

City of Pembroke Special Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
June 17, 2025
5:00 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Call to Order

Present:

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

Regrets:

Councillor Kuehl

Also Present:

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

Mayor Gervais called the regular meeting of Council to order at 5:03 p.m.

3. Opening Prayer or Reflection

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared.

5. Closed Session 5:05 p.m.

Resolution SC 25-06-01

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

- Section 239(2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

More specifically as it relates to:

- Strong Mayor Powers

Carried

6. Business Arising from Closed Session

Council, after reviewing legal advice received during closed session, discussed in an open session the amendment of resolution 25-05-19 to ensure legislative compliance by removing the following section of resolution 25-05-19:

Resolution SC 25-06-02

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

Resolution to Amend 25-05-19 - Request to Exempt the City of Pembroke from Strong Mayor Powers

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-laws 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 or 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 importance 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 Premier 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 mayor 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 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;

and 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 Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and all municipalities in Renfrew County for their information;

~~**Be It Further Resolved**, the Treasurer, or such other staff as may be directed to bring forward to Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council a by-law amending the honourarium of the Mayor to include a provision whereby the honourarium of the Mayor shall be automatically reduced to \$1.00 per calendar year, pro rated as necessary for any partial year applicability, during any period of time for which the Mayor has not, in writing, delegated his authority pursuant to all four subclauses of Subsection 284.13(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* concerning:~~

- ~~a) the powers of a municipality under section 229, with respect to the Chief Administrative Officer, such powers to be delegated by the Mayor to the Council of the City of Pembroke, and~~
- ~~b) the powers of the municipality with respect to determining the organizational structure of the municipality, such powers to be delegated by the Mayor to the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Pembroke, and~~
- ~~c) the power of the municipality to appoint chairs and vice-chairs of local boards, such powers to be delegated by the Mayor of the Council of the City of Pembroke, and~~
- ~~d) the powers of the municipality with respect to prescribed committees, or committees within a prescribed class of committees, including (1) the power to establish or dissolve committees, (2) the power to appoint chairs and vice-chairs of committees and (3) the power to assign functions to committees, such powers to be delegated by the Mayor of the Council of the City of Pembroke.~~

Carried

7. Confirming By-law

- Confirming By-law 2025-52

Resolution: SC 25-06-03

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That By-law 2025-52 to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of Council of June 17, 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

8. Adjournment

Resolution: SC 25-06-04

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere

That the June 17, 2025, Special Meeting of Council adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

Carried

Ron Gervais
Mayor

Victoria Charbonneau
Municipal Clerk