



**Haldimand**  
County

**THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Date:** September 25, 2023  
**Time:** 6:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Haldimand County Administration Building

**COUNCIL PRESENT** S. Bentley, Mayor  
S. Patterson, Councillor  
J. Metcalfe, Councillor  
D. Lawrence, Councillor  
M. Trainer, Councillor  
R. Shirton, Councillor  
P. O'Neill, Councillor (participated electronically)

**STAFF PRESENT** C. Case, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
M. Evers, General Manager, Community & Development Services  
T. Haedrich, General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works  
M. Merritt, General Manager, Financial & Data Services  
P. Mete, General Manager, Public Works Operations  
E. Eichenbaum, Manager, Clerks Division/Municipal Clerk

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bentley called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Bentley opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

**C. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Patterson read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

**D. ROLL CALL**

The Mayor and all Members of Council were in attendance. Councillor O'Neill participated electronically.

**E. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

**F. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

- 1 Council Minutes - September 5, 2023
- 2 Closed Session - Council Minutes - September 5, 2023

**Resolution 128-23**

Moved By: Councillor Patterson

Seconded By: Councillor Metcalfe

1. THAT the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Council meeting be adopted as circulated;
2. AND THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the September 5, 2023 Council meeting be adopted as circulated and remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

**G. PRESENTATIONS OF RECOGNITION**

None.

**H. DELEGATIONS**

None.

**I. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- 1 Council in Committee Minutes - September 19, 2023

**Resolution 129-23**

Moved By: Councillor Shirton

Seconded By: Councillor Trainer

THAT the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Council in Committee meeting be adopted with the following recommendation withdrawn to be voted on separately:

Recommendation # 5 Re: CDP-06-2023 Municipal Housing Pledge and Target

**CARRIED**

**Resolution 130-23**

Moved By: Councillor Shirton

Seconded By: Councillor Trainer

THAT adoption of Recommendation 5 of the September 19, 2023 Council in Committee minutes be deferred to a Special Council meeting on October 10, 2023 with additional information being provided to the October 10, 2023 Council in Committee meeting, after conferring with other municipalities on their position related to the housing target.

**CARRIED**

- 2 Closed Session - Council in Committee Minutes - September 19, 2023

**Resolution 131-23**

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the September 19, 2023 Council in Committee meeting be adopted as circulated and remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1 Motion to Recognize Gender-Based Violence as an Epidemic in Haldimand County

**Resolution 132-23**

Moved By: Councillor Patterson

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

WHEREAS gender-based violence (GBV) includes a wide scope of types abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, and financial abuse, violence, threats and control from a partner, former partner, family member, coworker, or acquaintance;

WHEREAS in Ontario and in our community, GBV is most likely to be experienced by a partner or former partner within the context of intimate partner violence (IPV);

WHEREAS there is a gender-based killing of a woman occurring in Ontario every week, with 42 femicides in Ontario between November 2022 and August 2023;

WHEREAS in 2015, Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam were killed in the rural community of Renfrew County;

WHEREAS in 2022 the jury of the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam (CKW) Coroner's Inquest issued 86 recommendations to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence;

WHEREAS recommendation #1 of the Inquest is for the Province of Ontario to declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic;

WHEREAS the Centre for Disease control defines an epidemic as an "occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or other health-related event clearly in excess of normal expectancy.";

WHEREAS on August 14th 2023, in official response to the CKW Inquest, the Federal Government of Canada declared GBV an epidemic that "has no place in our country.";

WHEREAS over one in three women in Canada aged 15 years and older will experience GBV in their lifetime;

WHEREAS Indigenous, Black and racialized survivors experience disproportionate rates of GBV and femicide, with 11.9% of femicide victims between November 2022 and August 2023 identified as Indigenous;

WHEREAS community members experiencing violence, or the threat of violence in rural communities often face increased barriers in relation to accessing support; and

WHEREAS GBV contributes to a wide range of negative and long-lasting health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, memory and concentration problems, neurological conditions and physical impairments;

WHEREAS the cost of GBV to municipalities includes those associated with ongoing use of justice, healthcare, social assistance, housing, and emergency services, while compounding pressure on already over extended systems;

WHEREAS gender-based violence is a major public health problem;

WHEREAS all types of GBV, including intimate partner violence and femicide are preventable with meaningful action by communities and community members;

AND WHEREAS between April 2021 and March 2022, Haldimand & Norfolk Women's Services (HNWS) received 632 crisis calls, 1130 counselling calls and provided community-based support to 611 families/youth/survivors and a safe place to stay for 116 survivors of GBV and their children, while also referring 227 survivors of violence seeking safe shelter elsewhere due to lack of capacity,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Haldimand County Council:

- Recognizes the issues of GBV as serious to the health and wellness of community members, and the disproportionate rates of violence against Indigenous, Black and racialized women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse individuals, with 11.9% of femicide victims between November 2022 and August 2023 identified as Indigenous;
- Is committed to engaging with the H&N Justice for Women Review team to identify and pursue County service areas that could promote an increased awareness of community members related to GBV, IPV, and femicide and available supports;
- Will work with H&N Justice for Women Review team to ensure trauma-informed GBV-focused awareness training is available to all Haldimand County employees;
- Will advocate at all levels of government for the importance of GBV as an issue in our communities, and to prioritize and fund community-based, trauma-informed violence prevention strategies and supports; and
- Declares, in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the 2022 CKW Inquest, that gender-based violence is an epidemic.

THAT Haldimand County will bring forth the following recommendations to the Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services (H&SS) Advisory Committee, for consideration and further recommendation to the Board of Health for direction to:

- Integrate GBV, with specific mentions of both IPV and femicide, into the Haldimand & Norfolk (H&N) Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, in alignment with #10 of the Renfrew County jury recommendations;
- Commit to ongoing, meaningful engagement with the H&N Justice for Women Review team and local agencies providing GBV support, through quarterly consultations with the team focused on GBV;
- Commit to continue to expand safe, reliable transportation services to assist individuals and families in accessing GBV-related supports;
- Support and consider funding to train all public facing support positions within the H&SS team;

THAT Haldimand County will bring forth recommendations to the Haldimand County Police Services Board to bring focused attention on GBV and IPV statistics, and to follow-up on such statistics, when necessary, to encourage effective response to these issues;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; The Honourable Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction; Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP; the Haldimand and Norfolk Board of Health; Haldimand County Ontario Provincial Police Detachment; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1 Council Information Package
- None.

**L. BY-LAWS**

- 1 By-law 1353-HC/23 to amend Zoning By-law HC 1-2020, as amended, for property described in the name of 1783576 Ontario Ltd.
- 2 By-law 2452/23 to appoint a Building Inspector and Property Standards Officer (Kurtis Horn)
- 3 By-law 2453/23 to appoint Cathy Case as the Chief Administrative Officer
- 4 By-law 2454/23 to appoint Megan Jamieson as General Manager, Corporate & Social Services and to repeal By-law 1968/18
- 5 By-law 2455/23 to permit off-road vehicles to operate on highways under the jurisdiction of Haldimand County for a one day period on October 28, 2023
- 6 By-law 2456/23 to provide for drainage works in Haldimand County within the McNichol Municipal Drain (provisional reading only)

**Resolution 133-23**

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT By-laws 1 to 6, as listed, be hereby introduced and given a first and second reading.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution 134-23**

Moved By: Councillor Patterson

Seconded By: Councillor Trainer

THAT By-laws 1 to 5, as listed, be hereby introduced and given a third and final reading, be signed by the Mayor and the Clerk, the corporate seal affixed thereto and numbered.

**CARRIED**

**M. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**N. ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS FROM COUNCIL APPOINTEES TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

The following items were highlighted:

- Update on Official Plan - some public comments provided through ERO but no information to date on timeline for provincial approval;
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**O. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**P. MOTIONS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**Q. CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

**Resolution 135-23**

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the Confirming By-law be hereby introduced and given a first and second reading.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution 136-23**

Moved By: Councillor Trainer

Seconded By: Councillor Patterson

THAT the Confirming By-law be hereby introduced and given a third and final reading,  
be signed by the Mayor and the Clerk, the corporate seal affixed thereto and numbered.

**CARRIED**

**R. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution 137-23**

Moved By: Councillor Shirton

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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MAYOR

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CLERK