

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA

**SPECIAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Council Information Session

Monday, June 14, 2010
5:13 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

The Clerk gave the roll call and the following persons were present:

Council:

Mayor Grossi	Regional Councillor Wheeler
Councillor Jordan Clark	Councillor Jamieson
Councillor Szollosy	Councillor Hackenbrook
Councillor Smockum	

Staff:

Harold Lenters, Director of Planning and Building
Bob Magloughlen, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Sue Plamondon, Chief Administrative Officer
Rebecca Mathewson, Director of Administrative Services and Treasurer
Faye Richardson, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Bill O'Neill, Fire Chief

Roland Chenier, Town Clerk
Lisa Lyons, Deputy Clerk
Carolyn Lance, Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk

2. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS:

This information session is to identify issues for staff to gather information for Council.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Councillor Jordan Clark

Seconded by Councillor Hackenbrook

THAT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED BE APPROVED.

Carried.....

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT:

None.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

I) ITEMS ALREADY IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION:

I. No Smoking By-law

Sue Plamondon stated that it would be appropriate to expand the operation of the by-law and possibly tie it in with public beaches. Currently smoking is prohibited on soccer facilities and it may be worth considering expanding the ban to include public beaches and other locations.

Councillor Szollosy advised that the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee (GEAC) has had discussions on this issue and the research indicates immediate health effects of second-hand smoke and long term contamination of water ways. The Committee will bring forward background material with respect to this issue.

Councillor Jordan Clark stated that smoking is prohibited on school grounds but the wooded area beside the Sutton High School is part of a public park. She advised that a new principal is coming on board in the fall and the Student Council is intending to start a program encouraging no smoking with all of its students.

Mrs. Faye Richardson stated that the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee had forwarded the Cities of Vancouver and Peterborough's 'no smoking' by-laws for reference purposes.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

Councillor Jamieson stated that cigarette butts left on the beaches are not appreciated by those walking on beaches without shoes, along with the fact that the local wildlife can pick them up and be harmed. He believes the fall is the most logical time to deal with this type of issue.

Ms. Rebecca Mathewson stated that this type of by-law would be difficult to enforce even if the Town had the required staff to do so.

THE RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WAS DIRECTED TO EXPLORE THE EXPANSION OF THE NO SMOKING BY-LAW TO INCLUDE GEORGINA PUBLIC BEACHES AND PARKS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL OF THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, TO INCLUDE INFORMATION GATHERED BY THE GEORGINA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TO RESEARCH ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, FOR CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL IN LATE 2010 OR EARLY 2011.

II. Public Beaches

This issue was related to item No. I and the expansion of the no-smoking by-law.

III. By-law Enforcement in Parks

Councillor Jordan Clark stated that by-law enforcement is needed concerning the operation of motorized vehicles in parks, dogs running at large and the dog poop and scoop issue, among other issues.

Mayor Grossi inquired if our By-law Enforcement Officers have the authority to issue a ticket with regard to the operation of ATV's in parks.

Rebecca Mathewson advised that our Officers do not have the ability to demand the identification of a misbehaving individual, but that a police officer can be contacted for assistance. She indicated that a report will be included on the next Committee of the Whole agenda with respect to a joint effort between our by-law enforcement officers and the local police department as was done last year, with a by-law officer and a police officer bicycling throughout the Town. Last year's pilot program was successful as far as feedback from the public is concerned.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

Councillor Szollosy stated that the simplest way to deal with this issue is to request more community officers and ask for increased presence for ATV Mobile Community Officers so they can continue to enforce the Town's motorized vehicle by-laws.

Ms. Mathewson noted that more budget dollars would be required to expand the joint program.

Ms. Plamondon stated that staff will investigate if additional resources are needed for by-law enforcement so that recommendations can be made for the 2011 budget.

Councillor Szollosy stated that a concern was raised with regard to the fact that casual users of a park are not informed about active hunters being present within regional forest tracts. It was requested that during hunting season, the park entrances be posted for active hunting to avoid conflict and use issues.

Ms. Plamondon stated that this issue is still being worked on. At entrances to most regional forests is an indication of what the hunting rules are so that casual users of those forests have an opportunity to inform themselves when hunting is permitted. Staff has also learned that fox and coyote hunting is permitted year-round so there is never a time of year when there is no hunting. Regional staff is prepared to meet to discuss signage.

TOWN STAFF IS TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT INCLUDING THE REGIONAL FOREST TRACTS ALONG WITH THE HUNTING AND POSTING ISSUE.

IV. Thane Smelter

Mr. Magloughlen advised that Ministry of Natural Resources approval would be required to use the Thane Smelter site for landfill use. The Town could apply for some other use of the property. He also advised that there is a certificate registered on title that advises purchasers of its former use, if the Town desired to lease or sell the property.

Ms. Plamondon explained that the Ministry is hosting a brainstorming workshop on June 24th. The Ministry established a Public Liaison Committee to identify issues associated with the continued existence of the Thane Smelter site and its current state. The workshop is intended to explore options/opportunities for redevelopment with the goal of remediation. Some staff has been invited to participate in this workshop

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

and if any solid ideas emerge from this workshop, it will be brought before Council. The Town did spend money on the property over the years. She mentioned that there are controls in place on the property to restrict its use unless the Ministry of the Environment establishes that it is an acceptable use.

V. Civic Centre Renovations

Ms. Plamondon advised that the renovation plan includes focus group sessions around what Council would like to see in the Council Chamber area, public meeting spaces, etc.

Councillor Szollosy stated that Council would like the Council Chambers ready to go soon with the objective of completion at least before the inaugural meeting of Council in December, and sooner if at all possible. He assumed that Council would prefer to remain in the original Council Chambers and to continue using it as a Council Chambers.

Ms. Plamondon stated that at this time, staff has articulated to the consultant that the Council Chambers would remain as its current use and if they could design it so that it is more versatile and be used for other types of meetings or training exercises, etc, it would be helpful to create multiple uses for this space.

Ms. Plamondon advised that the Terms of Reference for the consultant is not to contemplate an addition, but to work within the confines of the building. An estimate has been made with regard to the staffing requirements over the next few years and staff is challenging the consultant to accommodate this staffing level.

It was mentioned that one option could be the replacement of the Council Chambers with a new facility addition which would leave the current Council Chambers to be used for other space requirements.

Ms. Plamondon stated that the current assignment awarded to the consultant is focused on accommodating growth over the next ten to fifteen years and planning for it within the walls of the existing building. If the consultant reports back that this is not possible, this information will be brought back to Council with a series of alternatives. Council meetings would be accommodated within the building as a starting point, noting that the budget for any kind of an addition would be enormous.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

Ms. Plamondon stated that accessibility is important in order to enable individuals entering the building to reasonably conduct their business with any staff member within the Civic Centre building.

It was mentioned that accommodating a council meeting room once again would be convenient in order for Council Members to be able to meet with constituents.

Direction was given to staff that the Council Chambers must be altered from its original orientation for practicality reasons. If staff reports back to Council that additional space is required, one of the alternatives could include an addition that may contain additional office space or a new Council Chambers with the current Council Chambers to be used for other purposes.

VI. Swimming Pool Enclosures

Mr. Lenters advised that staff will bring a report to Council and proceed to consider an amendment to the by-law for four-sided fencing around swimming pools. He stated that no other municipality within York Region has decided to do this to date. Council indicated that it would read the draft report provided by the Director and deal with it at a later time.

VII. Capital Strategy

Ms. Plamondon advised that staff would like to determine the issues for more in-depth discussions with Council and to determine the priority Council wishes to put to items, as these items will need significant preparation work and time commitment from staff.

Mayor Grossi inquired if it was appropriate to approve a capital budget for a three-year timeframe.

Ms. Mathewson advised that staff is looking at an overall capital strategy. The Town hired a Capital Accountant earlier this year and staff recognizes the need for multi-year capital budgets. The Town can have an annual budget that is associated with a multi-year capital budget. She stated that this is a huge endeavour and is currently working on several different components. Staff will be bringing it to Council as separate components and Council will be receiving more detailed information through this process.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

Regional Councillor Wheeler mentioned that the Development Charges Background Study identifies various types of capital expenditures and projects for certain years, which is a large part of the strategy. He stated that the Town has always had a five-year plan for roads and sidewalks and the Leisure Services Department has a five-year plan for its projects, while the new system could consolidate everything town-wide.

Ms. Plamondon stated that Council will have a better understanding of identifying projects and timeframes in which these projects may be required, against tangible capital asset recording which is a new component. The new strategy will outline growth related issues, renewal and replacement, sources of funding, etc.

Mayor Grossi suggested that staff provide semi-annual reporting to Council so they can discuss the priority of issues.

COUNCIL REQUESTED THAT SEMI-ANNUAL BUDGET REPORTING BE A REGULAR AGENDA ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION, ALONG WITH A DISCUSSION ON CAPITAL PROJECTS, WITH STAFF TO BRING EMERGING ISSUES TO COUNCIL AT ANY TIME.

Ms. Plamondon advised that development charges are growth related and are looked at every five years through a development charges review process. Council requested the types of projects that are eligible under the gas tax funding, which ties back to capital planning and the sources of revenue available for capital projects.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT PRIOR TO THE YEARLY BUDGET, STAFF PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO COUNCIL ON THE SERVICES NEEDED TO BE PROVIDED.

Mayor Grossi left the meeting at this time; Deputy Mayor Wheeler assumed the chair.

Ms. Plamondon advised that the Town does not have the necessary resources to perform ten (10) year capital planning at this time. She stated that her understanding is that staff is to perform this task with the current resources with a goal of submitting a capital strategy to Council annually before budget consideration.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION cont'd:

VIII. Gas Tax Projects

Ms. Plamondon stated that she will schedule a meeting date for those members of Council who are interested in what type of projects the gas tax funding is eligible to be used for.

II) PRIORITIZATION OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Mr. Lenters requesting that the time for the August 23rd meeting be changed from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Council members agreed to the time change.

6. CONFIRMING BY-LAW:

Moved by Councillor Szollosy

Seconded by Councillor Smockum

That the following by-law be give three readings:

By-law Number 2010-0094 (COU-2) Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Special Council.

Carried.....

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councillor Hackenbrook

Seconded by Councillor Jamieson

That the meeting adjourn at this time (6:25 p.m.)

Carried.....

Robert Grossi, Mayor

Roland Chenier, Town Clerk