

Special Council Minutes
May 4, 2020 - 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Whitby Town Hall

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

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
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
S. Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Narraway, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk
S. Davé, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

Councillor Roy raised a point of privilege with respect to concerns that she had regarding the use of Council Chambers for conducting Council and Committee meetings. She advised that due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, it was pertinent that all Staff and Members of Council practice physical distancing, and all meetings be held completely virtually in order to ensure the safety of Staff and Members of Council. She expressed concern with some Members of Council attending meetings in Council Chambers even though Town Hall was closed and no members of the public were allowed inside. Councillor Roy requested

that the items under consideration at the Special Council Meeting and the following Committee of the Whole meeting be deferred until all Members of Council could attend virtually.

Discussion ensued between Members of Council with respect to:

- challenges with attending Council and Committee meetings from home when there are young children, pets and family members in close proximity at all times;
- ensuring that Members of Council have a quiet place where they can attend meetings and focus on the important municipal decisions they are being asked to make;
- preference to attend meetings from Council Chambers due to unfamiliarity/challenges with virtual meeting technology; and
- overview of how Regional Councillors are attending Regional Meetings.

Resolution # 85-20

Moved By Councillor Roy

Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the items under consideration at the May 4, 2020 Special Council Meeting be deferred until all Members of Council can attend Council and Committee meetings virtually.

Carried 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		
	6	3	0

Further discussion ensued with respect to deferring the May 4, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting until all Members of Council could attend virtually.

Discussion ensued between Members of Council with respect to:

- whether Members of Council could attend the meeting from an empty meeting room in Town Hall in order to ensure physical distancing from Staff and other Members of Council;
- respecting the home situations of all Members of Council and ensuring that consideration is given for the unusual working conditions that were a result of the ongoing emergency; and
- ensuring that any anxiety or challenges with technology were mitigated so that all Members of Council were able to participate virtually in meetings.

Resolution # 86-20

Moved By Councillor Roy

Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the May 4, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting be deferred until all Members of Council can attend Council and Committee meetings virtually.

Carried 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		
	6	3	0

1. Adjournment

1.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Shahid

Seconded By Councillor Roy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor