneur's journey; and

Whereas the Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre serviced 1200 inquiries in 2023, representing a 98% increase from 2022; and

Whereas, in addition to working with entrepreneurs at the start of their journey, SBEC's are called upon to support existing businesses, typically with 10 or less employees; and

Whereas, this support comes in the form of supporting them with growth plans, succession planning, and with recovery during difficult times; and

Whereas, operating funding has stagnated, impacting the ability to maintain services, diminishing the time spent with clients, time spent in the community, and involvement in local events and programming; and

Whereas, the short-term duration of the Transfer Payment Agreements, makes budgeting and long-term planning difficult; and

Whereas, SBEC's Transfer Payment Agreements with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, expires on March 31, 2025;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Richmond Hill request that the Province of Ontario continue to fund SBECs and increase annual amounts in line with inflation and population growth;

And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

1. Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade MPP Effie J. Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
2. MPP Andrew Dowie, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

3. MPP Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business
4. Ali Veshkini, Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
5. Anne Bermonte, Assistant Deputy Minister, Innovation and Economic Partnerships Division, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
6. Honourable Michael Parsa MPP of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill
7. MPP Daisy Wai MPP Richmond Hill

Carried

13. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Mayor West

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.