

## Woodstock City Council Regular Council Minutes

Date: November 7, 2024  
Time: 1:30 PM  
Location: Council Chambers

This meeting was held in person and electronically in accordance with section 238 (3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended, and section 16.6.24 of the City of Woodstock Procedure by-law. This meeting took place in Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall, 500 Dundas Street.

---

### 1. **Closed Session**

Closed Session commenced at 11:30 a.m. in the 2nd floor Board room followed by Open Session in Council Chambers at 1:30 p.m. All Members of Council were present with the exception of Councillor D. Tait who arrived at 1:30 p.m. and Councillor K. Leatherbarrow who left at 2:40 p.m. Mayor J. Acchione chaired the meeting.

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer  
Seconded by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

That Council now convenes in Closed Session of the consideration of:

- security of property of the municipality
- personal matters about identifiable individuals
- a proposed acquisition or disposition of land
- potential litigation affecting the municipality

### **Carried**

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer  
Seconded by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

That Council Adjourned the Closed Session portion of the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

### **Carried**

### 2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

### 3. **Disclosure of New Business**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**5. Minutes**

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer  
Seconded by Councillor B. Martin

That the minutes of the Regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on October 17, 2024 be adopted.

**Carried**

**6. Additions to the Agenda**

**7. Presentations**

**8. Delegations**

**9. Consideration of Planning Reports**

**10. Consideration of Correspondence**

**10.a Councillor C. Lauder requested the following correspondence be added to the agenda: Fair Share Funding**

Moved by Councillor C. Lauder  
Seconded by Councillor B. Martin

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved that Woodstock City Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities;

And further that Woodstock City Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities;

And further that this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs;

And further that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, Oxford MP Arpan Khanna, and Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman;

And further that copies of this resolution be forwarded the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

**Carried**

**Action - Clerks**

10.b Ontario's Child Welfare Services Sector need for Child Welfare Services Funding

Moved by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

Seconded by Councillor D. Tait

That Woodstock City Council authorize the Mayor to write a letter of support for the financial needs of the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County and the need for sustainable child welfare services;

And further that the letter be circulated to all Ontario municipalities for support.

**Carried**

**Action – Mayor's Office, Clerks**

**11. Presentations from Staff and Approved Agents**

11.a Anand Dasia - North Woodstock Recreation Facility Study

Anand Dasia, on behalf of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, presented Council with the North Woodstock Recreation Facility Study, including the concepts and cost estimates. No resolution is required as this refers to Department Reports item 14.d.2

**12. Mayor's Reports**

**13. Councillor Reports**

**14. Department Reports**

14.a Administrative Services

14.b Engineering

14.b.1 2024 Tour of Lights

Moved by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow  
Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That Woodstock City Council direct Staff to take the necessary steps to continue the Tour of Lights program with all ticket sale proceeds going to the United Way and donation proceeds to go to the Salvation Army;

And further that a para transit option be included for the tour of lights program in 2024.

**Carried**

**Action - Engineering**

14.c Cultural Services

14.c.1 Art Acquisition Reserve Fund

Moved by Councillor C. Lauder  
Seconded by Councillor D. Tait

That Woodstock City Council grants the Woodstock Art Gallery's request to draw out \$2,250 from the Art Gallery's Art Acquisition reserve fund (account # 0180-52004-0525) to purchase the art works as identified in the report for the Gallery's permanent collection.

**Carried**

**Action – Administrative Services, Art Gallery**

14.c.2 Presentation of Exhibition John Hartman: Many Lives Mark this Place at the Embassy of Canada, Washington, D.C.

Moved by Councillor D. Tait  
Seconded by Councillor C. Lauder

That Woodstock City Council receive the report regarding the presentation of the exhibition John Hartman: Many Lives Mark this Place at the Embassy of Canada, Washington, D.C., as information.

**Carried**

14.d Parks and Recreation

14.d.1 Pavilion Donation

Moved by Councillor D. Tait  
 Seconded by Councillor M. Schadenberg

That Woodstock City Council approves the allocation of a James Leslie and Family donation of \$500,000 to build two Park Pavilions, one on the Northshore and one on the Southshore of Pittock Park.

**Carried**

**Action – Administrative Services, Parks and Recreation**

14.d.2 Recreation Facility Study

Moved by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow  
 Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That Woodstock City Council directs staff to obtain public feedback on the North Woodstock Recreation Facility.

**Carried**

**Action – Parks and Recreation, Marketing and Communications**

14.e Economic Development

14.f Clerks

14.f.1 2025 Regular Council Meeting Schedule

Moved by Councillor B. Martin  
 Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That the Woodstock City Council meeting dates for the months of July, August and December 2025 and January 2026 be scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, July 10, 2025
- Thursday, August 14, 2025
- Thursday, December 11, 2025 and,
- Thursday, January 15, 2026.

**Carried**

**Action - Clerks**

14.g Chief Administrative Officer

14.h Human Resources

14.i Fire Services

14.j Public Works

14.k Information Technology

**15. Special Committee and Advisory Task Force Reports**

**16. Notice of Motion**

**17. New Business**

17.a Councillor D. Tait put forth the following motion:

Moved by Councillor D. Tait  
Seconded by Councillor B. Martin

That Woodstock City Council provide a \$500 Grant to the Woodstock Baptist Cemetery, funded from the Community and Social Well-Being Reserve Fund, in order to provide support to clean up an encampment on the cemetery property.

**Carried**

**Action – Administrative Services**

**18. Draft By-laws**

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer  
Seconded by Councillor D. Tait

That the following by-laws be given a first and second reading:

- 9717-24 - A by-law to amend the City of Woodstock Municipal Code Chapter 745 – Maintenance – Occupancy Standards.
- 9718-24 - A by-law to provide for the dedication and naming of parts of highways in the City of Woodstock.
- 9719-24 - A by-law to amend By-law Number 4975-74, a by-law to provide for the naming of certain highways within the City of Woodstock.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer  
Seconded by Councillor D. Tait

That the following by-laws be given a third and final reading:

- 9717-24 - A by-law to amend the City of Woodstock Municipal Code Chapter 745 – Maintenance – Occupancy Standards.

- 9718-24 - A by-law to provide for the dedication and naming of parts of highways in the City of Woodstock.
- 9719-24 - A by-law to amend By-law Number 4975-74, a by-law to provide for the naming of certain highways within the City of Woodstock.

**Carried**

**19. Questions and Address by Members of Council**

**20. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor M. Schadenberg  
Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That the meeting adjourn at 2:52 p.m.

**Carried**

---

Mayor – Jerry Acchione

---

City Clerk – Amelia Humphries