General Committee Minutes

Council Chambers, City Hall

October 27, 2025

Present: Councillor Baldwin
Councillor Beamer, Chair
Councillor Bierk
Councillor Crowley
Councillor Duguay (virtual)
Councillor Haacke
Councillor Lachica
Mayor Leal
Councillor Parnell
Councillor Riel
Councillor Vassiliadis

Staff: Colton Ambrosio, Clerk & Council Support Specialist
Brad Appleby, Director, Planning, Development and Urban Design
Richard Freymond, Commissioner, Finance and Corporate Support Services
Darryl Julott, Director, Economic Development
John Kennedy, City Clerk
Caroline Kimble, Policy Planning Manager
Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner, Community Services
Jennifer McFarlane, Director, People and Culture
Blair Nelson, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Planning & Growth Management
Milan Nguyen, Planner, Policy and Research
David Potts, Commissioner, Legislative Services
Jasbir Raina, Chief Administrative Officer
Sriram Raman, Manager, Government Relations
Ilmar Simanovskis, Director, Municipal Operations
Brendan Wedley, Director, Strategic Communications & Service Peterborough

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of Pecuniary Interest.

Presentations

Presentation by Alto (High-Speed Rail), Report LSCLK25-011

Moved by Councillor Vassiliadis

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSCLK25-011 dated October 27, 2025, of the City Clerk as follows:

That the presentation from Alto regarding the High-Speed Rail project, be received for information.

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

Presentation by Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit (Lakelands Public Health), Report LSCLK25-018

Moved by Councillor Lachica

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSCLK25-018 dated October 27, 2025, of the City Clerk as follows:

That the presentation from Dr. Piggott, Medical Officer of Health, be received for information.

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

Notice of Motion

Councillor Lachica left the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Parnell

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

Whereas Ontario’s municipally elected officials and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials and municipal staff that encourages individuals to participate in the political process.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Peterborough supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and

Be It Further Resolved That the City of Peterborough calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, the Peterborough Police Chief, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Parnell

That the main motion be amended as follows:

To amend the last paragraph to include the following: Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario

Rob Flack, the Peterborough Police Chief, Peterborough Fire Chief, Peterborough EMS Chief, Medical Officer of Health, all local school board chairs and all Ontario Municipalities.

For (9): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (1): Councillor Riel

Carried (9 to 1)

Moved by Councillor Bierk

That the main motion be amended as follows:

Be It Further Resolved That the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor be engaged in the implementation and communication of this initiative, and that staff explore opportunities to better integrate their expertise into Council's ongoing efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful civic environment

For (10): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (10 to 0)

Moved by Councillor Parnell

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

Whereas Ontario’s municipally elected officials and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials and municipal staff that encourages individuals to participate in the political process.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Peterborough supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- **Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online**
- **Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,**
- **Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,**
- **Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,**
- **Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and**
- **Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and**

Be It Further Resolved That the City of Peterborough calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario Rob Flack, the Peterborough Police Chief, Peterborough Fire Chief, Peterborough EMS Chief, Medical Officer of Health, all local school board chairs and all Ontario Municipalities; and

Be It Further Resolved That the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor be engaged in the implementation and communication of this initiative, and that staff explore opportunities to better integrate their expertise into Council's ongoing efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful civic environment.

For (9): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (1): Councillor Riel

Carried (9 to 1)

Councillor Lachica returned to the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Public Meeting under the Planning Act - 6:34 p.m.

Official Plan Amendment – Strategic Growth Areas Policies and Community Planning Permit System, Report IPGPL25-044

The following made delegations:

Ian Attridge, Reimagine Peterborough
Alan Deaton, 169 Lake Street
Chloe Black, 475 Parkhill Road
Courtney Claessens, 33 Cricket Place

Moved by Councillor Duguay

a) That Report IPGPL25-044 be received;

b) That the City's Official Plan be amended in accordance with the draft Official Plan Amendment attached as Appendix A to Report IPGPL25-044 to update policies for the Strategic Growth Areas and enable the implementation of a city-wide Community Planning Permit System; and

c) That the City's Official Plan be amended in accordance with the draft Official Plan Amendment attached as Appendix B to Report IPGPL25-044 to implement Council's motion dated April 28, 2025 to remove building height and angular plane requirements within the Strategic Growth Areas from the Official Plan.

Moved by Councillor Lachica

That the main motion be amended as follows:

To adopt and revise paragraph b) in Report IPGPL25-044 to read:

b) That the City's Official Plan be amended in accordance with the draft Outline Plan Amendment attached as Appendix A to Report IPGPL25-044 to update policies for the Strategic Growth Areas and enable the implementation of a city-wide Community Planning Permit System, as revised as follows:

i) in paragraphs 4.4.2 g and m iv, references to "Sherbrooke Street and Clonsilla Avenue" are retained and references to "Sherbrooke Street and Medical Drive" are deleted; [see also pdf p.3, s.4.4.2 b re: n iv] and,

ii) in paragraph 7.20 c, add to the CPPS's guiding principles with "foster environmental protection, sustainability and good design."

For (9): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (2): Councillor Duguay, and Councillor Parnell

Carried (9 to 2)

The Chair ruled the following to be out of order:

“… in paragraph 4.4.2 m iv regarding automobile-focused uses and watercourse setbacks, add “Jackson Creek and the Trent-Severn Canal” to the reference to the “Otonabee River/Little Lake”

Moved by Councillor Crowley

Item D was added as follows:

(d) "That staff, in preparing the forthcoming Community Planning Permit By-law, be directed to investigate the following options:

1. **to require, for any Class 3 permits, a mandatory mixed-use component for any development where appropriate;**
2. **identify affordable (non-market housing) and Parkland as the preferred Facility Service or Matter in the list of options for Council consideration;**
3. **Public notice and on-site signage requirements for major permit applications;**
4. **Creation of an online public registry of active and approved CPP permits"**

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

The Chair ruled the following amending motion by Council Riel out of order:

Be it received that:

1. Council direct staff to hold another round of community consultation before bringing forward the final CPPS By-law for approval.
2. This consultation will include:

a. Meetings with each Strategic Growth Area so residents can share local concerns

b. A simple feedback process about key issues such as building height, and how decisions will be made

c. Written and in person feedback that will be summarized and reported back to Council.

3. Staff will prepare a “What We Heard” – Phase 2 summary to show how feed back was used in the final CPPS By-law in 2026

The ruling by the Chair was challenged.

Moved by Councillor Riel

That the Chair's ruling be upheld.

For (6): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (5): Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, and Councillor Riel

Carried (6 to 5)

The Chair ruled the following amending motion by Councillor Bierk to be a reconsideration:

WHEREAS Report IPGPL25-044 recommends amending the City’s Official Plan to establish a city-wide Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) and to remove existing building-height and angular-plane requirements within the Strategic Growth Areas;

AND WHEREAS Council supports the implementation of the CPPS as a tool to streamline approvals and support housing targets under the Housing Accelerator Fund;

AND WHEREAS the proposed removal of height and angular-plane policies has raised significant public concern regarding design compatibility and the loss of clear built-form direction before the CPPS By-law is adopted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council amend the recommendations of Report IPGPL25-044 as follows:

That Appendix A to Report IPGPL25-044 be approved to establish the policy framework for a city-wide Community Planning Permit System; and

That Appendix B, which proposes the removal of all building-height and angular-plane policies from the Official Plan, be referred back to staff to undertake additional analysis and public consultation on height and transition policies for each Strategic Growth Area, and report back to Council with options for consideration prior to adoption.

Moved by Councillor Bierk

That the Chair's ruling be upheld.

For (7): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (4): Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Lachica, and Councillor Riel

Carried (7 to 4)

No further action was taken regarding the motion.

Moved by Councillor Duguay

That the question be put

For (8): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (3): Councillor Bierk, Councillor Lachica, and Councillor Riel

Carried (8 to 3)

Councillor Bierk requested the items be separated for voting.

Moved by Councillor Duguay

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPGPL25-044, dated October 27, 2025 of the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management as follows:

a) That Report IPGPL25-044 be received;

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Councillor Duguay

b) That the City's Official Plan be amended in accordance with the draft Outline Plan Amendment attached as Appendix A to Report IPGPL25-044 to update policies for the Strategic Growth Areas and enable the implementation of a city-wide Community Planning Permit System, as revised as follows:

> **i) in paragraphs 4.4.2 g and m iv, references to "Sherbrooke Street and Clonsilla Avenue" are retained and references to "Sherbrooke Street and Medical Drive" are deleted; [see also pdf p.3, s.4.4.2 b re: n iv] and,**
>
> **ii) in paragraph 7.20 c, add to the CPPS's guiding principles with "foster environmental protection, sustainability and good design."**

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Councillor Duguay

c) That the City's Official Plan be amended in accordance with the draft Official Plan Amendment attached as Appendix B to Report IPGPL25-044 to implement Council's motion dated April 28, 2025 to remove building height and angular plane requirements within the Strategic Growth Areas from the Official Plan.

For (8): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (3): Councillor Bierk, Councillor Lachica, and Councillor Riel

Carried (8 to 3)

Moved by Councillor Duguay

(d) "That staff, in preparing the forthcoming Community Planning Permit By-law, be directed to investigate the following options:

1. **to require, for any Class 3 permits, a mandatory mixed-use component for any development where appropriate;**
2. **identify affordable (non-market housing) and Parkland as the preferred Facility Service or Matter in the list of options for Council consideration;**
3. **Public notice and on-site signage requirements for major permit applications;**
4. **Creation of an online public registry of active and approved CPP permits"**

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Vassiliadis

That this meeting be adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Chair, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (11 to 0)

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John Kennedy

City Clerk

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Councillor Beamer

Chair