

City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
April 2, 2024
9:03 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

Mayor Gervais, Chair
Deputy Mayor Abdallah
Councillor Kuehl
Councillor Jacyno
Councillor Lafreniere
Councillor Plummer
Councillor Purcell

Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk
Nancy Rapin, Recording Secretary

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 9:03 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer/Reflection

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared.

4. Minutes

- i. Approve minutes from Council
 - a. Regular Meeting of Council – March 19, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of March 19, 2024, be approved as circulated.

Carried

- b. Special Meeting of Council – March 26, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council of March 26, 2024, be approved as circulated.

Carried

- ii. Adopt minutes from Committees
 - a. Planning and Development Committee Meeting – March 5, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on March 5, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

b. Finance and Administration Committee Meeting – March 5, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on March 5, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

c. Striking Committee – December 5, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Purcell

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

That the minutes of the Striking Committee meeting held on December 5, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. Committee Reports

a. Striking Committee – Appoint Members to the Pembroke Beautification and Climate Action Committee and the Pembroke Police Services Board

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere

That Pola Hallquist be appointed to the Pembroke Beautification and Climate Action Committee for this current term of Council ending November 14, 2026; and

That the following individuals be appointed as per the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* to the five-member Pembroke Police Service Board pending a review of the required police records check, for this current term of Council ending November 14, 2026, or until such time that the Striking Committee of Council is able to meet following the 2026 Municipal Election to appoint the membership of the Police Service Board:

- Council Representatives: Ronald Gervais and Patricia Lafreniere; and
- Community Representatives: Christine Reavie and Dezai Bair-Patel; and
- Provincial Appointed Representative Michael St. Jean (appointed until August 13, 2024).

Carried

6. Proclamations

a. Mayor Gervais proclaimed April 2024, Parkinson's Awareness Month in the City of Pembroke.

b. Mayor Gervais proclaimed April 2024, as Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Pembroke.

c. Mayor Gervais proclaimed April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the City of Pembroke.

7. By-laws**a. 2024-24 Parking By-law****Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That By-law 2024-24, being a by-law to regulate and control the parking of vehicles in the City of Pembroke, be adopted and passed;

And Further That the Said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

8. Motions**a. Resolution 2024-010 – Procedural By-law Amendment****Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That Council directs staff to amend Section 7.8 of the Procedural By-law to include references that any member of Council that wishes to request staff bring forward a report would follow additional steps to ensure the report is relevant and a necessary item to be added to a meeting agenda; and

That additional steps should include meeting with relevant City staff to ensure the item is within the scope of Council and relevant to the City's needs and if deemed pertinent, the Councillor should formally submit it in writing outlining the purpose and necessity of the item and have the support of at least one other council member.

Defeated

b. Resolution 2024-011 – Mental Health and Drug Treatment Rehabilitation Facility**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

Whereas the well-being of our community members is of paramount importance, and addressing mental health and substance use disorder is crucial for the overall health and safety of all our residents; and

Whereas the County of Renfrew, like many other regions, faces significant challenges related to mental health and addiction, with individuals and families grappling with the devastating impact of these conditions; and

Whereas timely access to specialized treatment and residential rehabilitation services and transitional housing is essential for those struggling with mental health issues and substance use disorders; and

Whereas we need to address the urgent need for additional treatment beds, especially for adults requiring intensive supports, and to improve access to care in rural, Northern, and Indigenous communities; and

Whereas the number of drug-related deaths in the County of Renfrew, as a whole, is on the rise underscoring the critical importance of accessible treatment options for those at risk of negative impacts including overdose and death; and

Whereas the establishment of a mental health, drug addiction treatment and residential rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew would provide the following benefits:

1. Local Accessibility: Residents would have access to specialized services without the burden of traveling long distances, ensuring timely intervention and continuity of care.

2. **Holistic Approach:** The facility could offer integrated care, addressing both mental health and substance use disorders concurrently, thereby improving outcomes for clients.
3. **Community Support:** By providing a safe and supportive environment, the facility would contribute to reducing stigma and fostering community understanding of mental health and addiction.
4. **Collaboration with Existing Services:** The facility could collaborate with existing community organizations, healthcare and social service providers, and law enforcement agencies to create a comprehensive network of support (i.e. County of Renfrew MESA program).

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Council of the Corporation of the City of Pembroke:

1. Urgently requests the Province of Ontario to allocate funding specifically for the establishment of a mental health, addiction, and residential drug treatment rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew.
2. Advocates for a facility that offers evidence-based, trauma-informed care, addressing both addiction and concurrent mental health issues.
3. Commits to working collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities, all community stakeholders, and provincial authorities to ensure the successful implementation of this vital facility.

Furthermore, the City of Pembroke Council encourages all residents to support this resolution and join the collective effort to enhance mental health and addiction services in our region.

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health; the Honourable John Yakabuski, Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew~Nipissing~Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus; Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus; Peter Emon, Warden, for the County of Renfrew; and all neighbouring County of Renfrew lower-tier municipalities.

Carried

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the meeting be extended by one half hour.

Carried

c. Resolution 2024-12 – Rideshare

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

Whereas the City of Pembroke faces challenges related to limited access to transportation, and there exists a pressing need for a ridesharing service to address transportation gaps within our community; and

Whereas rideshare services are increasingly relied upon by seniors, students, visitors, and tourists, and residents looking for safe, affordable, convenient, and reliable ways to travel, and

Whereas the standardization and consistency of regulations across municipalities, particularly in Ontario, can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework; and

Whereas transferring the responsibility of rideshare regulations and licensing to the provincial level would contribute to a more streamlined and uniform governance structure, while eliminating associated red tape and unnecessary administrative costs.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Council of the City of Pembroke formally requests the Government of Ontario to initiate the transfer of responsibilities in the interest of creating a more coherent and standardized regulatory framework for ridesharing services across the province; and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable John Yakubuski, Member of Parliament for Renfrew, Nipissing, Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus; Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus; the County of Renfrew; and all neighbouring County of Renfrew lower-tier municipalities.

Carried

9. Mayor's Report

On March 20th Mayor Gervais presented Michael Conroy with a CIP grant. He also attended a meet and greet at the Pembroke Public Library that afternoon. On March 21st, he and the CAO met with Base Commander to discuss mutual points of interest. On March 21st he attended the Kiwanis Festival of the Stars. On March 25th he attended the Warming Centre with the CAO. On March 27th the OPP held their Chili Fundraiser with proceeds going to The Grind. He asked all to stay safe and be kind to one another.

10. Notices of Motion

a. Renaming of Indian River

Councillor Kuehl indicated that he would bring forward to the next Council meeting, a motion to rename the Indian River.

b. Illegal and Toxic Drug Enforcement Measures

Councillor Kuehl indicated that he would bring forward to the next Council meeting, a motion addressing illegal and toxic drug enforcement measures.

11. Councillor Updates

Deputy Mayor Abdallah congratulated the Pembroke Lumber Kings on the game against Navan. He reminded all of the next Pembroke Community Watch Program meeting on April 29th at the Pembroke Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. He said the Pembroke Beautification and Climate Action Committee will have a Earth Day Community Clean Up Week from April 20-26 with more information coming soon. The Community Garden Rain Barrell fundraiser is well underway, see the [website](#) for information. He indicated the volunteers are needed for the Carefor Community Garden. Contact Deputy Mayor Abdallah or Mayor Gervais for more information.

Councillor Kuehl reminded all that today, April 2nd, is Autism Awareness Day. He gave an update on Festival Hall.

Councillor Purcell reminded all of the Solar Eclipse on April 8th reminding all to supervise children during the eclipse and to take care and use appropriate eye protection.

Councillor Jacyno reminded Council of the Pancake Breakfast is on April 6th from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Fire Hall in support of the Pembroke Handibus.

12. Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the meeting become a closed meeting to discuss the proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of lands by the municipality as per Section 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, regarding lands in the TransCan Park and the Waterfront.

13. Business Arising from Close Session

Mayor Gervais indicated that a Council in Caucus meeting was held and there were no pecuniary interests declared. He indicated that staff was given direction to continue negotiations and if successful, prepare the necessary by-law for a future Council meeting for the sale of lands in the TransCan Park and/or the Waterfront.

14. Confirming By-law

- Confirming By-law 09-2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Purcell

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That By-law 09-2024 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of April 2, 2024, be adopted and passed; and

Further That the said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

15. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the April 2, 2024 regular meeting of Council adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Carried

Ron Gervais
Mayor

David Unrau
Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk