



Haldimand
County

**THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY
COUNCIL MINUTES**

Date: May 26, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Haldimand County Administration Building - Council Chambers

Council Present S. Bentley, Mayor
D. McKeen, Councillor
J. Metcalfe, Councillor
D. Lawrence, Councillor
B. Adams, Councillor
R. Shirton, Councillor
P. O'Neill, Councillor

Staff Present C. Case, Chief Administrative Officer (participated electronically)
M. Evers, General Manager, Community & Development Services
T. Haedrich, General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works
M. Jamieson, General Manager, Corporate & Social Services
D. McKinnon, General Manager, Public Works Operations
M. Merritt, General Manager, Financial & Data Services
C. Curtis, Municipal Clerk

Others Present W. McKaig, Sullivan Mahoney (participated electronically)

A. Call to Order

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

B. Moment of Reflection

Mayor Bentley opened the meeting with a moment of reflection.

C. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Adams read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

D. Roll Call

The Mayor and all Members of Council were in attendance.

E. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None.

F. Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

- 1 Council Minutes - May 5, 2025

Resolution 103-25

Moved By: Councillor McKeen

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the minutes of the May 5, 2025 Council meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- 2 Closed Session - Council Minutes - May 5, 2025

Resolution 104-25

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor Metcalfe

THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the May 5, 2025 Council meeting be adopted as circulated and remain confidential.

CARRIED

G. Presentations of Recognition

- 1 Andre Gravelle, Building Inspector / Trainer Re: Retirement Certificate

H. Delegations

None.

I. Approval of Committee Minutes

- 1 Council in Committee Minutes - May 20, 2025

Councillor Shirton requested that Recommendation 9 from the May 20, 2025 Council in Committee meeting be discussed further.

Council asked questions and received answers regarding:

- Delegation of Strong Mayor Powers;
- Clarification on legislation related to housing targets and Strong Mayor Powers being revoked if targets are not met;
- Transparency and communication related to staffing issues;
- Confirmation that a Council resolution has no legal standing regarding the removal of Strong Mayor Powers in Haldimand County;
- Staff engagement survey; and
- The potential effect of changes in the real estate market on Minister's Zoning Order and Strong Mayor Powers.

Resolution 105-25

Moved By: Councillor McKeen

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the minutes of the May 20, 2025 Council in Committee meeting be adopted with the following recommendation withdrawn to be voted on separately:

Recommendation 9 Re: Report CLE-07-2025 Strong Mayor Powers and Duties

CARRIED

Councillor Shirton introduced a resolution to amend Recommendation 9 from the May 20, 2025 Council in Committee meeting.

Councillor Shirton requested a recorded vote for the amending resolution.

Resolution 106-25

Moved By: Councillor Shirton

Seconded By: Councillor Metcalfe

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has opened up the opportunity for Municipalities to seek “Strong Mayor’s Powers” giving heads of Councils the tools they need to reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure development;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack, stated that the purpose for extending these “Strong Mayor’s Powers” was to allow Mayor’s who know their municipalities best, and we support them in a shared provincial-municipal priorities, such as encouraging the approval of new housing and constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing;

AND WHEREAS the new Mayor powers and duties include choosing to appoint chief administrative officer (CAO), along with hiring certain municipal department heads, proposing the municipal budgets as well as veto powers on such documents; proposing certain by-laws if the the Mayor is of the opinion that the proposed by-laws could advance provincial priorities consistent with building more homes;

AND WHEREAS the council in the past discussed and voted on the idea of adopting the “Strong Mayor’s Powers” and that vote was unanimously voted down not once but twice, including the public statements made in the past by Mayor Bentley against the idea of these powers;

AND WHEREAS Mayor Bentley has advised the Province of her changed desire to adopt the “Strong Mayor’s Powers” without any public discussion with council and/or a vote against or in support of;

THEREFORE, we are requesting the opportunity to have a fulsome discussion regarding the ‘Strong Mayor’s Powers’ allowing for clarity to the real intentions behind the Mayor’s decision;

AND THEREFORE, we ask

1. THAT given the information outlined above, any decisions regarding staffing be delegated to Council and these decisions to be voted on separately;
2. AND THAT the Mayor gives that power back to the duly elected individuals around the table.

YES (4): Councillor Metcalfe, Councillor Lawrence, Councillor Shirton, and Councillor O'Neill

NO (3): Mayor Bentley, Councillor McKeen, and Councillor Adams

CARRIED (4 to 3)

- 2 Closed Session - Council in Committee Minutes - May 20, 2025

Resolution 107-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the May 20, 2025 Council in Committee meeting be adopted as circulated and remain confidential.

CARRIED

- 3 Accessibility Advisory Committee Report - March 4, 2025

Resolution 108-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

THAT the report of the March 4, 2025 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 4 Agricultural Advisory Committee Report - March 19, 2025

Resolution 109-25

Moved By: Councillor Adams

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT the report of the March 19, 2025 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 5 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Report - March 18, 2025

Resolution 110-25

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

THAT the report of the March 18, 2025 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 6 Haldimand O.P.P. Detachment Board Report - April 24, 2025

Resolution 111-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

THAT the report of the March 27, 2025 Haldimand O.P.P. Detachment Board meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 7 Heritage Haldimand Report - March 31, 2025

Resolution 112-25

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT the report of the March 31, 2025 Heritage Haldimand meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 8 Seniors Advisory Committee Report - March 26, 2025

Resolution 113-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT the report of the March 26, 2025 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 9 Trails Advisory Committee Report - January 15, 2025

Resolution 114-25

Moved By: Councillor Lawrence

Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

THAT the report of the January 15, 2025 Trails Advisory Committee meeting be received.

CARRIED

J. Unfinished Business

None.

K. New Business

- 1 CDS-07-2025 Response to Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

M. Evers, General Manager, Community & Development Services provided an overview of the report.

M. Merritt, General Manager, Financial & Data Services spoke to development charges and cashflow collection concerns.

Council asked questions and received answers regarding:

- Required studies for larger-scale developments;
- Concerns regarding changes to setback requirements;
- Communication with other Chief Financial Officers; and
- Timeframe related to the collection of development charges.

Resolution 115-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Shirton

1. THAT Report CDS-07-2025 Response to Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 be received;
2. AND THAT the staff comments expressed in CDS-07-2025 be submitted to the Province via the various ERO postings.

CARRIED

- 2 Council Information Package

None.

L. By-laws

- 1 By-law 1414-HC/25 to authorize a temporary use of certain lands, buildings and structures for a prohibited use by Haldimand County Zoning By-law HC 1-2020, as amended, in the name of 1736032 Ontario Inc. (Dunnville Airport)

Council in Committee Reports PDD-11-2025 and CEC-03-2025, May 20, 2025
- 2 By-law 1415-HC/25 to amend Zoning By-law HC 1-2020, as amended, for property described in the name of Disciples Camp

Council in Committee Report PDD-13-2025, May 20, 2025
- 3 By-law 2612/25 to authorize the interest charges to apply under the Development Charges Act

Council in Committee FIN-09-2025, May 20, 2025
- 4 By-law 2613/25 to authorize the use of internet voting for use during the advance voting period for the 2026 municipal election

Council in Committee Report CLE-06-2025, May 20, 2025
- 5 By-law 2614/25 to authorize the use of optical scanning vote tabulators at the 2026 municipal election and to repeal By-law 2343/22

Council in Committee Report CLE-06-2025, May 20, 2025
- 6 By-law 2615/25 to authorize the stopping up, closure and sale of part of Old Lakeshore Road, Dunnville

Delegated Authority By-law 2473/23 and Council in Committee Report CS-SS-08-2016, April 11, 2016

Resolution 116-25

Moved By: Councillor Lawrence

Seconded By: Councillor McKeen

THAT By-laws 1 to 6, as listed, be enacted.

CARRIED

M. Notices of Motion

None.

N. Announcements, Reports from Council Appointees to Boards and Committees

The following items were highlighted:

- Virtual meeting for North Caledonia Employment Lands; and
- Inquiry regarding the Council Code of Conduct complaint process and declarations of pecuniary interest.

O. Closed Session

Resolution 117-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT pursuant to Section 239 (2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Council convene in a meeting at 7:20 p.m. closed to the public to discuss:

- 1 LSS-13-2025 Encroachment of House – Retaining Wall Replacement

Referred from May 20, 2025 Council in Committee meeting

Section 239 (2)(c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board

CARRIED

Resolution 118-25

Moved By: Councillor McKeen

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT this closed meeting now adjourn at 7:26 p.m. and reconvene in open session.

CARRIED

P. Motions Arising from Closed Session

Resolution 119-25

Moved By: Councillor O'Neill

Seconded By: Councillor Adams

1. THAT Report LSS-13-2025 Encroachment of House – Retaining Wall Replacement be received and remain confidential;

2. AND THAT the confidential direction given to staff be confirmed.

CARRIED

Q. Motion of Receipt

None.

R. Confirming By-law

By-law 2616/25 to confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of Haldimand County

Resolution 120-25

Moved By: Councillor Metcalfe

Seconded By: Councillor Lawrence

THAT the Confirmation By-law for the May 26, 2025 Council meeting be enacted.

CARRIED

S. Adjournment

Resolution 121-25

Moved By: Councillor Shirton

Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CLERK