

City of Pembroke Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
December 17, 2019
7:22 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

Mayor LeMay
Deputy Mayor Gervais
Councillor Abdallah
Councillor Jacyno
Councillor Lafreniere
Councillor Plummer
Councillor Reavie

Also Present:

Terry Lapierre, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

Mayor LeMay called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:22 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer or Reflection

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

Deputy Mayor Gervais declared a pecuniary interest in regards to agenda item 5a. 2019-62 – Sale of Land (International Drive) as the office of Sheppard & Gervais is involved in the matter. Deputy Mayor Gervais also indicated that he did not attend the Council meeting in Caucus this evening as he had a pecuniary interest to the agenda item discussed as the office of Sheppard & Gervais is involved in the matter.

4. Minutes

- i. Approve minutes from Council
 - a. December 3, 2019

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Reavie
Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the minutes of the regular meeting of Council of December 3, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Carried

- ii. Adopt minutes from Committees
 - a. Parks & Recreation Committee – November 19, 2019

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere
Seconded by Councillor Abdallah

That the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting of November 19, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

b. Operations Committee

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gervais

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting of November 19, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

5. By-Laws

Deputy Mayor Gervais left the table due to his perceived pecuniary interest.

a. 2019-62 – Sale of Land (International Drive)

Motion

Moved by Councillor Reavie

Seconded by Councillor Abdallah

That By-law 2019-62, a By-law to authorize the proposed sale of lands be adopted and passed;

And Further That the said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

Deputy Mayor Gervais returned to the table.

b. 2019-63 – Fire Fighters' Collective Agreement

Motion

Moved by Councillor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Reavie

That By-law 2019-63, a By-law to provide for the execution of a Collective Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Pembroke and the Pembroke Professional Firefighters' Association be adopted and passed;

And Further That the said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

6. Motions

a. Resolution 026 – Sub-Class Reductions

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

Whereas the Province of Ontario has provided municipalities, flexibility to make changes to Sub-Class Reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes;

And Whereas the City of Pembroke wishes to phase out the Sub-Class reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes;

And Whereas the proposed phase out of Sub-Class Reductions would reduce the reduction percentage for excess land and vacant land in the commercial property tax class in the years 2020 and 2021, to 20% and 10% respectively;

And Whereas the proposed phase out of Sub-Class Reductions would reduce the reduction percentage for excess land and vacant land in the industrial property tax class in the years 2020 and 2021, to 25% and 15% respectively;

And Whereas the proposed Sub-Class Reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes, would be eliminated in the years 2022 and beyond;

And Whereas the City of Pembroke undertook a campaign to seek input from the public and to inform ratepayers, including those in the business community, of the proposed changes to Sub-Class Reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes, which included:

1. Sending letters to ratepayers that currently own excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes, inviting them to a public information session and to submit comments in writing;
2. Advertised a public information session on City's website and in the Pembroke Daily Observer.

And Whereas the City of Pembroke held a public information session for ratepayers, including the business community on November 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall;

And Whereas Council of the City of Pembroke has given due consideration to the impact on the business community and comments received from members of the public;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Pembroke is seeking consent from the Province of Ontario, through the Minister of Finance, to phase out the Sub-class Reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial property tax class by reducing the reduction to 20% and 15% in 2020 and 2021 respectively;

And, Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Pembroke is seeking consent from the Province of Ontario, through the Minister of Finance, to eliminate the Sub-Class Reductions for excess land and vacant land in the commercial and industrial property tax classes in 2022 and beyond.

Carried

7. Correspondence

A petition from Sher Brisebois was received in regards to the Grind's application for space at the former fire hall located at 173 Victoria Street.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor LeMay indicated that on Wednesday, December 4th he brought greetings on behalf of Council to those in attendance and thanked the Library staff, Board members and volunteers, at the Library's Christmas Tea.

On December 10th, Mayor LeMay attended the County of Renfrew Council meeting where Laurentian Valley Reeve, Debbie Robinson was elected Warden. Mayor LeMay congratulated her on her election.

On December 16th, Mayor LeMay brought greetings on behalf of Council at the kick-off of the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.

9. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motions.

10. Councillor Updates

Councillor Lafreniere mentioned that the Seniors' Affairs Advisory Committee recommended that the City of Pembroke sponsor Christmas Concerts for Seniors. She reported that there was an excellent response to the five free Christmas Concerts featuring Erin Leahy and Louis Schryer.

Councillor Abdallah thanked Council members for their guidance this past year and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councillor Plummer stated that the Township of White Water Region is interested in joining the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.

Councillor Reavie mentioned that the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

11. Closed Session

Mayor LeMay indicated that there was a Closed Session of Council held earlier this evening to discuss a proposed or pending disposition of land by the municipality and that staff was directed to move forward with the disposition of land located in the TransCan Corporate Park.

A pecuniary interest was declared by Deputy Mayor Gervais as his office is involved in the matter.

12. Confirming By-law

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

That By-law 24-2019 to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council of December 17, 2019 be adopted and passed; and

Further That the said By-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

13. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gervais

Seconded by Councillor Abdallah

That the December 17, 2019 regular meeting of Council adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Carried

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Mayor