

Present: Mayor Mitchell
Councillor Drumm
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Newman
Councillor Roy (left at 9:49 a.m.)
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Yamada (arrived at 9:01 a.m.)

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
M. Perini, Deputy Fire Chief
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
C. Harris, Town Clerk
S. Davé, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Presentations

2.1 Verbal Update from M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
Re: COVID-19

M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the current state of the spread of coronavirus in the world, including cases in Ontario, the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Durham Region. He

provided information on how different organizations and municipalities were responding to the pandemic, as well as the importance of "flattening the curve" and ensuring that proper measures were taken to prevent community spread of the disease, so as to not overwhelm medical resources. Mr. Gaskell advised that the Corporation's top priority was the well-being of staff and residents, and they were closely monitoring the situation. A soft activation of the Emergency Management Plan had already taken place, and the Town is working with its municipal partners to share information locally and with regional stakeholders. Mr. Gaskell further advised that the next steps in the process were the closure of Town facilities and programming in an effort to aid the Province's efforts for social distancing and stopping the spread of the virus.

It was requested that Dr. Robert Kyle, the Region of Durham's Chief Medical Officer of Health, provide a delegation on the current situation in Durham Region. Mr. Kyle provided an overview of the efforts being made by the Region of Durham to mitigate the spread of the virus, as well as the testing taking place through Public Health. A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Kyle with respect to:

- An update on efforts made through the Region of Durham to manage testing and mitigate the spread of the virus;
- Whether testing resources were adequate to address potential increases in testing;
- Whether there were any efforts within Durham Region to assist in the creation of a vaccine for novel coronavirus;
- The size of gatherings that could pose a health risk in Durham Region;
- How best to manage health risks for vulnerable populations, especially in seniors' centres, as senior citizens often attend those centres for socialization purposes or to have a meal;
- Whether there was anything other than hand hygiene and social distancing that could assist in mitigating the spread of the virus;
- How to determine when you need to go to the hospital if you suspect you may have COVID-19;
- What measures can people who are traveling by air take to maintain a social distance or ensure that they are not infected by the virus;
- Whether you can be asymptomatic and spread the virus;
- Would provincial initiatives to maintain social distancing be undermined if Whitby were to keep facilities open and allow children and users to congregate; and
- The best way to manage impacts on mental health, especially for young people.

Councillor Roy left the meeting prior to the consideration of Item 3.1.

3. Items for Consideration

**3.1 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report, CAO 10-20
Re: COVID-19 Update and Preparation**

A detailed discussion ensued with respect to:

- The complexity in planning where risks and challenges were unclear, and the importance of ensuring that the decision-making process is as simple and straightforward as possible in times of emergencies;
- Ensuring strong lines of communication between Council, Mayor and Staff so that if any decisions were made through delegated authority, Council would be notified as soon as possible;
- Whenever possible, ensuring that Council has an opportunity to convene and exercise its legislated powers;
- Details of the by-law, including what constitutes an emergency and how the Town can respond to any delegated authority issues;
- Details of which facilities would be affected should the Town decide to cancel programming and shut down facilities;
- Alternate Service Delivery options, in particular for services like garbage collection;
- Measures in place for continuity planning for Fire Services;
- Consideration of whether facilities should be closed beyond a three-week timeframe and the impact of that on staff and residents;
- Whether there was a way that the Whitby library could provide access to resources in a safe manner, even if it was closed; and
- Ensuring robust communication with all stakeholders to advise them of any closures and their impact on programming.

Resolution # 58-20

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

1. That the Town of Whitby Emergency Plan and Program By-law #6990-15 be amended to:
 - delegate authority for Council's legislative powers under the Municipal Act, 2001 and under any other legislation to the Mayor, exclusively for use in emergencies; and,
 - delegate authority for administrative powers under the

Municipal Act, 2001 and under any other legislation to the Chief Administrative Officer, exclusively for use in emergencies.

Carried

Resolution # 59-20

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That Staff report back on the delegated authorities for legislative powers noted above only being exercised when the timing and conditions of the situation or pending actions do not permit the calling of a Council meeting for the purpose of receiving Council direction regarding.

Carried

Resolution # 60-20

Moved By Councillor Newman

Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That Council endorse the following actions in response to COVID-19 for up to 3 weeks subject to further Council direction:

Close the following facilities at midnight tonight (Friday, March 13th):

- Ashburn Community Centre
- Brooklin Community Centre
- Brooklin Community Centre and Library
- Centennial Building
- Heydenshore Pavilion
- Iroquois Park Sports Centre
- Lurher Vipond Memorial Arena
- McKinney Centre
- Port Whitby Marina (gatherings only)
- Spencer Community Centre
- Whitby 55+ Centre
- Whitby Civic Recreation Complex
- Whitby Public Library – all branches

Cancel the following events scheduled in March:

- The Mayor's Gala
- The Sustainability Movie Night
- The Active Living Fair

- March 25th Whitby in Bloom Speakers Series event

Carried

4. By-Laws

That the following by-law be passed:

- 4.1** By-law # 7617-20, being a by-law to amend By-law # 6990-15, being a By-law to adopt an Emergency Plan and Program for the Town of Whitby.

Resolution # 61-20

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Newman

That leave be granted to introduce By-law # 7617-20 and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk and that 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

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

That Council move in-camera in accordance with Procedure By-law # 7462-18, Closed Meeting Policy G 040, and the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2) (d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

Carried

5. Closed Session

5.1 Staffing Impact of Facilities Closure

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public. [Refer to the In Camera minutes of the meeting - Town Clerk has control and custody.]

6. Rising and Reporting

6.1 Motion to Rise

Moved By Councillor Leahy
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That Council rise from the closed portion of the Special Council meeting.

Carried

6.2 Reporting Out

Mayor Mitchell advised that during the closed portion of the meeting, Council discussed matters related to labour relations.

Resolution # 62-20

Moved By Councillor Leahy
Seconded By Councillor Drumm

1. That the Federal Government be called upon to waive the waiting period for EI eligibility as a result of layoffs associated with COVID-19; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion; the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development; the local M.P. and M.P.P.; and all Durham area municipalities.

Carried

7. Adjournment

7.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor