

City of Pembroke

Council Meeting

Council Chambers
PEMBROKE, Ontario
October 20, 2015
7:25 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of Council was held this evening with Mayor LeMay presiding and all members of Council in attendance except for Councillor Lafreniere. Also in attendance were Terry Lapierre, CAO/Clerk and Linda Rook, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES:

1. On motion of Councillor Plummer, seconded by Councillor Scott, the Minutes of the Meeting of Council of October 6, 2015 were approved as circulated.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Mayor LeMay reported that a Grade five class from Holy Name School visited City Hall on October 7, 2015 as part of their Social Studies program. He thanked Lynn Urlocker for taking the students on a tour of the building and explaining the work in various departments.
- B. Mayor LeMay reported that he attended the Eastern Ontario Mayor's Committee held in Kingston on October 9, 2015. The main topic of discussion was economic development in Eastern Ontario.
- C. Mayor LeMay attended the completion ceremony at Algonquin College on October 8, 2015 and brought congratulations on behalf of Council to the students who helped complete the rebuilding of the Boardwalk. The Mayor also congratulated Murray Kyte, chair of the technology, outdoor and business programs at the College, and wished him well in his new position as Vice-President of Advancement at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.
- D. Mayor LeMay attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Mark's in the Pembroke Mall on October 16, 2015. The Mayor thanked the franchise owners, Dave and Gayle Smyth, for their commitment to our community and recognized that they not only doubled the size of their space, but doubled the size of their staff.
- E. Mayor LeMay represented Council at the tapping of the keg ceremony at the Octoberfest celebration organized by the Germania Club on October 17, 2015 and

brought thanks for the Club's continued support within our community.

- F. Deputy Mayor Gervais reported that he and Councillor Reavie attended the Pembroke Handi Bus Meeting and he gave a report. The Deputy Mayor invited all to participate in the Pembroke Handi-Bus Polar Bear Dip.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

2. Mayor LeMay proclaimed the week of October 19 – 25, 2015 as "Waste Reduction Week in Canada".

MOTION TO HEAR:

On motion of Councillor Plummer, seconded by Councillor McCann, the Mayor asked if anyone was present to speak to Council. There was no one present to address Council.
CARRIED

MOTIONS:

Resolution No. 021

3. Moved by Deputy Mayor Gervais, seconded by Councillor Reavie;

WHEREAS a Vacancy Rebate Program, as defined under Section 364 of The Municipal Act and Ontario Regulation 325/01, allows for property tax relief to be granted to eligible business properties when vacant for a minimum of 90 consecutive days;

AND WHEREAS the City of Pembroke does not believe that the Provincial legislation intended that local taxpayers bear the cost of a business/collective bargaining strategy when such "vacancy" is caused by a labour disruption, such as an employee lockout/strike;

AND WHEREAS a recent interim decision by the Assessment Review Board to allow for a vacancy tax rebate under these circumstances is precedent setting, unless overturned on appeal;

AND WHEREAS the City of Pembroke believes there should be a limit on the number of consecutive years a property should be permitted to receive a vacancy rebate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs be requested to review this legislation from a public policy perspective, to ensure that businesses are not eligible for a reduced property tax

burden if the claimed “vacancy” is a result of a labour disruption or long term strategy;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs be requested to review this legislation in consultation with municipal stakeholders to ensure the tax burden to local taxpayers is considered;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the following for their support:

- M.P.P. John Yakabuski
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association
- Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

CARRIED

CONFIRMING BY-LAW:

The following by-law was now introduced and read a first, second and third time, short and passed, Rule 71 being suspended for that purpose, on motion of members named, viz:

By-law 18-2015, being a by-law to confirm these proceedings of the regular meeting of Council of the 20 of October, 2015.
(Councillor Reavie, Councillor Scott)

CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting then adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on motion of Councillor Reavie, seconded by Councillor McCann.

CARRIED

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Mayor