

# City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers  
Pembroke, Ontario  
May 6, 2025  
10:48 p.m.

## 1. Call to Order

### Present:

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

### Regrets:

### Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer  
Victoria Charbonneau, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 10:48 p.m.

Suspension of the Rules – Extending the Time of Council Meeting to Consider Business

### Resolution: 25-05-01

Subject to section 2.4 of Procedural By-Law 202-61 that the rules and regulations contained herein may be suspended in order to extend the length of the Council meeting dated May 6, 2025 past 10:00 p.m. to consider business.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

### Carried

## 2. Opening Prayer/Reflection

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

The Mayor disclosed a perceived pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 7.a and 9.a (By-law 2025-45) – both connected to sale of land as his business partner, Robert Sheppard acts for the Renfrew County Catholic School Board.

## 4. Minutes

- i. Approve minutes from Council
  - a. Regular Meeting of Council – April 15, 2025

### Resolution: 25-05-02

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of April 15, 2025, be approved as circulated.

### Carried

- ii. Adopt minutes from Committees
  - a. Planning and Development Committee Meeting – April 1, 2025  
**Resolution: 25-05-03**  
Moved by Councillor Kuehl  
Seconded by Councillor Plummer  
That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on April 1, 2025 be adopted as circulated.  
**Carried**
  - b. Finance and Administration Committee  
**Resolution: 25-05-04**  
Moved by Councillor Kuehl  
Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere  
That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on March 4, 2025 be adopted as circulated.  
**Carried**
- iii. Receive minutes from Local Boards
  - Pembroke Heritage Murals Committee – April 2, 2025  
**Resolution 25-05-05**  
Moved by Councillor Jacyno  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah  
That the minutes of the Pembroke Heritage Murals Committee meeting held on April 2, 2025, be adopted as circulated.  
**Carried**

## 5. Delegations and Presentations

- grade 5/6 class from Cathedral Elementary school recently visited City Hall and the students had engaging conversations with the Mayor and herself. The students also presented poems that wrote about Pembroke.
- This week, Councillor Lafreniere read a poem from one of the students.
- Councillor Lafreniere will be featuring the poems from the students at each Council meeting to display the community pride and talents of Pembroke youth. Readings of the poems can be viewed on the meeting recordings on the City's YouTube page.

## 6. Business Arising from Delegations and Presentations

## 7. Staff and Committee Reports

**Mayor Gervais left the table 10:51 p.m.**

**Deputy Mayor Abdallah assumed role of Chair**

- a. Planning and Development Committee – Declare Parcel at the end of Horace Street Surplus

**Resolution: 25-05-06**

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

Be it Resolved That the Corporation of the City of Pembroke declares the following lands as surplus and gives notice of the proposed sale of the said lands:

1. A parcel of land at the end of Horace Street opened road allowance. The land to be sold is legally described as Part Lot 200, Plan 103; Park Lot 15, Concession 1,

Pembroke, as in PMC 19985, Between R329706 and PMC 30163, the Indian River and Horace Street, Plan 103; City of Pembroke and being all of PIN #57164-0298 (LT). The lot is zoned "Open Space-s – OS-s". This lot is classified as non-viable.

**Carried**

**Mayor Gervais returned the chair at 10:55 p.m.**

- b. Planning and Development Committee – Sale of Julien Street and Almira Street  
Unopened Road Allowances

**Resolution: 25-05-07**

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by councillor Lafreniere

The Corporation of the City of Pembroke declares the following lands as surplus and gives notice of the proposed sale of the said lands:

Whereas, the City of Pembroke Planning and Building Committee has reviewed the unopened road allowances located at Julien Street and Almira Street; and

Whereas these unopened road allowances are no longer required for municipal purposes; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Pembroke Council declares the Julien Street and Almira Street unopened road allowances as surplus lands; and

That Council gives notice of its intent to permanently stop up and close the said unopened road allowance at its meeting of May 6, 2025; and

That City staff send a letter to the abutting property owners of the non-viable portion of Julien Street advising of Council's intent to declare the lands surplus and to add the lands to the City's surplus land inventory available on the municipal website; and

Further That a subsequent report be brought forward following the completion of the 20-day public comment period, recommending the sale of the two parcels of land together with a proposed development agreement.

**Carried**

**8. Proclamations**

- a. Community Living Month – May 2025

Mayor Gervais proclaimed May 2025 Community Living Month in the City of Pembroke.

