

Special Council Minutes
May 11, 2020 - 6:00 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 was being held electronically. He advised that because it was an Education and Training meeting, no decisions would be made by Council. 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. Presentations

2.1 Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability & Climate Change
Re: The Whitby Green Standard

Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability & Climate Change, provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Town's Green Development Standards (GDS), which were developed to be metrics that guide development and encouraged sustainable community design. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Benefits of incorporating GDS and other sustainability measures to improve environmental performances, resulting in more resilient building stock and greater greenhouse gas reduction;
- Overview of the Town's legal authority to implement GDS in Whitby, including case studies from other municipalities that have similar standards, such as Toronto, Pickering, Halton Region, Burlington, etc.;
- Responding to population growth and development pressures while ensuring that the Town is responsible in managing environmental impact for future generations;
- Overview of the consultation that took place in the development of the GDS and how it was incorporated;
- Details of the GDS Checklists and supporting documents developed to educate stakeholders on what the GDS entail;
- Examples of incentives that can be provided to home-builders to encourage the uptake of GDS; and
- Proposed implementation of the GDS in Whitby, including phased-in incentives and timelines.

A detailed question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Ms. Schofield with respect to:

- Similarities between Whitby's GDS and those of other municipalities;
- The extent to which the GDS checklists and programs take into account the impact of COVID-19;
- Concerns regarding the ratio of housing versus commercial building stock in Whitby, and whether the GDS could help re-balance this ratio;
- Any potential issues that were heard from stakeholders with respect to the GDS and how they were mitigated;
- How the GDS addresses affordability and affordable housing in Whitby;
- What will be the impact on the homeowner, specifically with respect to reduced energy costs, more affordable housing due to incentive programs for home-builders, and other means;
- Overview of the consultation with the Province in the

development of the GDS;

- Whether there were any incentives available currently to encourage home-builders to incorporate more sustainable measures;
- Overview of best practices from other municipalities, and the level of uptake that has happened there after the implementation of a similar program;
- Ensuring that Whitby's GDS are similar to other municipalities so that home-builders do not have to conform to different standards across the GTA; and
- Next steps in the process.

3. Adjournment

3.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor