



## **Council Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**C#03-24**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

**Council Chambers**

**225 East Beaver Creek Road**

**Richmond Hill, Ontario**

A Council meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

Mayor West  
Regional and Local Councillor Chan  
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Councillor Davidson  
Councillor Thompson  
Councillor Liu  
Councillor Cui  
Councillor Cilevitz

Council Member present via videoconference:

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. Dimilta, City Solicitor  
S. Huycke, City Clerk  
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk  
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator  
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

C. Debi, Director, Strategic Communications  
D. Guy, Director, Community Standards  
A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer  
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer  
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations

**1. Call to Order**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

We are gathering on lands that have been home to First Nations Peoples from time immemorial. We acknowledge that what we now call Richmond Hill is on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations of the Williams Treaty. We also recognize that we are on part of the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat.

We would also like to acknowledge all First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples from across North America, also known as Turtle Island, who now reside in the City of Richmond Hill. We are committed to rebuilding constructive and cooperative relationships.

**3. National Anthem**

The National Anthem was played.

**4. Public Forum (not exceeding fifteen minutes)**

There were no members of the public who addressed Council during the Public Forum.

**5. Council Announcements**

Councillor Davidson advised that February was Vision Month and that the Oak Ridges Lions Club was collecting old glasses which can be dropped off at Oak Ridges Library and other locations that have been listed on her website and Facebook page.

Councillor Cilevitz shared her gratitude to the staff who attended and presented at the Ward 5 Civic Engagement Committee last week regarding snow maintenance and snow removal protocols. She thanked Councillor Cui for attending, as well as senior staff from Public Works Operations and By-law Sections.

Councillor Cui advised that he was holding an electronic public meeting tonight from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. regarding the Arnold Street renovation and invited those interested to register and join the meeting.

Councillor Cui shared that he was hosting a traffic safety public meeting on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Elgin Mills Community Centre and welcomed all Ward 4 residents to attend.

Mayor West remarked on the recent deaths of three Richmond Hill residents that resulted from domestic violence and expressed his condolences to the families of the victims. Mayor West acknowledged the motion that was passed by City Council to declare gender-based and intimate partner violence in Ontario an epidemic, and advised of the importance of providing education on domestic violence and support to victims and their families through organizations such as Yellow Brick House and Sandgate Women's Shelter.

Mayor West advised that he represented Richmond Hill and York Region at the Auto Theft Summit in Ottawa last week and shared that the Federal and Provincial government were committed to taking action to confront the auto theft problem within the Greater Toronto Area, and shared his hope for a positive result.

Mayor West advised that on February 29<sup>th</sup> he will be leading a team from York Region comprised of York Region Mayors and Councillors to be homeless for a night for the 360° Experience, and invited members of Council to join, and welcomed the support from the public.

**6. Introduction of Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters**

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

**7. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Councillor Cui  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

**8. 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*.

**9. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes**

**9.1 Council Meeting C#01-24 held January 24, 2024**

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the minutes of Council Meeting C#01-24 held January 24, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

**10. Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

Council consented not to separate any items for discussion.

**11. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items**

On a motion of Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, seconded by Councillor Cilevitz, Council adopted those items, including the By-law, not identified for separate discussion.

**12. Public Hearing(s)**

There were no public hearings.

**13. Presentation(s)**

**13.1 Presentation by Darlene Joslin, City Manager, to Tarana Rahimi, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Greater Toronto, on behalf of the City of Richmond Hill 2023 United Way Campaign Committee**

Darlene Joslin, City Manager, and 2023 United Way Campaign Chair, recognized the success of the campaign, staff's support, benefiting local agencies, and acknowledged members of the 2023 United Way Campaign Committee. D. Joslin alongside Mayor West, on behalf of the City, presented Tarana Rahimi, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Greater Toronto, with a cheque in the amount of \$32,508.95.

Tarana Rahimi, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Greater Toronto, expressed her gratitude for a successful campaign, and for the generous contributions by staff that would be invested into the community.

Mayor West thanked the United Way for the great work they do to support communities, and to City staff for their generous donations.

**13.2 Presentation by Kevin Pal, General Manager, Social Services Branch, Regional Municipality of York, regarding Homelessness in York Region**

Kevin Pal, General Manager, Social Services Branch, Regional Municipality of York, provided introductory comments regarding homelessness in York Region, and outlined the Region's role as a Service Manager for Housing and Homelessness in York Region. He introduced the implementation plans that contribute to the priorities of the Region's next 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, and reviewed the responsibilities of all levels of government and local community service providers with respect to housing and homelessness.

K. Pal shared data on homelessness in York Region, noted the growing number of people experiencing homelessness, and highlighted the programs offered by the Region. He reviewed statistics regarding homelessness in Richmond Hill, how the Region and local municipalities work together, services located in Richmond Hill, and shared a video of members of the community recollecting their experience with homelessness. K. Pal also shared further information on the Homelessness Service System Plan that the Region was developing.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan  
Seconded by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That the presentation by Kevin Pal, General Manager, Social Services Branch, Regional Municipality of York, regarding Homelessness in York Region be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

**14. Delegation(s)**

There were no delegations.

**15. Committee and Staff Reports**

**15.1 Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#02-24 held February 7, 2024**

That the minutes of Committee of the Whole meeting CW#02-24 held February 7, 2024, be adopted as circulated and the following recommendations be approved:

**15.1.1 Minutes - Capital Sustainability Steering Committee meeting CSSC#02-20 held June 22, 2020 - (CW Item 11.1)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

Carried

**15.1.2 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#06-23 held September 14, 2023 - (CW Item 11.2)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

Carried

**15.1.3 SRCM.24.02 - Draft 2024-2027 Strategic Plan - (CW Item 11.3)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

Carried

**15.1.4 Member Motion - Mayor West - Association of Municipalities of Ontario: Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review - (CW Item 12.1)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

**15.1.5 Member Motion - Mayor West - Remembering Flight PS-752 - (CW Item 12.2)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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



**15.1.6 Member Motion - Mayor West - Support for Small Business Centre Funding - (CW Item 12.3)**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

**16. Other Business**

There were no other business items.

**17. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters**

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

**18. By-laws**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the following By-law be approved:

By-law 17-24 - A By-Law to assume aboveground and belowground municipal services; assume lands as public highway; establish lands as public highway

Carried

**19. Closed Session**

There were no closed session items.

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

**20.1 By-law 33-24**

Moved by: Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

That By-law 33-24, A By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting, be passed.

Carried

**21. Adjournment**

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan  
Seconded by: Councillor Cui

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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David West, Mayor

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Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk