

Special Council Minutes
May 7, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present Mayor Mitchell
Electronically: Councillor Drumm
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Newman
Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Yamada

Also Present M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
Electronically: S. Beale, Commissioner of Public Works
W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town Solicitor
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Fire Chief
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Narraway, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk
S. Davé, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

C. Harris, Town Clerk, advised that due to the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency, the Special Council meeting is being held electronically. He noted that written correspondence was submitted by the public regarding items on the agenda. Mr. Harris advised that Council would receive a delegation regarding Item 3.2. He provided Members of Council with an overview of meeting etiquette and procedures with respect to conducting the meeting electronically.

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Delegations

- 2.1** Thomas Wall, 10 Gilchrist Court, provided a delegation in support of Councillor Newman's resolution with respect to striking a Whitby Mayor and Council's COVID-19 Community Committee in response to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. Mr. Wall thanked Council Members and staff for their ongoing outreach and engagement with residents, but expressed concern about vulnerable populations that were not able to access the services available. He stated that due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, it was pertinent to have a mechanism that connected needy people with the services that they required. He advised that the Committee would consist of a variety of stakeholders that could facilitate community engagement and outreach to ensure that all residents were able to access the services that they needed. Furthermore, it would assist the Town in communicating the types of services that were available. Mr. Wall stated that in order to optimize Whitby's efforts in managing the COVID-19 emergency, a Community Committee was necessary.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Wall regarding details of the proposed Committee, including the role it would play in supporting what was already happening in Whitby and Durham.

3. Items for Consideration

- 3.1** Corporate Services Department Report, CS 26-19
Re: Preliminary Overview of the Financial Implications of COVID-19

A detailed question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff with respect to:

- Details of any potential financial pressures on taxpayers in 2021 and how they would be mitigated;
- Asking the federal and provincial governments for increased municipal support to offset financial pressures;
- The number of taxpayers that took advantage of the Town's property tax deferral program and how that has impacted the Town's financial position;
- Details of the corporate revenue and expenses outlined in the report;
- Access to Reserve Funds in the future, should the need arise, in order to keep property taxes at a manageable level;
- Whether there were any "shovel-ready" projects that the Town could expedite and potentially ask the provincial and federal governments for support, should any grant program become available;

- Whether the Town could reallocate 2019 surplus funds to cover a 2020 deficit; and
- Details of the timelines contained within the report with respect to the deficit projected for 2020.

Moved By Councillor Shahid
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

1. That Report CS 26-20 of the Commissioner of Corporate Services /Treasurer is received as information; and
2. That the Town of Whitby request that the Federal and Provincial Governments establish municipal financial assistance programs to offset the significant financial impact experienced by municipalities and help stimulate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carried later in the meeting [see following motion]

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the main motion be amended by adding the following as Item 3:
3. That the Town of Whitby supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' request to provide at least \$10 billion in emergency operating funding.

Carried unanimously on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm	x		
Councillor Leahy	x		
Councillor Lee	x		
Councillor Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy	x		
Councillor Shahid	x		
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell	x		
	9	0	0

The main motion, as amended, was then carried as follows:

Resolution # 87-20

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

1. That Report CS 26-20 of the Commissioner of Corporate Services /Treasurer is received as information;
2. That the Town of Whitby request that the Federal and Provincial Governments establish municipal financial assistance programs to offset the significant financial impact experienced by municipalities and help stimulate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
3. That the Town of Whitby supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request to provide at least \$10 billion in emergency operating funding.

Carried unanimously

**3.2 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report, CAO 13-20
Re: COVID-19 Planning Tables and Task Forces**

A detailed discussion ensued between Members of Council with respect to:

- The amount of information being received through the federal and provincial governments with no defined end in sight, and the need to collect opinions of the people who are most vulnerable, as well as the impact on charity groups;
- The need for a cohesive plan of action and the benefit of having a Community Committee to facilitate community engagement, support collaboration and a phased response to community needs;
- Working together with members of the community to addressing their needs, reinforce the work that volunteer groups such as the Whitby Caremongers were doing, and ensuring the community input is received to identify needs;
- Details on the task-forces created by other municipalities such as Brampton, and any regional involvement or potential for duplication of effort between lower and upper tier task forces;
- Overview of how the Region of Durham is addressing immediate issues in the Region including homelessness, abuse, etc.
- The need to centralize responses and ensure that everyone has access to the services they need;
- Details on social and economic task-forces created on a regional level and how they have been addressing Whitby-specific issues;

- Whether the proposed COVID-19 Community Committee would add substantively to the work being done by the Region of Durham and Town of Whitby staff; and
- Overview of how Town of Whitby staff have been responding to resident needs, and the type of engagement taking place currently, including the work being done by the Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre.

A detailed question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff with respect to:

- Details on the task-forces created by other municipalities such as Brampton, and any regional involvement or potential for duplication of effort between lower and upper tier task forces;
- How the proposed COVID-19 Community Committee would address Whitby-specific issues and perceived gaps in service;
- The role of Whitby Caremongers and whether they are meeting the needs of the community sufficiently;
- The feasibility and logistics around creating another Committee of Council, especially in terms of timelines and staff resources;
- Whether there were any reports of needs not being met or issues that were coming up on a regular basis that Staff could address; and
- Whether any discussions had taken place with the Durham Distress Centre in terms of support related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Resolution # 88-20

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

1. That Report CAO 13-20 on the Town's response to COVID-19 through Planning Tables and Task Forces be received as information.

Carried later in the meeting [see motion below]

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That the following be added as Item 2 to the main motion:

2. That Council approve the Whitby Mayor and Council's Covid-19 Community Committee.

Amending motion lost on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm		x	
Councillor Leahy		x	
Councillor Lee		x	
Councillor Mulcahy		x	
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy		x	
Councillor Shahid		x	
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell		x	
	2	7	0

The main motion was then carried unanimously.

3.3 Legal and Enforcement Services Department and Fire and Emergency Services Department Joint Report, LS 03-20
Re: Sale of Consumer Fireworks During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff with respect to:

- The importance of adequate and clear communication on why the ban on consumer fireworks was moving forward, especially the fact that it was a public safety issue, and why;
- Details on the current Fireworks By-law and whether it would be affected due to stipulations outlined in this report;
- Whether other vendors in neighbouring municipalities were also passing similar resolutions so that Whitby residents could not purchase fireworks from another Town or City; and
- Details on the rules around discharging consumer use of Fireworks on private property.

Resolution # 89-20

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

1. That, notwithstanding the provisions of the Fireworks By-law, the issuance of all licences for consumer fireworks sales from mobile sales trailers for Victoria Day in 2020 be suspended;
2. That staff be directed to contact all known regular retail vendors

- of consumer fireworks in Whitby and request that they voluntarily suspend all sales of consumer fireworks for Victoria Day in 2020;
3. That, notwithstanding the provisions of the Fireworks By-law, the issuance of all licences for consumer fireworks sales from mobile sales trailers for Canada Day in 2020 be suspended; and
 4. That staff be directed to contact all known regular retail vendors of consumer fireworks in Whitby and request that they voluntarily suspend all sales of consumer fireworks for Canada Day in 2020.

Carried unanimously

4. Confirmatory By-law

4.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 90-20

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Whitby at its special meeting held on May 7, 2020 and the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried unanimously

5. Adjournment

5.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Roy
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor