City Council Minutes

Council Chambers, City Hall

May 20, 2025

Present: Councillor Baldwin
Councillor Beamer
Councillor Bierk
Councillor Crowley
Councillor Duguay
Councillor Haacke
Councillor Lachica
Mayor Leal
Councillor Parnell
Councillor Riel
Councillor Vassiliadis

Staff: Brad Appleby, Director, Planning Development and Urban Design
Natalie Garnett, Deputy City Clerk
Greg Giles, Director, Engineering and Capital Works
Darrly Julott, Director, Economic Development
John Kennedy, City Clerk
Peter Malin, Manager, Traffic and Parking Services
Rob McAulay, Director, Recreation Services
Jennifer McFarlane, Director, People and Culture
Blair Nelson, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Planning & Growth Management
David Potts, Commissioner, Legislative Services, City Solicitor
Jeeniraj Thevasagayam, Manager, Housing
Brendan Wedley, Director, Strategic Communications & Service Peterborough

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Crowley
Seconded by Councillor Vassiliadis

That the Council minutes of March 17 and April 7, 2025 be approved.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Duguay declared an interest in Report IPGPL25-022 - Zoning By-law Amendment for 922 Fairbairn Street, as a family member represents the property owner.

Councillor Duguay declared an interest in By-law 25-072, being a By-law to amend the Zoning By-law for the lands known as 922 Fairbairn Street, as a family member represents the property owner.

Councillor Duguay declared an interest in Report IPGPL25-024 - Zoning By-law Amendment for 1628 Sherbrooke Street, as a family member represents the property owner.

Councillor Duguay declared an interest in By-law 25-074 being a By-law to amend the Zoning By-law for the lands municipally known as 1628 Sherbrooke Street, as a family member represents the property owner.

Mayor Leal declared an interest in Report MOWAT25-003- Approval to Replace Watermain Across Trent Canal from Armour Road to Maniece Avenue, as he owns property in area.

Councillor Duguay's video for his candidacy for a position on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities was aired in the Council meeting.

Registered Delegations

Physician Recruitment Pilot Project Update, Report IPGED25-001

Chetan Mehta, Toronto

Consent Items

Moved by Councillor Parnell
Seconded by Councillor Haacke

That items Agreement - Report FCSFS25-004, Litigation - Report LSOCS25-004, Litigation - Report LSOCS25-006, Litigation - Report LSOCS25-007, Legislation - Report LSOCS25-008, Zoning By-law Amendment for 112 Hospital Drive - Report IPGPL25-023, and Modernization of the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan -, Report IPGPL25-019 be approved on consent.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Agreement, Report FCSFS25-004

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report FCSFS25-009, dated May 12, 2025 of the Commissioner, Finance and Corporate Support Services as follows:

That Council authorize staff to proceed as outlined in Closed Session Report FCSFS25-009 dated May 12, 2025, of the Commissioner, Finance and Corporate Support Services, respecting an agreement between the City of Peterborough and the County of Peterborough for consolidated municipal services.

Litigation, Report LSOCS25-004

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSOCS25-004, dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor as follows:

That staff be directed to proceed as outlined in Closed Session Report LSOCS25-004 dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor respecting property litigation.

Litigation, Report LSOCS25-006

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSOCS25-006, dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor as follows:

That, respecting HRTO file 2024-56409-I, staff be directed to proceed as outlined in Closed Session Report LSOCS25-006 dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor respecting HRTO litigation.

Litigation, Report LSOCS25-007

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSOCS25-007, dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor as follows:

That staff be directed to proceed as outlined in Closed Session Report LSOCS25-007 dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor respecting Small Claims litigation.

Legislation, Report LSOCS25-008

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report LSOCS25-008 dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor as follows:

That Council consider Closed Session Report LSOCS25-008 dated May 12, 2025, of the City Solicitor respecting Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025.

Zoning By-law Amendment for 112 Hospital Drive, Report IPGPL25-023

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPGPL25-023, dated May 12, 2025 of the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management as follows:

a) That Section 3.9, Exceptions, of the Zoning By-law 1997-123, be amended by adding Exception No. 372 to prescribe site-specific regulations for the property

known as 112 Hospital Drive in accordance with the Draft Zoning By-law Amendment attached as Appendix C of Report IPGPL25-023; and

b) That the subject property be rezoned from R.1, 1m, 2m – Residential District to SP.241-372 – Commercial District, in accordance with the Draft Zoning By-law Amendment attached as Appendix C of Report IPGPL25-023.

Modernization of the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan, Report IPGPL25-019

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPGPL25-019, dated May 12, 2025, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management and the Commissioner of Community Services as follows:

a) That By-law 11-116 passed on September 12, 2011, designating the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Project Area be repealed and that the draft By-law attached as Appendix A to Report IPGPL25-019 be approved to establish a new Affordable Housing Community Improvement Project Area that aligns with the City's Municipal Boundary/Settlement Area as designated in the Official Plan Schedule 'A';

b) That By-law 11-114, passed on September 12, 2011, be repealed;

c) That a modified Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan (2025) be approved in accordance with the draft By-law attached as Appendix B to Report IPGPL25-019; and

d) That Council grant delegated approval and signing authority for the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan (2025) in alignment with the City's existing Exempt Expenditure authorities in accordance with the City's Procurement By-law #24-077 (as per Section 4.2 j under Appendix B of By-law # 24-077).

Zoning By-law Amendment for 1628 Sherbrooke Street, Report IPGPL25-024

Due to his previously declared conflict, Councillor Duguay did not discuss or vote on this item.

Moved by Councillor Parnell
Seconded by Councillor Vassiliadis

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPGPL25-024, dated May 12, 2025 of the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management as follows:

a) That a new Section 400 be added to the Zoning By-law 1997-123, consisting of Special District 370 (SP.370), in accordance with the draft Zoning By-law Amendment attached as Appendix D to report IPGPL25-024; and

b) That the subject property be rezoned from D.1 – Development District to SP.370 – Commercial District in accordance with the draft Zoning By-law Amendment attached as Appendix D to report IPGPL25-024.

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

Conflict (1): Councillor Duguay

Carried (10 to 0)

Physician Recruitment Pilot Project Update, Report IPGED25-001

Councillor Vassiliadis requested that items a) and b) be separated for vote.

Moved by Councillor Baldwin

That the question be put.

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

Against (1): Councillor Bierk

Carried (10 to 1)

Moved by Councillor Vassiliadis
Seconded by Councillor Haacke

That Council approve the recommendation as amended, as follows:

a) That the presentation from the Economic Development Division be received for information.

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, 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 Vassiliadis
Seconded by Councillor Haacke

b) WHEREAS Canada is experiencing a significant increase in interest from U.S.-trained physicians seeking to relocate, driven by factors such as political instability, healthcare policy changes, and professional constraints in the United States;

WHEREAS The Medical Council of Canada has reported a 583% increase in U.S. medical graduates initiating the licensure process between October 2024 and March 2025 compared to the same period the previous year;

WHEREAS Provinces like British Columbia and Manitoba have proactively streamlined credential recognition and launched targeted recruitment campaigns to attract these physicians;

WHEREAS the City of Peterborough is currently facing a shortage of healthcare professionals, impacting the accessibility and quality of care for our residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council directs staff to:

1. Investigate the current trend of US physicians relocating to Canada, including motivations and barriers;

2. Assess the feasibility of developing a local strategy to attract US trained physicians to Peterborough, potentially in collaboration with provincial health authorities and medical recruitment agencies;

3. Report back to Council with findings and recommendations for potential actions to enhance physician recruitment to our city.

For (6): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, and Councillor Riel

Against (5): Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Haacke, Councillor Parnell, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Carried (6 to 5)

Approval to Replace Watermain Across Trent Canal from Armour Road to Maniece Avenue, Report MOWAT25-003

Due to his previously declared conflict, Mayor Leal did not discuss or vote on this item.

Moved by Councillor Duguay
Seconded by Councillor Parnell

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report MOWAT25-003, dated May 12, 2025, of the Commissioner, Municipal Operations as follows:

a) That $545,000.00 plus $70,850.00 HST for a total of $615,850.00 be authorized for allocation in the 2025 and 2026 Capital Budget to replace existing watermain across the Trent Canal from Armour Road to Maniece Avenue; and

b) That the authorized allocation be distributed as follows;

i. $50,000.00 plus $6,500.00 HST in 2025; and

ii. $450,000.00 plus $58,500.00 HST in 2026; and

iii. That a provisional work value of $45,000.00 plus $5,850 HST be committed to the project, and the Commissioner, Municipal Operations be provided the authority to adjust the purchase order value as necessary to complete this project.

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

Conflict (1): Mayor Leal

Carried (10 to 0)

Automated Speed Enforcement Investigation and Proposed Program, Report IPGENG25-013

Moved by Councillor Riel
Seconded by Councillor Parnell

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPGENG25-013, dated May 12, 2025, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management as follows:

a) That Council direct staff to proceed with the size and scope of an Automated Speed Enforcement Program as outlined in Report IPGENG25-013.

b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Automated Speed Enforcement Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO Agreement), the Joint Processing Service Agreement with the City of Toronto (City of Toronto Agreement), the Camera Lease Agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems (Canada) (Redflex Agreement), the Ministry of the Attorney General Ontario Agreement (MAG Agreement), and any related amendments and extensions, together with such further agreements and ancillary documents that may be required for the participation in the delivery of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) in the City of Peterborough, on terms acceptable to the Commissioner, Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management and the Commissioner, Legislative Services and in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

c) That the Mayor and Clerk be delegated the authority to enact and or amend by-laws to give effect to the following actions on terms acceptable to the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management and Commissioner of Legislative Services and in forms satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

i. Restrict Parking in Community Safety Zones.

ii. Implement the Administrative Penalty System (AP) for ASE.

iii. Modify the existing boundary limits of Community Safety Zones (CSZ) and the speed limit boundary's within those CSZ's.

iv. Amend existing Screening and Hearing Officer by-laws to comply with ASE legislation.

d) That a sole source contract be awarded to Redflex Traffic Systems (Canada) Limited in accordance with the City's Procurement By-Law Number 24-077 section 55. b, Appendix A. Chart 2.

e) That a Senior Project Manager position as described in Report IPGENG25-013 be approved and included in the 2026 Operating Budget.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025

Moved by Councillor Parnell

That the question be put.

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

Against (2): Councillor Bierk, and Councillor Lachica

Carried (9 to 2)

Moved by Councillor Duguay
Seconded by Councillor Baldwin

WHEREAS:
1. A municipality's parks and open spaces are critical infrastructure that support a strong community, and the public's shared and safe use of the municipality's parks and open spaces is integral to ensuring that support.
2. Ontario's municipalities are struggling to maintain their parks and open spaces for their shared and safe use by the public as a result of the increasing proliferation of encampments and illicit activities related thereto.
3. Municipalities that enforce their standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in their parks and open spaces must have regard to the availability of shelter space for those who need shelter.
4. On January 27, 2023, Justice Valente of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rendered his judgment in Waterloo (Regional Municipality) v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained (2023), [2023] O.J. No. 417 (Waterloo Decision) which declared that the municipality's by-law violated section 7 of the Charter and was therefore inoperative insofar as it applied to prevent encampment residents from erecting temporary shelters on a site when the number of homeless individuals in the region exceeded the number of accessible shelter beds.
5. The Waterloo Decision's analysis of the adequacy of shelter beds suggests an unworkable and unclear standard that goes beyond the number of shelter spaces and that includes the requirement to provide shelter spaces that must

accommodate illicit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk. The result is that municipalities are impaired in their enforcement of their standards and have lost or are losing control of their parks and open spaces.

6. On December 12, 2024, the provincial government introduced Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024. Among its various initiatives, Bill 242 proposed to amend section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act by adding aggravating factors that must be considered in the court's determination of a penalty under that section. However, the key challenge was that a municipality's exercise of its rights at common law and under section 9 of the Trespass to Property Act to remove encampments from the municipality's parks and open spaces remained potentially subject to the unworkable
and unclear standard for the adequacy of shelter space suggested by the Waterloo Decision.

7. On January 13, 2025, Council of the City of Peterborough resolved to request the provincial government to amend Bill 242 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

8. Bill 242 died on the order paper as a result of the recent provincial election.

9. On April 30, 2025, the provincial Government re-introduced the legislation in the form of Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025. Bill 6 is substantively the same as Bill 242.

10. In these circumstances, municipalities continue to need provincial legislation that clearly defines a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved:

1. That the provincial government be respectfully requested to amend Bill 6 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

2. That, without limitation, Bill 6 provide that a municipality will have met the standard for shelter space for the purposes of the municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces:

a) despite the establishment and enforcement of shelter rules including rules that prohibit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk; and

b) if an official designated by the municipality is satisfied that the number of available shelter spaces is at least equal to the aggregate of the number of individuals actually seeking shelter and the number of individuals against whom the municipality is planning to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

a) Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;

b) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;

c) Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
d) Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and to
f) Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

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

Against (2): Councillor Bierk, and Councillor Lachica

Carried (9 to 2)

Priority Heritage Designations

Moved by Councillor Lachica
Seconded by Councillor Bierk

Whereas, currently listed properties will be delisted due to legislation if not designated by municipal councils by December 31, 2026;

Whereas, PACAC has identified 53 priority designations to be brought to council by that deadline;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that council direct PACAC at its next meeting, to rank the 53 priority designations so that they are briefs are completed by staff in priority sequence and brought to General Committee Meetings in bundles of 4 prior to deadline of December 2026.

For (9): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Bierk, Councillor Crowley, Councillor Duguay, Councillor Lachica, Mayor Leal, Councillor Parnell, Councillor Riel, and Councillor Vassiliadis

Against (2): Councillor Beamer, and Councillor Haacke

Carried (9 to 2)

Appointment

Moved by Councillor Beamer
Seconded by Councillor Haacke

That, on the recommendation of the Board of City of Peterborough Holdings Inc. (CoPHI), Christopher Smith be appointed as a Director to the CoPHI Board and of its subsidiaries

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, 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

There were no Notices of Motion.

Approval of By-laws

Moved by Councillor Crowley
Seconded by Councillor Vassiliadis

That By-laws 25-071, 25-073, 25-075 and 25-076 be approved.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

By-law 25-072

Due to his previously declared interest, Councillor Duguay did not discuss or vote on this item.

Moved by Councillor Vassiliadis
Seconded by Councillor Crowley

That By-law 25-072, Being a By-law to amend the Zoning By-law for the lands known as 922 Fairbairn Street be approved.

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

Conflict (1): Councillor Duguay

Carried (10 to 0)

By-law 25-074

Due to his previously declared interest, Councillor Duguay did not discuss or vote on this item.

Moved by Councillor Parnell
Seconded by Councillor Baldwin

That By-law 25-074, Being a By-law to amend the Zoning By-law for the lands municipally known as 1628 Sherbrooke Street be approved.

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

Conflict (1): Councillor Duguay

Carried (10 to 0)

Other Business

There were no items of Other Business.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by Councillor Duguay
Seconded by Councillor Parnell

That By-law 25-077, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on May 20, 2025, be approved.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Crowley
Seconded by Councillor Vassiliadis

That this meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

For (11): Councillor Baldwin, Councillor Beamer, 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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Jeff Leal

Mayor