

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LAURENTIAN HILLS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 16 October, 2024 at 10:19 a.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills was held on Wednesday 16 October, 2024 at 10:19 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

The following members of Council were present:

Mayor	Anne Giardini
Deputy Mayor	Brenda Blimkie
Councillor	Bruce Boucher
Councillor	John Hoyle

Absent:
Councillor Gary McAnulty

Also present:
Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk Sherry Batten
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Tammy Whalen

CLOSED SESSION - was moved to the beginning of the Council meeting.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to section 239 (c and f) of the Municipal Act, c.25 S.O. 2001 as amended as the subject matter being considered is (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board ; and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

CARRIED Resolution 210-24

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills does now move out of closed session to rise and report.

CARRIED Resolution 211-24

Rise and Report: Discussion was on the disposition of property and solicitor advice.

II. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

III. **DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

IV. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of 18 September, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 212-24

V. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (a) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Protection to Persons and Property of 18 September 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 213-24

- (b) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Planning of 18 September 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 214-24

- (c) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Public Works of 18 September 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 215-24

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

- (d) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Community and Social Services of 18 September 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 216 -24

- (e) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Finance and Personnel of 18 September 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 217-24

VI. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

VII. OTHER REPORTS - None

VIII. MAYOR'S UPDATE – The Mayor reported that on September 19 she attended an Airport Commission Meeting; on the 20 she attended a Zone 2 OPP Meeting in Pembroke (info only); on the 25 she attended a County Council Meeting; on the 26 she attended an Algonquins of Pikwakanagans Meeting to connect and build relationships – hosted by Chief Greg Sarazin and a Renfrew County Municipal Day (4 staff attended as well); on the 29 she attended the RBWM School House Museum Cow Paddy/Fall Bake Sale Event; on October 3 she attended a Seniors Active Living Fair – provided welcome remarks and ribbon cutting; on the 10 she attended a Labour Market Group of Renfrew-Lanark Workshop hosted by Jamie Bramburger of Algonquin College – Guest Speaker Dr. David Coletto gave insights on, “Leading Through the Scarcity Mindset and What it Means for Rural and Small-Town Communities.”; on the 16 she attended a Community Health Partners (DRDH host) and RCHC and Community Services Meeting at County Building.

IX. BY-LAWS

X. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- (a) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT this Council does acknowledge receipt of the unaudited statement of revenues and expenses as compared to budget as of 8 October, 2024.

CARRIED Resolution 218-24

XI. PETITIONS - None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

ACTION ITEMS

- (a) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the resolution from the Town of Cobourg requesting the Provincial government implement measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to involuntary care when necessary be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 219-24

- (b) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT the resolution from Temiskaming Shores requesting the Provincial government to reverse their decision allowing alcohol to be sold in more locations and implement the following recommendations:

1. Permit municipalities to opt out of retail alcohol expansion;
2. Grant municipalities the powers to use zoning to determine where new alcohol retail locations are acceptable;
3. Not permit alcohol sales within 150 m of schools, daycares, or substance use facilities;
4. Prohibit the sale of Alcohol at gas stations;
5. Require health warning labels on all alcohol containers;
6. Dedicate a portion of provincial alcohol revenue to addressing alcohol related harms; and

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd)

7. Develop and implement a comprehensive provincial alcohol strategy, in partnership with municipalities, that prioritizes health and safety and considers the costs associated with alcohol consumption be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 220-24

- (c) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the resolution from the Municipality of Waterloo requesting the Provincial government to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the number of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health and addictions grows exponentially be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 221-24

- (d) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the resolution from the Township of Brock requesting the Provincial government to initiate the transfer of responsibilities of rideshare regulations and licensing to the provincial level be filed.

CARRIED Resolution 222-24

- (e) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the resolution from the Municipality of Tweed calling on the Federal Government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO Canada Community Building Fund agreement for 2024-2028 be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 223-24

- (f) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Laurentian Hills requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

CARRIED Resolution 224-24

ACTION (Cont'd)

- (g) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

Whereas there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Laurentian Hills supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign;

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

AND that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

AND that the federal government is included in these conversations.

AND that both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And that this Council calls on the residents of the Town of Laurentian Hills to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

AND further that a copy of this motion be sent to:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Local MPs, Local MPPs and Ontario's Big City Mayors

CARRIED Resolution 225-24

INFORMATION ITEMS

Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT all items of correspondence be filed. **CARRIED** Resolution 226-24

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Laurentian Hills authorizes the use of the unallocated funds in the 2024 budget in the amount of \$8,018.02 plus applicable taxes for the repairs required to the Town's Rooftop heating units.

CARRIED Resolution 227 -24

Correspondence from the Office of the County Warden regarding Automated Speed Enforcement County of Renfrew tabled from September.

Council recommended that the radar sign stay in place for an additional period of time and that the Town opt out of the installation of radar cameras at this point time and that the matter could be reconsidered in the future.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Laurentian Hills approves the request from Rachel Sciommarella, Owner/operator of the Valley Hitching Post Ranch for the use of the Town parking lot for vehicle parking on October 19th and 20th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and on October 25th and 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for people attending the annual Spook Walk fundraiser.

CARRIED Resolution 228-24

Resolution No. 229-24 was not used - The request from Nigig Nibi Ki-Win Gamik Society's for a donation to their Christmas Giving Tree project was tabled to the 2025 budget discussions.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – Closed session was held at the beginning of the Council meeting.

XVI. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Hoyle Notice of Motion to reconsider Resolution 206-24

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT the Motion for reconsideration of Resolution No. 206-24 passed at the September 18th meeting of Council, which declined a request from Jill Hickey to purchase Byng Ave located in Mountainview Subdivision be approved.

DEFEATED Resolution 230-24

XVII. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT By-Law No. 33-24 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills meeting of Council held on October 16, 2024 do now be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED Resolution 231-24

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills do now adjourn at 11:11 a.m.

CARRIED Resolution 232-24

MAYOR

CLERK