



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL MINUTES

CL 19-2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Council Chamber / Video Conference

City of Thorold, City Hall, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON

Council Members Present in the Council Chamber:	Mayor Ugulini, Councillors D'Angela, De Divitiis, Dekker, DeRose, Handley, O'Hare, Sentance
Council Members Present by Video Conference:	Councillor Longo
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	L. Bubanko, Deputy City Clerk, N. Debono, City Clerk, M. Dilwaria, Chief Administrative Officer, T. Dixon, Director, Fire & Emergency Services/Fire Chief, S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, G. Holman, Director, Public Works & Community Services, M. Richardson, Associate Director, Community Services, S. Shah, Manager of Finance/Deputy Treasurer, J. Simpson, Director, Development Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ugulini called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor De Divitiis read the land acknowledgement.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by: Councillor DeRose
Seconded by: Councillor D'Angela

That Council Agenda CL 19-2024, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Adoption of the Minutes**

Moved by: Councillor Sentence
Seconded by: Councillor DeRose

That CL 18-2024, being the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, and that PF 4-2024, being the Minutes of the Public Forum Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 **BE APPROVED**, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor provided an update respecting activities and events throughout the City and region.

7. **Regional Councillor Update**

There was no Regional Councillor Update.

8. **Civic Recognition**

There were no Civic Recognitions.

9. **Presentations**

9.1 **Hospice Niagara**

Alicia Merry, Director, Marketing, Communications and Fund Development, presented an overview of the services of Hospice Niagara including care, compassion and support for those affected by end of life situations. She provided highlights of the new location, Walker House in Welland.

10. Delegations

There were no delegations to Report.

11. Items for Consent

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: Councillor O'Hare

That the following Consent Reports **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**:

11.1 CLK-C 22-2024

Request from the Thorold Mounts that Council declare a municipally significant event for their 48th annual old-timers hockey tournament

11.2 CL-C 42-2024

Darlene Ryan Port Robinson Community Centre Board of Management and Heritage Advisory Committee Resolution Concerning Amendment to Heritage Designation

11.4 CL-C 44-2024

Age Friendly Committee Resolution Concerning Amendment to Terms of Reference

11.5 CLK-C 18-2024

A Bill to Amend By-law 31-2023, being the City's Appointment By-law

11.6 CLK-C 19-2024

A Bill to Amend By-law 131-2021, being the By-law to Appoint Screening Officers

11.7 CLK-C 20-2024

Upper's Lane Roadway Extension Update

11.8 CLK-C 21-2024

A Bill to Appoint Deputy Clerks to Act as Commissioners for Taking Affidavits

11.9 PWCS 104-2024

Rails to Trails Environmental Assessment RFP – Consultant Award

11.10 PWCS-C 5-2024

Rocking the Battlefield - Exotic Car Show & Concert Fundraiser Event
Wrap Up

CARRIED

11.3 CL-C 43-2024

Age Friendly Committee Resolution Concerning Font Size on Street Signs

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: Councillor O'Hare

That Correspondence Item CL-C 43-2024, being a memorandum from J. Letourneau, Legislative & Municipal Elections Coordinator, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Age-Friendly Committee Resolution Concerning Font Size on Street Signs, **BE RECEIVED** for information and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

That Council **DIRECT** staff to prepare a report regarding increasing the font size on street signs for new subdivisions and replacement signs.

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: Councillor DeRose

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to include the following:

That Staff REPORT back to Council on options for reviewing font sizes on other signage across the City that are within the municipality's responsibility.

CARRIED

The Mayor called a vote on the following motion, as amended:

That Correspondence Item CL-C 43-2024, being a memorandum from J. Letourneau, Legislative & Municipal Elections Coordinator, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Age-Friendly Committee Resolution Concerning Font Size on Street Signs, **BE RECEIVED** for information and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**, as amended:

1. That Council **DIRECT** staff to prepare a report regarding increasing the font size on street signs for new subdivisions and replacement signs; and
2. That Staff **REPORT** back to Council on options for reviewing font sizes on other signage across the City that are within the municipality's responsibility.

