

City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
February 4, 2025
8:18 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

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

Regrets:

Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer
Victoria Charbonneau, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 8:18 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. Special Meeting of Council – January 21, 2025

Resolution: 25-02-01

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council of January 21, 2025, be approved as circulated.

Carried

- b. Regular Meeting of Council – January 21, 2025

Resolution: 25-02-02

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of January 21, 2025, be approved as circulated.

Carried

- ii. Adopt minutes from Committees
 - a. Planning and Development Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
Resolution: 25-02-03
 Moved by Councillor Kuehl
 Seconded by Councillor Plummer
 That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on January 7, 2025 be adopted as circulated.
Carried

5. Delegations and Presentations

6. Business Arising from Delegations and Presentations

7. Staff and Committee Reports

8. Proclamations

- a. Black History Month – February 2025
 Mayor Gervais proclaimed February 2025 Black History Month in the City of Pembroke.
- b. Wear Red Day – February 13, 2025
 Mayor Gervais proclaimed February 13, 2025 Wear Red Day in the City of Pembroke.

9. By-laws

10. Motions

- a. Amended Resolution 2025-02-04 Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Resolution: 25-02-04

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and

Whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and

Whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and

Whereas, unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

Whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and

Whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

Whereas property taxpayers including people on fixed incomes and small businesses can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and

Whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

Whereas municipalities and the Provincial Government have a strong history of collaboration.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and

Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all registered candidates in the riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in the current provincial general election, requesting a response from each candidate on their position concerning the stable and sustainable financing of municipalities in the Province of Ontario.

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 23, 2025 – attendance at the First Step Options Grand Opening at New location, extended a congratulations to the volunteers coming together to make things possible for those with needs in the community
- Ontario Power Generation webinar with other Mayors and Minister Vedeli to stay informed regarding waterways and in particular the Ottawa River Watershed
- January 28 – Councillor Kuehl, Purcell had the honour of meeting with MPP John Yakabuski one final time on official business for recent funding received by the Fire Department, and also to congratulate John on his last day prior to retirement and thank him for his decades of dedicated service to our community and region.
- February 3 – meeting with CAO Unrau and Conservative candidate Billy Denault to discuss concerns and issues that the City of Pembroke faces and matters in general about the riding. It was stated that the City looks forward to a chance to meet with other candidates as election day approaches
- Discussion over the current tariff situation. The matters are being taken seriously by the City and discussions have taken place with various political and community stakeholders with a commitment to work for Pembroke ratepayers to ensure the stability of our local economy.

13. Notices of Motion

14. Councillor Updates

Deputy Mayor Abdalah

- Pembroke Public Library CEO Karthi Rajamani has recently been awarded a medallion for public library of the year

- Pembroke Library has also been awarded the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence for the province of Ontario

Councillor Kuehl

- Attendance at the opening night of the Descendants play at Festival Hall. The show was very well done and kudos to all involved.
- A full lineup of events for the winter at Festival Hall is available at www.festivalhall.ca tickets can be purchased there or box office

15. Closed Session

Resolution 25-02-05

Moved by Councillor Plummer

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)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.
More specifically as it relates to:
 - a. 273 Victoria Street – Legal Update
 - b. Ottawa River Power Corporation – Governance Structure – Legal Update

Carried

16. Business Arising from Closed Session

Mayor Gervais indicated that a Council in Caucus meeting was held. Staff was given direction. There were no pecuniary interests declared.

17. Confirming By-law

- Confirming By-law 2025-07

Resolution: 25-02-06

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That By-law 2022-07 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of February 4, 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: 25-02-07

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the February 4, 2025, regular meeting of Council adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

Carried

Ron Gervais
Mayor

Victoria Charbonneau
Municipal Clerk