

Woodstock City Council Regular Council Minutes

Date: February 6, 2025
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 12:50 p.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 B. Martin. Mayor J. Acchione chaired the meeting.

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

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

- two personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and,
- a labour relations or employee negotiations matter that also relates to a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board

Carried

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

That Council adjourned the Closed Session portion of the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor D. Tait declared a conflict of interest for the closed session held on February 3, 2025 with respect to agenda item 4.1. Councillor Tait was not in the room during the consideration of the matter.

Councillor D. Tait also declared a conflict of interest and refrained from discussing Council agenda item 14.b.1 - Athlone Avenue - Reconstruction Contract No. 11363 - Tender Award as her son is employed by Viewcon, the contractor.

Councillor D. Tait also declared a conflict of interest and refrained from discussing Council agenda item 14.b.3 - Warwick Street Reconstruction - Contract No. 11167-1 - Tender Award as her son is employed by Viewcon, the contractor.

Councillor K. Leatherbarrow declared a conflict of interest for the closed session held on February 3, 2025 with respect to agenda item 4.1. Councillor Leatherbarrow was not in the room during the consideration of the matter.

3. Disclosure of New Business

3.a Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer put forth the following motion for Council's consideration under New Business:

That the 2025 Budget Meeting Schedule be amended to reschedule the 2025 Revenue Budget Review Meeting from Thursday, February 27, 2025 to Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Minutes

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

That the minutes of the Regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on January 16, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

6. Additions to the Agenda

7. Presentations

8. Delegations

8.a Daniel Wilford - Request to change a street name

Daniel Wilford requested that Council change the name of "Wilford Drive" to "Jack Wilford Way" to more specifically honour his father, a fallen Woodstock firefighter.

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

That Woodstock City Council approve the renaming of the street name of "Wilford Drive" to "Jack Wilford Way."

Carried

Action – Engineering, Clerks

8.b Asier Ania, Nick Petrakis, Chris Ollson, Mark van der Wood, and Caitlin Port - Boralex - Oxford Battery Energy Storage Project

Representatives from Boralex provided Council with information regarding the development of the Oxford Battery Energy Storage Project in the Township of South-West Oxford on the south-west border of Woodstock.

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

That Woodstock City Council receive the presentation from Boralex regarding the Oxford Battery Energy Storage project as information.

Carried

9. Consideration of Planning Reports

10. Consideration of Correspondence

10.a Councillor D. Tait has requested the following correspondence to be added to the agenda: Improvements to Catch and Release System

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

That Woodstock City Council supports the resolution from the Town of Colbalt and the Town of Plympton-Wyoming calling on the Federal and Provincial Governments to make meaningful improvements to the current state of Catch and Release Justice in the Ontario legal system, and further,

That this resolution be forwarded to The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General; The Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General; Arpan Khanna, Oxford MP; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA); and the Associations of Municipalities Association (AMO).

Carried

Action - Clerks

10.b Eric Molinaro - WCI Teacher/OFSAA Convenor - Woodstock Collegiate Institute- Request for use of surrounding Municipal parking lots

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

Seconded by Councillor C. Lauder

That Woodstock City Council approve the request from Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI) to use the surrounding municipal lots in proximity to WCI to permit restriction-free parking on March 3, 2025 and March 4, 2025 for a Basketball Tournament, subject to city staff approval.

Carried

Action – BIA, Engineering, Economic Development

10.c Councillor L. Wismer- Van Meer has requested the following correspondence to be added to the agenda: Opposition to Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes and Support for Municipal Authority in Transportation Planning

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

Seconded by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

That Woodstock City Council supports the resolution from the Town of Aylmer regarding Opposition to Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes and Support for Municipal Authority in Transportation Planning in defense of local decision-making authority and sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation planning, and further,

That this resolution be forward to The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Hon. Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried

Action - Clerks

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

12. **Mayor's Reports**

13. **Councillor Reports**

14. **Department Reports**

14.a **Administrative Services**

14.b Engineering

14.b.1 Athlone Avenue- Reconstruction Contract No. 11363- Tender Award

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

That Woodstock City Council award the tender for the reconstruction of Athlone Avenue to Viewcon Construction Limited, in the amount of \$1,360,452.73 inclusive of HST.

Carried

Action - Engineering

14.b.2 2024 Annual Building Report

Moved by Councillor C. Lauder
Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That Woodstock City Council receive the 2024 Annual Building Report as information.

Carried

14.b.3 Warwick Street Reconstruction - Contract No. 11167-1 - Tender Award

Moved by Councillor C. Lauder
Seconded by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer

That Woodstock City Council award the tender for the reconstruction of Warwick Street to Viewcon Construction Limited, in the amount of \$804,983.20 inclusive of HST.

Carried

Action - Engineering

14.b.4 Purchase of a Replacement-Transit Bus

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer
Seconded by Councillor C. Lauder

That Woodstock City Council confirms the waiver of the tendering requirements of Municipal Code Chapter 376 – Procurement of Goods and Services and authorize the purchase of one 2025 Nova transit bus in the amount of \$869,999 plus HST, and further,

That an additional \$130,000 be funded using Provincial Dedicated Gas Tax.

Carried

Action – Engineering, Administrative Services

14.b.5 Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Housing Enabling Core Servicing Stream (MHIP-HECS) Application Update

Moved by Councillor D. Tait

Seconded by Councillor M. Schadenberg

That Woodstock City Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) for Pittock Park Road Urbanization with the Province of Ontario, and further,

That Woodstock City Council approve the addition of \$62,500 funded from Reserve – Capital Projects and \$62,500 funded from Grants – HECS to project INF00191 Pittock Park Road Urbanization in the 2025 Capital Budget.

Carried

Action – Engineering, Administrative Services, Clerks

14.c Cultural Services

14.d Parks and Recreation

14.e Economic Development

14.f 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

16.a Councillor C. Lauder put forward the following Notice of Motion:

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to prepare a report outlining the legal framework for converting a City-County Councillor position to a Deputy Mayor position, commencing in the 2026-2030 term of Council.

17. New Business

17.a Councillor B. Martin put forth the following motion for Council's consideration:

As Councillor Martin was not in attendance, this motion will be included under New Business for the February 20, 2025 Council meeting.

17.b Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer put for the following motion for Council's consideration:

Moved by Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer
Seconded by Councillor C. Lauder

That the 2025 Budget Meeting Schedule be amended to reschedule the 2025 Revenue Budget Review Meeting from Thursday, February 27, 2025 to Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Carried

Action – Clerks, Information Technology, Administrative Services, Mayor & CAO's Office

18. Draft By-laws

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

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

- 9729-25 - A by-law to authorize the use of alternative voting methods and voting counting equipment for the 2026 City of Woodstock Municipal and School Board Election.

Carried

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

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

- 9729-25 - A by-law to authorize the use of alternative voting methods and voting counting equipment for the 2026 City of Woodstock Municipal and School Board Election.

Carried

19. Questions and Address by Members of Council

20. Adjournment

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

That the meeting adjourn at 2:34 p.m.

Carried

Mayor – Jerry Acchione

City Clerk – Amelia Humphries