CARRIED

11.11 PWCS-C 6-2024

Walker Sports and Abilities Centre (Canada Games Park) – Indoor Track Program Update

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by: Councillor O'Hare

That Correspondence Item PWCS-C 6-2024, being a memorandum from G. Holman, Director, Public Works, Community Services, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Walker Sports and Abilities Centre (Canada Games Park) – Indoor Track Program Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

12. Items for Consideration

12.1 DS 47-2024

Residential Rental Licensing Financial Data

Moved by: Councillor Dekker
Seconded by: Councillor Sentance

That Report DS 47-2024, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Residential Rental Licensing Financial Data, **BE RECEIVED**, and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **DIRECT** staff to prepare amendments to the Residential Rental Licensing By-law that establish:
 - provisions specific to short-term rental and Bed and Breakfast establishments,

- a demerit point system for residential rental licences,
- an administrative fee for non-appearance to scheduled inspections, and
- a prohibition of advertising a rental unit without a valid Residential Rental Licence,

for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

2. That Council **DIRECT** staff to review the licence application fee for ability to fund expenses associated with enforcement of the Residential Rental Licensing By-law and report back with recommendations;
3. That Council **APPROVE** the creation of one additional By-law Enforcement Clerk position effective January 2, 2025;
4. That Council **APPROVE** a PRE-BUDGET APPROVAL for an operating budget increase of \$85,000 to cover the costs of the additional By-law Enforcement Clerk and a capital budget increase of \$5,000 to cover the purchase of computer and office equipment and supplies for the By-law Enforcement Clerk, funded by residential rental licensing fees and penalties;
5. That Council **APPROVE** the creation of one additional Fire Prevention Officer position effective January 2, 2025;
6. That Council **APPROVE** a PRE-BUDGET APPROVAL for an operating budget increase of \$145,000 to cover the costs of the additional Fire prevention Officer and a capital budget increase of \$80,000 to purchase a vehicle, computer equipment, radio and related equipment for the Fire prevention Officer, funded by residential rental licensing fees and penalties;
7. That Council **APPROVE** an operating budget overrun of \$10,000 to the By-law Enforcement Division's portion of the 2024 operating budget, funded by residential rental licensing application fees and penalties, to accommodate temporary administrative support within the By-law Enforcement Division for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year;

8. That Council **DIRECT** staff to research how boarding, lodging or rooming houses contribute to the housing supply within Thorold and report back to Council with the findings and any recommendations; and
9. That funding for the existing Fire Prevention Officer **BE TRANSFERRED** from RRL to levy for 2025 for a budget levy impact of \$52,000.

Moved by: Councillor Handley
Seconded by: Councillor DeRose

That Council **DEFER** items #4 and #6 from the motion to the 2025 Budget consideration.

The motion to defer was withdrawn by Councillor Handley. Council did not object.

The Mayor called a vote on the main motion and declared it,

CARRIED

12.2 PWCS 68-2024

Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (2024-2029)

Moved by: Councillor Dekker
Seconded by: Councillor Handley

That Report PWCS 68-2024, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (2024-2029), **BE RECEIVED**, and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **APPROVE** the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (2024-2029) and publish the document in accordance with Regulation 25/23 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*; and
2. That Council **APPROVE** funding for the study in the amount of \$8,100 (plus HST), from the Municipal Land and Building Reserve; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to include the proposed recommendations in the 10-year Capital Forecast.

CARRIED

12.3 PWCS 105-2024

Tender Award (102EN40010) – 2024 Traffic Calming for Multiple Locations

Moved by: Councillor D'Angela

Seconded by: Councillor Sentance

That Report PWCS 105-2024, dated November 12, 2024, respecting Tender Award (102EN40010) – 2024 Traffic Calming for Multiple Locations, **BE RECEIVED**, and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Request for Tender NO. 102EN40010, respecting the 2024 Traffic Calming (Multiple Locations Citywide), **BE AWARDED** to Brennan Paving & Construction Ltd. at a contract price of \$67,767 excluding HST; and
2. That a budget reallocation of \$68,959.70 from the Pine/Sullivan Intersection Road Bump Outs budget **BE APPROVED** to fund the 2024 Traffic Calming Project, including speed humps at the identified locations within the City; and
3. That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the necessary agreements/contracts.

CARRIED

12.4 PWCS 108-2024

James Whyte Arena - Interim Operational Plan (2024-2025)

Moved by: Councillor O'Hare

Seconded by: Councillor De Divitiis

That Report PWCS 108-2024, dated November 12, 2024, respecting James Whyte Arena – Interim Operational Plan (2024-2025), **BE RECEIVED**, and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Building Condition Assessment Update Report (November 2024), **BE RECEIVED**; and,

2. That the James Whyte Arena **BE CLOSED** for the purposes of future recreational programming.

CARRIED

13. Notices of Motion

Councillor Handley brought forth the following Notices of Motion:

1. Flag Policy
2. Crosswalk in recognition of Veterans
3. Yearly Parking Exemptions
4. Upper's Lane Extension

Councillor Sentance brought forth a Notice of Motion regarding a crosswalk in recognition of veterans. He will work with Councillor Handley on the wording.

