

City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
January 21, 2025
7:48 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

Mayor Gervais, Chair
Deputy Mayor Abdallah
Councillor Jacyno
Councillor Kuehl
Councillor Lafreniere (virtual)
Councillor Purcell

Regrets:

Councillor Plummer

Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer (virtual)
Victoria Charbonneau, Municipal Clerk
Angela Lochtie, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:48 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 – January 7, 2025

Resolution: 25-01-17

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of January 7, 2025, be approved as circulated.

Carried

- ii. Adopt minutes from Committees
 - a. Operations Committee – December 17, 2024

Resolution: 25-01-18

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on December 17, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. **Delegations and Presentations**
6. **Business Arising from Delegations and Presentations**
7. **Staff and Committee Reports**

b. Transportation Master Plan

Resolution: 25-01-18

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the City of Pembroke Council generally adopt the Transportation Master Plan East West Traffic 2024 completed by Paradigm Consulting as a guiding document for the Operations Department by defining key projects, subject to development, staffing capabilities and annual budget approvals.

Notwithstanding the general acceptance of the Transportation Masterplan East West Traffic 2024, the City of Pembroke Council opposes the inclusion of the Matheson Drive Connection.

Carried

8. **Proclamations**

Mayor Gervais proclaimed the week of February 2-8, 2025, White Cane Week in the City of Pembroke.

9. **By-laws**

10. **Motions**

a. Establishment of Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

Resolution: 25-01-19

Moved by Councillor Purcell

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

Whereas the Corporation of the City of Pembroke supports the request that the province establish an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program; and

Whereas official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

And Whereas, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

And Whereas, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

And Whereas, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural healthcare system;

And Whereas, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the City of Pembroke requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

Further That this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

Carried

11. Correspondence

12. Mayor's Report

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

- January 8 – attendance at the Kiwanis Club ribbon cutting for the new lift at their building. The lift makes their second floor accessible. The Kiwanis club presented the City with a cheque for \$50,000 toward the project.
- January 11 – ceremonial puck drop at a Valley Warriors hockey game.
- Update on the Police Service Board's initiatives in 2024
- Pembroke Handibus update

13. Notices of Motion

14. Councillor Updates

Deputy Mayor Abdallah

- Attendance ROMA conference with Councillor Kuehl and CAO Unrau. Participated in a number of delegations that were successful, insightful and productive
- It was stated that municipal partnerships are important to lower costs and provide services
- A thank you to John Yakabuski (MPP) and his support

Councillor Kuehl

- Attendance at Festival Hall's first volunteer meet and greet
- Update on Descendants performances and dates at Festival Hall
- Reminder that Festival Hall has a new website www.festivalhall.ca under the new management and it is recommended the public visit the website to get information on events and support the arts and Festival Hall
- ROMA update:
 - Delegation concerning recruitment and retention of skilled and professional trades, skilled trades, medical services
 - Delegation for new and better tools to deal with drug houses and the need for better nuisance tools to effectively deal with challenges.

Councillor Lafreniere

- Highlights from the Renfrew County Health Committee:
 - Goals to have 600 in person interactions was achieved
 - 40% of the individuals have called 911 and

- There has been achieved success in assisting individuals experiencing homelessness
- The County is striving to provide services county needs at an affordable rate.

Councillor Jacyno

- Kudos to Councillors Purcell and Lafreniere and their group successful partnership with the MESA team along with The Renfrew County Paramedics led by Mike Nolan
- Renfrew County Housing Authority has some plans to deconstruct buildings that there is a Plan in place to remove buildings beyond repair

Councillor Purcell

- Statistics from the Health Committee covered in detail starting at approximately 8:11 p.m. on the YouTube meeting recording
- Operations at Warming Centre are reported to be working well and when numbers are received Council will receive an update. The close connection with treatment centre in the front of the Warming Centre is a good fit and people are attending treatments.

15. Closed Session – 8:24 p.m.

Resolution: 25-01-20

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That City of Pembroke Council convene in Closed Session with authorized staff remaining in the room, pursuant to the following section of the Municipal Act, 2001:

1. Section 239(2)(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of lands by the municipality or local Board.

More specifically as it relates to:

- Tree Disposal Facility

Councillor Kuehl called for a recorded vote.

Yea: Deputy Mayor Abdallah, Councillor Ed Jacyno, Mayor Ron Gervais

Nea: Councillors: Kuehl, Lafreniere, Purcell,

Defeated 3:3

There was concern iterated by staff and some Council members over presenting the report in its entirety in open session as there were elements that could pose liability to future land strategies proposed by City staff. The Mayor called for the confirming by-law. Staff and Council will work together to strategize on how to present report material at a future Council meeting.

16. Business Arising from Closed Session

17. Confirming By-law

- Confirming By-law 2025-06

Resolution: 25-01-21

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That By-law 2022-06 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of January 21, 2025, 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

18. Adjournment

Resolution: 25-01-22

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the January 21, 2025, regular meeting of Council adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Carried

Ron Gervais
Mayor

Victoria Charbonneau
Municipal Clerk