**Mayor Gervais vacated the position of Chair.**

**Deputy Mayor Abdallah Assumed Chair. 10:58 p.m.**

**9. By-laws**

- a. 2025-45 Authorize Sale of Land at End of Horace Street to Renfrew County Catholic School Board

**Resolution: 25-05-08**

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That By-law 2025-45, being a by-law to authorize the proposed sale of lands, 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**

**Mayor Gervais assumed chair at 11:00 p.m.**

**10. Motions****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):

- April 22- Earth Week tree planting event in Coronation Park with MPP and members of Horticultural Society
- April 24 – Kiwanis Club of Pembroke's Charter Night celebrating 103 years.
- April 26 – Renfrew County ATV AGM
- April 26 – Germania Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala
- April 28 – Renfrew and District Labour Council ceremony to commemorate worker's who have been killed, injured or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards
- Information item and highlight – the Warming Center committee meeting was held April 28. Extended a thank you to Councillor Purcell's leadership and involvement with the very complex file.
- Information item and highlight – Ontario is proposing changes through the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 that would enable the creation of a new standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province.

**13. Notices of Motion**

- a. Request to Exempt the city of Pembroke from Strong Mayors Powers

**Deputy Mayor Abdallah provided a notice on the following motion. The motion will be placed on the as per section 9.3.2 will be deliberated at the May 20, 2025 Council meeting**

Request the Province of Ontario Not Apply Strong Mayors Powers to the City of Pembroke  
Whereas the Province of Ontario has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities, including the City of Pembroke, effective May 1, 2025;

And Whereas these powers grant the head of Council significant unilateral authority over key municipal functions, such as appointing the Chief Administrative Officer, hiring and dismissing department heads, establishing and dissolving committees, preparing and presenting the municipal budget, and vetoing by-law that may conflict with provincial priorities;

And Whereas the City of Pembroke has a longstanding tradition of collaborative and transparent governance, with Council decisions made collectively to best represent the interests and priorities of the local community;

And Whereas Pembroke City Council is concerned that the introduction of strong mayor powers could diminish the role of council, undermine local democratic principles, and disrupt established practices that ensure accountability, transparency and responsiveness to the unique needs of Pembroke residents;

And Whereas many elected officials and members of the public across Ontario have expressed significant concerns regarding the imposition of these powers without local consultation of consent;

And Whereas the City of Pembroke did not request, nor express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework;

And Whereas a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are calling for reconsideration, amendment, or repeal of the Strong Mayor system, emphasizing the important of local autonomy and decision-making;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the City of Pembroke formally rejects the application of strong mayor powers to the municipality, and respectfully requests that the Premiere of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the City of Pembroke from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation, thereby exempting the City from the application of strong may powers as outlined in the proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 530/22 under the Municipal Act;

And Further Requests that the Province of Ontario repeal the strong mayor legislation, or at a minimum, provide municipalities with the explicit option to opt out of the strong mayor powers framework, ensuring that local governance structures reflect the preferences and needs of individual communities;

Be It Further Resolved That this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Billy Denault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerk and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), and all Ontario municipalities for their information and support.

**Carried**

#### **14. Councillor Updates**

Councillor Kuehl

- Thanks to the Mayor Gervais for agreeing to fly the Canadian Red Ensign flag in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe on May 8, 1945.
- Festival Hall events over the weekend (Garth and Shania and listed a number of upcoming events to be held at Festival Hall, tickets of dance shows are almost sold out – tickets can be purchased at [www.festivalhall.ca](http://www.festivalhall.ca) )
- Indicated that a report on Festival Hall revenue generation is expected to come in the near future

Councillor Purcell

- Ontario experiencing significant measles outbreak. Renfrew County Health Unit has identified potential public exposure as of April 15, mostly occurring in Renfrew. If you are exposed monitor your symptoms closely.
- reach out to health care or primary care physician by phone call if you suspect you may
- More detailed information on this topic can be found by watching the YouTube recording of the meeting at approximately 11:09 p.m. time stamp.

Councillor Jacyno

- Attendance at Petawawa change of command event

**15. Closed Session 11:16 p.m.**

**Resolution 25-05-09**

Moved by Councillor Purcell

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

**Carried**

**16. Business Arising from Closed Session 11:24 p.m.**

Mayor Gervais indicated that there was a closed session held earlier. There were no pecuniary interests declared.

**17. Confirming By-law**

- Confirming By-law 2025-46

**Resolution: 25-05-10**

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That By-law 2022-46 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of May 6, 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: 25-05-11**

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the May 6, 2025, regular meeting of Council adjourn at 11:25 p.m.

**Carried**

Ron Gervais  
Mayor

Victoria Charbonneau  
Municipal Clerk