



Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

CW#02-26

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 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 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

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

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
G. Galanis, Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
P. Masaro, Commissioner of Infrastructure and Engineering Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
F. Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
K. Chaudhry, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk

L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Council/Committee Coordinator

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Adari, Assistant City Solicitor
F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
J. Walters, Manager, Engineering Subdivisions and Infrastructure Planning

1. Call to Order

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

2. Council Announcements

Mayor West extended warm wishes for a happy Lunar New Year to everyone celebrating the occasion.

Mayor West also extended warm wishes to those observing Ramadan, recognized the many events taking place across Richmond Hill, and highlighted the City's diverse, multicultural community and its commitment to inclusion and celebrating cultural traditions together.

Councillor Shiu extended warm Lunar New Year greetings, noting that this is the Year of the Horse, and wished everyone a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Councillor Shiu announced that in partnership with the Richmond Hill Board of Trade, he would be hosting the Lunar New Year Richmond Hill Ward 6 Business Expo and Networking event on Saturday, February 21, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Langstaff Community Centre, highlighting opportunities for business networking and festive activities to celebrate the occasion.

Councillor Cilevitz expressed her support for Team Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy and proudly cheered from Richmond Hill, "Go Team Canada!"

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 Cui

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 11.2, 11.3, 12.1 and 12.2 for discussion.

7. Adoption of the Remainder of Agenda Items

On a motion of Councillor Thompson, Committee unanimously 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 SRIES.26.002 - 2025 Municipal Infrastructure Assumption Summary under Delegated Authority

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

a) That staff report SRIES.26.002 regarding the 2025 Municipal Infrastructure Assumption Summary under Delegated Authority, be received.

Carried Unanimously

11.2 SRPBS.26.001 - Request for Approval - Yonge Street and Garden Avenue Gateway Lighting Feature Final Concept Design

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That Staff Report SRPBS.26.001 regarding the Yonge Street and Garden Avenue Gateway Lighting Feature be received;

b) That staff report back to Council at a future Council meeting on proposed lighting and signage enhancements for the Dave Barrow Civic Square, including associated funding.

Carried Unanimously

11.3 SRCM.26.07 - York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool Program

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

- a) That staff report SRCM.26.07 regarding York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool Program, be received;
- b) That Council approve the City of Richmond Hill's participation in the York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool;
- c) That Council direct the Treasurer to negotiate and, if negotiations are successful, recommend for execution all required agreements with the Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, Township of King, Town of Newmarket, York Region, City of Vaughan, and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to establish the Insurance Pool for a five-year term, with the option of two additional five-year extensions, on business terms satisfactory to the Treasurer and legal terms satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- d) That should any negative financial or risk-related changes arise that affect the provisions as outlined in staff report SRCM.26.07, staff will report back to Council for approval prior to proceeding, as determined by the Treasurer;
- e) That Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any documents necessary to give effect to Richmond Hill's participation in the Insurance Pool, including the Subscriber Agreement, upon the recommendation of the Treasurer and City Solicitor; and
- f) That Council appoint the Treasurer as the City of Richmond Hill's representative on the Insurance Pool Board, consistent with the governance structure established by the participating municipalities.

Motion to Refer to Council without recommendation:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

- a) That staff report SRCM.26.07 regarding York Region Municipalities Insurance Pool Program, be referred to the February 25, 2026 Council meeting without recommendation for Council direction.

Motion to Refer Carried Unanimously

12. Other Business

12.1 Member Motion - Councillor Thompson - Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced its intention to modernize and consolidate Ontario's Conservation Authorities to improve efficiency, consistency, and service delivery; and

Whereas the City of Richmond Hill is located within the Ontario Greenbelt, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area, and the Rouge River watershed, where flood protection, environmental protection, and development decisions depend on strong, locally informed watershed governance; and

Whereas the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) provides these services for Richmond Hill and is a well-established and trusted watershed agency with significant technical capacity, long-standing intergovernmental partnerships, and a broad, multi-municipal service area that already functions in many respects as a regional hub.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Richmond Hill supports the province's goal of improving efficiency and consistency within Conservation Authorities, provided that any new regional structure serving the Toronto Region Conservation Authority area:

- preserves strong watershed-based decision-making for the Oak Ridges Moraine and Rouge River system,
- ensures meaningful municipal representation and funding clarity for Richmond Hill, and
- maintains uninterrupted front-line flood protection, environmental review, and permitting services; and

That the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) name, identity, boundaries, and operating continuity be retained in order to preserve public trust, regulatory certainty, and institutional relationships relied upon by the City of Richmond Hill and that the costly proposed re-naming of TRCA to Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation be abandoned; and

That all costs of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and proposed regional consolidation with any transition, be entirely borne by the Province; and

That this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP, Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Honourable Michael Parsa, MPP, Aurora- Oak Ridges- Richmond Hill, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Daisy Wai, MPP, Richmond Hill

The Regional Municipality of York

Carried Unanimously

12.2 Member Motion - Councillor Liu - Strengthening Oversight and Enforcement of Snow Clearing Obligations in New Subdivisions

Moved by: Councillor Liu

Whereas in newly developed subdivisions, the responsibility for winter maintenance, including snow clearing on roads and sidewalks, rests with the developer and not the municipality;

Whereas residents in these subdivisions have raised concerns that snow clearing is not being carried out in a timely or adequate manner by developers;

Whereas inadequate snow removal poses significant risks to public safety, emergency vehicle access, pedestrian mobility, and overall community well-being; and

Whereas the municipality has an interest in ensuring that developers meet their contractual and regulatory obligations during the subdivision assumption period;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

a) That Council direct staff to review current policies, agreements, and enforcement practices for developer-led snow clearing in unassumed subdivisions, including improvements to complaint processes, increased penalties for non-compliance, and the potential inclusion of windrow removal; and

b) Staff report back to Council before Summer Recess of 2026.

Carried Unanimously

13. Emergency/Time Sensitive Matters

There were no emergency/time sensitive matters.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.