

Woodstock City Council

Regular Council Minutes

Date: April 2, 2026
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**

There was no closed session. Open session commenced at 1:30 p.m.

All members of Council were present. Mayor J. Acchione chaired the meeting.

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor L. Wismer Van-Meer declared a conflict of interest and refrained from discussing item 15.a - 2026 Community Grant Program as she is employed full-time by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County, a recommended grant recipient.

3. **Disclosure of New Business**

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

5. **Minutes**

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

That the minutes of the Regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on March 19, 2026 be adopted.

Carried

6. **Additions to the Agenda**

7. **Presentations**

8. **Delegations**

8.a **Brian Petrie, Chair UTRCA - Ontario Conservation Authorities Update**

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

That Woodstock City Council receive the presentation from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority regarding the Conservation Authorities Consolidation update as information.

Carried

9. **Consideration of Planning Reports**

10. **Consideration of Correspondence**

10.a **2026 IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's - Request to Display an Advertising Road Sign**

Moved by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow
Seconded by Councillor B. Martin

That Woodstock City Council approve the request from the Alzheimer Society to display an advertising road sign from April 27th - May 25th, 2026, at the corner of Juliana Drive and Finkle Street, subject to staff approval.

Carried

10.b **Mayor Acchione has requested the following correspondence be added to the agenda: Protection for Municipal Public Works Workers and Contractors**

Moved by Councillor M. Schadenberg
Seconded by Councillor C. Lauder

Whereas municipal public works employees and contracted service providers are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, drainage systems, and winter maintenance operations that are essential to public safety and emergency response; and

Whereas during significant weather events and emergencies, these workers act as frontline responders, ensuring routes remain open for ambulances, fire services, police, school transportation, and the travelling public; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario are reporting an increase in harassment, threats, intimidation, and dangerous interference from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors while they perform their duties; and

Whereas these behaviours have included verbal abuse, threats of violence, obstruction of equipment, and actions that delay or disrupt winter maintenance

and emergency response operations, placing workers and the broader public at risk; and

Whereas interference with municipal operations during storms and emergencies jeopardizes service levels, delays critical response times, and creates significant occupational health and safety risks; and

Whereas the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has formally called on the Province of Ontario to strengthen legislative protections, enforcement support, and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal public works staff and contractors;

Now therefore be it resolved that Woodstock City Council supports the calls to action advanced by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to improve protections for municipal public works workers and subcontractors; and

Be it further resolved that the Province of Ontario be requested to introduce legislative and enforcement measures that:

- recognize municipal public works workers and contractors as essential service providers during declared significant weather events and emergencies;
- deter and penalize interference, threats, harassment, or obstruction of municipal operations; and
- provide clear direction and support to police services to proactively respond to these incidents;

And be it further resolved that a letter conveying Council's support for these measures be sent to:

- The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors and neighbouring municipalities for their consideration.

Carried

Action - Clerks

11. Presentations from Staff and Approved Agents11.a Meredith Maywood, Tourism Manager, Oxford County - Oxford Tourism Update

Moved by Councillor B. Martin
Seconded by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

That Woodstock City Council receive the 2025/2026 update presentation from Tourism Oxford as information.

Carried

12. Mayor's Reports**13. Councillor Reports****14. Department Reports**14.a Administrative Services14.a.1 Court Security & Prisoner Transportation Transfer Payment Agreement

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

That Woodstock City Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, as represented by the Solicitor General, for the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation program and that the necessary by-law be read.

Carried

Action – Administrative Services

14.b Engineering14.b.1 2026 Woodstock Public Library Asset Management Plan

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

That Woodstock City Council approves the 2026 Woodstock Public Library Asset Management Plan;

And further that the 2026 Woodstock Public Library Asset Management Plan be posted on the City's website to comply with O.Reg. 588/17.

Carried

Action – Engineering

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.i.1 Woodstock Radio Infrastructure – Timeserver Replacement

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

That Woodstock City Council approve the replacement of the timeserver at Woodstock Police Service Headquarters in the amount of \$8,003.05, plus applicable taxes, to be funded from the Provision for Radio – Fire & Police account.

Carried

Action – Administrative Services, Fire

- 14.j Public Works
- 14.k Information Technology
- 15. Special Committee and Advisory Task Force Reports**
- 15.a 2026 Community Grant Program

Moved by Councillor M. Schadenberg
 Seconded by Councillor K. Leatherbarrow

That Woodstock City Council, in accordance with Community Grants Policy GA003, allocate the following grants for the 2026 Spring Intake:

| Organization | Amount Awarded |
|---|----------------|
| Big Brothers Big Sisters | \$15,700.00 |
| Focus on Nature | \$3,000.00 |
| Indwell | \$9,800.00 |
| KidS Du Committee -- Woodstock Triathlon Club | \$1,000.00 |
| land to loom | \$1,000.00 |
| Operation Sharing | \$20,000.00 |
| Oxford County Pride | \$5,000.00 |
| Oxford County Branch of Ontario Ancestors | \$805.00 |
| Woodstock & District Development Services | \$10,000.00 |
| Woodstock Minor Ball Association | \$3,080.00 |
| Woodstock Rotary Music Festival | \$5,000.00 |
| Woodstock Wildcats Girls Hockey Association | \$7,210.00 |

Carried

Action – Administrative Services, Clerks

16. Notice of Motion

- 16.a Councillor L. Wismer-Van Meer put forth the following Notice of Motion for Council's consideration at the April 16, 2026 Council meeting:

WHEREAS volunteers play a vital role in strengthening the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS the contributions of volunteers enhance quality of life, support vulnerable populations, and foster a spirit of civic pride and engagement; and

WHEREAS thriving and resilient communities are built on the dedication, compassion, and generosity of individuals who give their time and skills without expectation of compensation; and

WHEREAS it is important for Council to formally recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of volunteers whose efforts make a meaningful difference in our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Woodstock City Council establish a Volunteer Recognition Grant Program funded through the existing Community Grants Program, with an annual allocation of up to \$5,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the program provide for up to five (5) annual awards of \$1,000 each, to be granted in recognition of exceptional volunteer contributions, with funds directed to a local registered charity of each recipient's choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT nominations for the Volunteer Recognition Grant Program be accepted once annually, with submissions reviewed by Council and/or the Community Grants Committee, who will select the recipients based on established criteria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to develop program guidelines, eligibility criteria, and an application process, and report back to Council as required to implement the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this program serve to highlight the critical role of volunteerism in building a strong, connected, and compassionate community.

17. New Business

18. Draft By-laws

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

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

- 9814-26 - A by-law to amend Zoning By-law Number 8626-10, as amended.- ZN8-26-05-30 Ridgeway Circle
- 9815-26 - A by-law to amend Zoning By-law Number 8626-10, as amended.-ZN8-25-10 - 760 Juliana Drive
- 9816-26 - A by-law to amend the City of Woodstock Municipal Code Chapter 134 – Officials -Appointments
- 9817-26 - A by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign an Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, represented by the Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario, for the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation program
- 9818-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan - Downtown Revitalization project

- 9819-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Pittock Park Road Urbanization
- 9820-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Complex Roof Replacement
- 9821-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of Cowan Park Indoor Turf Replacement

Carried

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

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

- 9814-26 - A by-law to amend Zoning By-law Number 8626-10, as amended.- ZN8-26-05-30 Ridgeway Circle
- 9815-26 - A by-law to amend Zoning By-law Number 8626-10, as amended.-ZN8-25-10 - 760 Juliana Drive
- 9816-26 - A by-law to amend the City of Woodstock Municipal Code Chapter 134 – Officials -Appointments
- 9817-26 - A by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign an Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, represented by the Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario, for the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation program
- 9818-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Downtown Woodstock Streetscape Master Plan - Downtown Revitalization project
- 9819-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Pittock Park Road Urbanization
- 9820-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of the Complex Roof Replacement
- 9821-26 - A by-law to provide for the financing of Cowan Park Indoor Turf Replacement

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 2:59 p.m.

Carried

Mayor – Jerry Acchione

City Clerk – Amelia Humphries