Councillor O'Hare brought forth a Notice of Motion regarding parking signage.

14. Motions

14.1 Physician Recruitment Program

Moved by: Councillor Dekker
Seconded by: Councillor De Divitiis

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years;

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022;

WHEREAS the City of Thorold is underserved by approximately seven (7) family physicians; and

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, paramedicine, and other investments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

1. That Council for the City of Thorold **DIRECTS** staff to prepare a report respecting a physician recruitment program targeting the recruitment of four (4) family physicians to practice in the City of Thorold; and
2. That the proposed physician recruitment program and report **BE CONSIDERED** during the 2025 Budget Process.

CARRIED

14.2 City Council Statement respecting Flag Desecration

Moved by: Councillor DeRose
Seconded by: Councillor De Divitiis

WHEREAS the Canadian flag is a symbol of the nation's unity, history, and values, representing the sacrifices and contributions made by Canadians across generations;

WHEREAS the Canadian flag stands as a symbol of national pride, democracy, freedom, and the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens;

WHEREAS the desecration of the Canadian flag is an act that disrespects the ideals and principles upon which Canada was built, undermining national cohesion and respect for the country's institutions;

WHEREAS acts of flag desecration can cause significant emotional harm to Canadians, particularly veterans, and others for whom the flag represents personal or collective sacrifice, dignity, and identity; and

WHEREAS criminalizing the desecration of the Canadian flag would serve as a means of protecting national symbols from acts that seek to degrade their meaning while still respecting the constitutional rights of citizens to protest peacefully and express diverse views;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

1. That Council for the City of Thorold **SUPPORTS** the amendment to the *Criminal Code* R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46, for the purpose of criminalizing the act of desecrating the Canadian Flag; and
2. That this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the Office of Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre, Vance Badawey.

The following friendly amendment was accepted by the Mayor, and mover and seconder of the motion:

That the Motion **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

1. That Council for the City of Thorold **SUPPORTS** the amendment to the *Criminal Code* R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46, for the purpose of criminalizing the act of desecrating the Canadian Flag; and
2. That this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the Office of Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre, Vance Badawey, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and lower-tier municipalities within the Region of Niagara.

The Mayor called a vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it

CARRIED

14.3 Feeding of Wildlife

Moved by: Councillor O'Hare
Seconded by: Councillor Sentance

WHEREAS, as human development continues to encroach upon natural wildlife habitats, the likelihood increases that animals will venture into residential areas in search of food and shelter;

WHEREAS, the act of feeding wildlife in residential areas encourages animals to become more habituated to human presence, potentially leading to increased risks of aggression and dangerous interactions with people;

WHEREAS, the feeding of wildlife can contribute to the growth of rodent populations, creating further health and safety concerns within communities;

WHEREAS, providing food to wildlife often results in improper diets, leading to malnutrition, illness, and the spread of diseases among animals that may subsequently affect local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, wildlife that frequent residential areas in search of food can cause significant damage to homes, gardens, and property, creating costly repairs and safety hazards for residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

That Staff **BE DIRECTED** report back to Council respecting options to prohibit the feeding of wildlife within the City of Thorold, through the passage of a by-law, or amendment to a pre-existing by-law.

CARRIED

15. Statement by Councillors

Councillor Handley made a Statement by Councillor regarding an upcoming event on Saturday, November 16 for Community Care for their 25th year raising money to support children.

Councillor Dekker made a Statement by Councillor congratulating Todd Marr of Foodland in obtaining his licence to sell beer and wine.

16. Closed Session

Council did not convene into closed session.

17. Business Arising from Closed Session

Council did not convene into closed session.

18. By-Law(s)

Moved by: Councillor DeRose
Seconded by: Councillor Sentence

That the following by-laws **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**:

1. Bill 86-2024 – A By-law to Amend By-law No. 31-2023, being a By-law to Establish Certain Offices; and
2. Bill 87-2024 – A By-Law to Amend By-Law 131-2021, a By-Law to Establish the Positions of Screening Hearing Officers; and
3. Bill 88-2024 – A By-law to Appoint Deputy Clerks to Act as Commissioners for Taking Affidavits; and
4. Bill 89-2024 – A By-Law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Actions of City Council at its Meeting Held on November 12, 2024.

CARRIED

19. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Terry Ugulini
Mayor

Laura Bubanko
Deputy Clerk

Nicholas Debono
City Clerk