



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Bruce County Council Chambers - 30 Park Street, Walkerton, ON

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Mitch Clark, Councillor
Tim Elphick, Councillor
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor
B. Carl Kuhnke, Councillor
Gregory J. McLean, Councillor

Council Absent: James Lang - Deputy Mayor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
Dieter Wetz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO

1. **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement**
2. **Acceptance of Council Agenda**

Resolution 24-13-01

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on April 23, 2024 as presented.

Carried

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**
4. **Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act**
5. **Certificate Presentation - Walkerton Minor Hockey U11 Rep C Team**

Mayor Peabody presented certificates to all players on the Walkerton Capitals U11 Rep C Team celebrating their success as OMHA 2023/2024 Tier 1 Champions.

6. Delegations

6.1 Westario Power - Quarterly Presentation

Westario Power Board Chair, Luke Charbonneau, informed Council that he would be presenting with Walter Malcolm to all of the municipalities that were shareholders of Westario Power Inc. to ensure they were informed of all the activities undertaken over the past year.

Walter Malcolm, Westario Power President & CEO, provided Council with an overview of the assets and employee base of the corporation, and a summary of the extensive recruitment that had occurred over the past year.

Mr. Malcolm also described the 44kv line extension through the Town of Walkerton and the substation that would support additional growth in the Town of Walkerton to improve reliability of power. It was also noted that the company had moved to a proactive tree cutting approach, rather than a reactive program, which resulted in decreased outages.

Mr. Malcolm advised that profits returned to their previous status, noting that the smaller dividend assisted capital programs along with financing commitments. Mr. Malcolm was pleased to confirm that the 2024 return dividends would be in line with the historical average, such that shareholders would receive their full benefit. Mr. Malcolm explained the process involved with changing the rates and having them approved by the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. Malcolm responded to questions from Council about decreased revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic while also moving forward with a strong capital program.

Mr. Malcolm responded to a question from Council on the differences between the actual and budgeted administrative expenses, noting the impact from staffing and recruitment challenges.

Council thanked Mr. Charbonneau and Mr. Malcolm for their presentation and leadership, and further expressed their appreciation for the projected dividends.

7. Minutes

7.1 Council Minutes - April 9, 2024

Council discussed the smoking enforcement by-law and motions passed at the April 9, 2024 Council Meeting.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) provided clarity that a Notice of Motion was brought forward at the March 26, 2024 Council Meeting, which was formally carried at the April 9, 2024 Council Meeting recommending bringing forward the draft Smoking Enforcement By-Law for consideration. A subsequent motion was passed on April 9, 2024 requesting that a letter be sent to Grey Bruce Public Health; therefore, the Smoking Enforcement By-Law was brought to this Council Meeting for consideration as it had not been previously enacted. Ms. Hamilton discussed the options available for Council to consider the by-law, including tabling the by-law until Grey Bruce Public Health provides response to the letter.

Resolution 24-13-02

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising From the Minutes

8.1 Motion - Physician Recruitment Letter of Support

Mayor Peabody mentioned that a Grey Bruce Physician Recruitment Committee has been established focusing on regional recruitment; however, the majority of members were located in the Owen Sound area.

Resolution 24-13-03

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approve sending the following letter for a physician completing the immigration process in order to work in the Municipality of Brockton.

To whom it may concern,

The Municipality of Brockton and the Municipality of South Bruce began a doctor recruitment committee almost 20 years ago. Our communities have been under serviced for many years. We also have aging doctors who will be retiring in the near future. Currently, 11% of our population are considered orphaned or unattached patients in the Walkerton catchment area. Within the Counties of Grey and Bruce, there are 14,373 unattached patients. As of June 2023, 55% of the patients who accessed Virtual Urgent Care Clinics were Unattached or Precariously attached patients.

Dr. [REDACTED] is the fiancée of a doctor who recently committed to practice in Walkerton and we are overjoyed that she has agreed to join this area also! Many new doctors opt to practice in large cities and it's difficult to attract young doctors to rural Ontario.

Our communities together will continue to look for more doctors to fill the need. Dr. [REDACTED] will not be taking a position from another doctor nor stop another physician from practicing in this community.

The Municipality of Brockton in which Dr. [REDACTED] intends to practice will welcome her gratefully and warmly.

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Structure 18 (Brant) Tender

Resolution 24-13-04

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2024-09 – Structure 18 (Brant) Tender, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations, and in doing so, awards the tender to R.F. King Holdings in the amount of \$744,202.53 plus HST.

Carried

9.2 Dog Park Pilot Project – Lobies Park

Council thanked staff for the report and proposal for this highly requested park. Council discussed the proposed location, and suggested amendments for the signage to state that the Dog Park not be limited to only Brockton residents given its location adjacent to a tourist destination at Lobie's Park.

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services responded to a question from Council on the Riverbend Park location, advising that the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority did not permit erecting a fence along the Saugeen River. Ms. Gillis further responded to an inquiry on the Saugeen River Trail location, noting that Lobies Park was chosen due to the regular maintenance by staff and the security available in comparison to the other proposed locations. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer noted that Lobies Park was the preferred option from the Parks and Recreation Committee due to its open space and security; however public feedback and other evaluations will occur during the pilot, and additional options can be explored in the future.

Resolution 24-13-05

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2024-06 – Dog Park Pilot Project – Lobies Park, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services for information purposes and in doing so approves the recommended Dog Park Pilot Project to be located at Lobies Park.

Carried

9.3 Tennis Court Rehabilitation User Fee Recommendations

Council thanked staff for the report and refurbishment of the tennis/pickleball courts, complimenting the appearance of the courts, and supporting the competitive user fee.

Resolution 24-13-06

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2024-05- Tennis and Pickleball Court User Fee Recommendation, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so approves the recommendation to establish a seasonal membership \$50.00 fee and daily use \$5.00 fee for tennis and pickleball court use and further approves a By-Law coming forward to amend the 2024 Fees and Charges By-Law to accommodate the additional fees.

Carried

9.4 Animal Control/By-Law Enforcement Activity Report January to April 2024

Councillor Elphick noted that the first meeting of the South Bruce O.P.P. Detachment Board was scheduled for April 26, 2024.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) responded to a question from Council about reports related to the False Alarm By-Law and noted that a revised by-law would come forward in the future.

Resolution 24-13-07

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BL2024-03 - Animal Control/By-Law Enforcement Activity Report January to April 2024, prepared by Lisa MacDonald, Animal Control/By-Law Enforcement Officer, and Dieter Wertz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO for information purposes.

Carried

9.5 Chief Building Official's Activity Report for February 2024

Resolution 24-13-08

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BLDG2024-05 – Chief Building Official's Activity Report for February 2024, prepared by Dieter Wertz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO for information purposes.

Carried

9.6 Chief Building Official's Activity Report for March 2024

Resolution 24-13-09

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BLDG2024-06 – Chief Building Official's Activity Report for March 2024, prepared by Dieter Wetz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO for information purposes.

Carried

9.7 Planning Activity Report – First Quarter 2024

Resolution 24-13-10

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby Report Number PLN2024-03 – Planning Activity Report – First Quarter 2024, prepared by Dieter Wetz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO and Dalton Stone, Municipal Services Coordinator for information purposes.

Carried

9.8 Elmwood Homecoming Sponsorship Request

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer responded to questions from Council, noting that staff could contact the Homecoming Committee to obtain more details on sponsorship opportunities and the recognition for in-kind donations.

Resolution 24-13-11

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-16 – Elmwood Homecoming Sponsorship Request, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so provides the following direction to staff: contact the Elmwood Homecoming Committee to obtain more details on the sponsorship opportunities and the recognition process for donations.

Carried

9.9 Brockton Childcare Centre Organizational Review

Council supported the timing and scope of the review, noting the number of years the Child Care facility has been in operation and the large number of families served, including before and after school programs. Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer responded to a question from Council advising that the review would likely be eligible for grant funding.

Resolution 24-13-12

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2024-03 - Brockton Childcare Centre Organizational Review, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so supports the recommendation of hiring Jennifer Kirkham of Mischievous Cat Productions to conduct an organizational review of the Brockton Child Care Centre for a cost of \$30,000 plus H.S.T. to be funded from a combination of grant funding and the child care reserve fund.

Carried

10. Public Notification

10.1 Volunteer Recognition Awards

Nominations are opening soon for the Municipality of Brockton's 2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards: the Brockton Good Neighbour Award and the Walkerton & District Optimist Club's Outstanding Youth Award. Visit Brockton.ca/VolunteerAwards for more details.

10.2 Durham St Bridge Public Meeting - May 1, 2024

View Bruce County's [News Release](#) on the Public Information Meeting for the Durham Street Bridge on May 1, 2024.

11. Accounts

11.1 Accounts - \$640,877.40

Resolution 24-13-13

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approve payment of the accounts in the amount of \$640,877.40.

Carried

12. Correspondence Requiring Action

12.1 Brockton Heritage Committee Resolution - Changes to Ontario Heritage Act Impacting Heritage Register

Resolution 24-13-14

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton endorses the Brockton Heritage Committee's resolution requesting an amendment to the Ontario Heritage Act to allow for an extension to the deadline of revising the Municipal Heritage Register.

Whereas Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025;

And Whereas since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the Brockton Heritage Committee have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties;

And Whereas the above-noted work involving 24 listed properties in the Municipality of Brockton is extremely time consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Carried

12.2 Invitation to Kinsmen Club and Kinette Club of Walkerton's Anniversary Celebration

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) noted the milestone anniversary for both clubs and suggested that Council may wish to have a table representing the Municipality of Brockton to show support for these long-standing service clubs.

Councillor McLean advised that he would be available to attend the event.

13. Information

13.1 Walkerton Home Hardware's Joel Pletch Named Young Retailer of the Year

Council acknowledged Joel Pletch as Young Retailer of the Year, expressing encouragement and support for their local career development.

13.2 Grey Bruce Labour Council National Day of Mourning Ceremony

13.3 Bruce County Historical Society Newsletter April 2024

13.4 Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Coordinator Report - January to March 2024

13.5 Drinking Water Source Protection - Access to Free Water Well Testing

Councillor Kuhnke advised Council on the support received so far from 12 Conservation Authorities, 23 Source Protection Committees, and Municipalities who support this request. A delegation request with the Ministry of Health was also being proposed during the AMO Conference to advocate for free well water testing, noting the importance of this service in rural Ontario and specifically in Walkerton.

13.6 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit Board Minutes - January 26, 2024

13.7 Town of Bracebridge Resolution - Declare Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

13.8 Town of Bracebridge Resolution - Request for Provincial Support for Cemetery Operations

13.9 City of Guelph Resolution - Support OEB to End Subsidization of Fossil Gas

13.10 Township of Greater Madawaska Resolution - Municipal Equipment Operator Course

13.11 Township of Horton Resolution - Social and Economic Prosperity Review

13.12 Municipality of Huron Shores Resolution - Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

13.13 City of Kitchener Resolution - Amend Ontario Heritage Act to Allow for Extension of Heritage Register Deadline

13.14 Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution - Securing Access to Natural Gas

13.15 City of Port Colborne Resolution - Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration and Management Support

- 13.16 County of Prince Edward Resolution - Amend O. Reg 39/121 Blue Box for Ineligible Sources
- 13.17 County of Prince Edward Resolution - Create Municipal Accessibility Fund and Implement Donovan Review
- 13.18 City of Richmond Hill Resolution - Extension of Deadline for Listed Non-Designated Heritage Properties
- 13.19 Township of Scugog Resolution - Amend to Ontario Heritage Act for Extended Deadline for Heritage Register
- 13.20 Municipality of Wawa Resolution - Municipal Equipment Operator Course
- 13.21 Municipality of Wawa Resolution - Create Municipal Accessibility Fund and Implement Donovan Review

Resolution 24-13-15

Moved By: Tim Elphick
 Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives all items provided in Section 13. Information.

Carried

14. By-Laws

Resolution 24-13-16

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke
 Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-laws be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2024-034 - Smoking Enforcement By-Law

Tabled

Resolution 24-13-17

Moved By: Tim Elphick
 Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-laws be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2024-035 - 2024 Tax Rates By-Law
- By-Law 2024-036 - Delegation of Signing Authority OILC Loan Application By-Law
- By-Law 2024-037 - Amend 2024 Fees and Charges By-Law (Tennis Pickleball Fees)

Carried

15. Committee Minutes

Resolution 24-13-18

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton receive the minutes of the following committees and or boards as presented:

- Brockton Heritage Committee Minutes - February 5, 2024
- Elmwood Community Centre Board Minutes - March 6, 2024

Carried

16. New Business Brought Forward

17. Closed Session

Resolution 24-13-19

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton enter into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to:

- Labour relations or employee negotiations - **Staffing Update, Department Review**
- Advice that is subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose - **Litigation Update**
- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiation carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board - **Litigation Update**

Carried

Resolution 24-13-20

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approve the direction provided to staff in Closed Session and in doing so acknowledges the hiring of Christine Brandt as Community Development Coordinator.

Carried

18. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 24-13-21

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2024-038 - April 23, 2024 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution 24-13-22

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:33 p.m. to meet again on May 7, 2024.

Carried

Original Signed By

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Original Signed By

Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) – Fiona Hamilton