

City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
December 3, 2024
8:39 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

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

Regrets:

Councillor Purcell

Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer
Victoria Charbonneau, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 8:39 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 – November 19, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

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

Carried

ii. Adopt minutes from Committees

a. Planning and Development Committee Meeting – November 5, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

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

Carried

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

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

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

Carried

c. Striking Committee Meeting – November 5, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere

That the minutes of the Striking Committee meeting held on November 5, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

iii. Receive minutes from Local Boards

a. Pembroke Public Library Board – October 17, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the minutes from the Pembroke Public Library Board of October 17, 2024, be received as circulated.

Carried**5. Staff and Committee Reports**

a. Striking Committee – Membership Appointments to the Pembroke Public Library Board and the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board Public Liaison Committee

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That Bethea Summers be appointed to the Pembroke Public Library Board until the end of the current term of Council ending November 14, 2026; and that Dan Callahan be appointed to the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Public Liaison Committee until the end of the current term of Council ending November 14, 2026.

Carried

6. By-laws**7. Motions**

a. Resolution 2024-037 2025 O.P.P. Billing Increases

The motion was not required. Shortly before the Council meeting staff received an update from the Province on the O.P.P Billing increases. The update included a number of issues outlined in the motion have been addressed by the province in a positive way, including a decrease in overall billing that will not result in as great of an impact on the City's budget.

b. Resolution 2024-035 Making Illegal the Littering of Drug Paraphernalia on Private Property

WHEREAS residents of the City of Pembroke have experienced significant increases in drug crimes and drug-related crimes throughout the City of Pembroke, including increases in the frequency and severity of such crimes;

AND WHEREAS local businesses, and particularly those in the downtown core, have been directly impacted by the higher incidences of drug crimes and drug-related crimes that increase business losses and expenses and decrease foot traffic and the belief that certain parts of the City of Pembroke are safe and welcoming;

AND WHEREAS residents of, and private properties within, the City of Pembroke have had to endure ongoing harassment and nuisances caused by illegal and toxic drug users, drug trafficking and drug houses, including exposure to toxic drugs and drug paraphernalia;

AND WHEREAS increased law enforcement efforts are needed to focus on those individuals and criminal organizations that illegally traffic and sell controlled substances and profit off of their drug using victims;

AND WHEREAS all levels of government share in the responsibility to combat illegal and toxic drug use including the federal government's jurisdiction over criminal law and controlled substances, the provincial government's jurisdiction over health care and property regulation, and the municipal government's role in by-law enforcement and the provision of local services including policing and social services;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides broad jurisdiction to single-tier municipalities in matters relating to:

1. the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality,
2. the health, safety and well-being of persons, and
3. the protection of persons and property;

AND WHEREAS section 127 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides that a local municipality may prohibit the depositing of refuse or debris on land without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land and may define "refuse" for the purpose of this section;

AND WHEREAS subsection 128(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides that a local municipality may prohibit and regulate with respect to public nuisances, including matters that, in the opinion of council, are or could become or cause public nuisances;

AND WHEREAS one of the highest priorities of any municipality must be the safety and security of its residents;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED that the City of Pembroke, its elected officials and staff carry out the following actions on behalf of the municipality:

1. That the City of Pembroke specifically pass a new by-law, or amend an existing relevant by-law, that makes the littering, disposing or depositing of drugs, drug residue or drug

paraphernalia on private property without the consent of the property owner against the law;
and

2. That a copy of this Motion be posted on the City of Pembroke's website.

Carried

Discussion on the proposed resolution included the following highlights:

- Meant to serve as an extension of the Safe Streets Act, but for private residences.
- The motion is to provide direction to staff to come back with report and By-Law and/or amendment(s) to existing By-Law to incorporate the principles outlined in the resolution

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Gervais provided an update on the community functions he attended on behalf of Council including (but not limited to):

November 20

- Kiwanis Food and Toy Drive at the Pembroke Mall. Provided kudos to the community for coming together and show support for the very worthy cause.

November 22

- Attendance at the grand opening of the Christkrindle Market, with colleagues from the Federal and Provincial Government and Township of Laurentian Valley at the Germania Hall. The event was very well attended.
- Attendance at the Coldest Night of the Year event. It was noted that there are many individuals in need of help in our community and as a community Pembroke is doing its best to work through collaborative partnerships to address many challenging issues. In working with the County MESA program, the Renfrew County District Health

November 27

- Attendance at Harmony Hues Studio grand opening.

November 28

- Algonquin College Speaker Series talk, North of Nowhere, Song and Truth put on by Marie Wilson, one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners.

November 30

- Attendance at the Santa Claus parade. The event saw record high float entries and was extremely well done. Congratulations was extended to City Staff, volunteers and participants.

A note was made that Mayor Gervais is happy with the advocacy regarding the increased O.P.P costs situation. A call was received from the MPP informing the Mayor that the government had looked at the situation again and was going to reissue a reduced account for policing. Thanks was extended to the MPP for always listening to municipalities and for meeting with the Mayor and CAO in person to hear their concerns.

9. Notices of Motion**10. Councillor Updates**

Deputy Mayor Abdallah

- Festival Hall updates and new incoming new management
- Santa Clause Parade was a great success and thank you to the community for a fantastic parade
- Calvin United Church Choir, well attended event and thank you

Councillor Kuehl

- November 24, Knights of Columbus Craft Show, well attended and run event
- Germania Hall Christmas Market, very full and successful event
- Santa Claus parade attendance, kudos to organizers, participants and attendees
- Festival Hall Update – a listed event updates
- Deck the Halls Christmas lights competition with neighbouring municipalities, more information can be found on the City of Pembroke website.
- Announcement of new management of Festival Hall, looking forward to seeing all of the innovative elements within the proposal come to life as time unfolds

Councillor Plummer

- Christmas Marlet at the Germania Hall, the event was well attended and very successful
- Christmas Parade well attended and floats were very original with 96 floats breaking a City record for number of floats in one year

11. Closed Session**12. Business Arising from Closed Session****13. Confirming By-law**

- Confirming By-law 29-2024

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That By-law 29-2024 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of December 3, 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

14. Adjournment**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That the December 3, 2024, regular meeting of Council adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

Carried

Ron Gervais
Mayor

Victoria Charbonneau
Municipal Clerk