

DUFFERIN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 24, 2025, 9:00 am

W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville

Councillors Present: Warden Janet Horner (Mulmur)
 Councillor Walter Benotto (Shelburne) (Alternate Councillor)
 Councillor Elaine Capes (Mono) (Alternate Councillor)
 Councillor John Creelman (Mono)
 Councillor Guy Gardhouse (East Garafraxa)
 Councillor Chris Gerrits (Amaranth)
 Councillor Earl Hawkins (Mulmur)
 Councillor Gail Little (Amaranth)
 Councillor James McLean (Melancthon)
 Councillor Wade Mills (Shelburne)
 Councillor Lisa Post (Orangeville)
 Councillor Philip Rentsch (Grand Valley)
 Councillor Steve Soloman (Grand Valley)
 Councillor Todd Taylor (Orangeville)
 Councillor Darren White (Melancthon)

Councillors Absent: Councillor Shane Hall (Shelburne) (prior notice)
 Councillor Fred Nix (Mono) (prior notice)

Staff Present: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Dunne, Clerk
 Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk
 Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer
 Rajbir Sian, Director of Development and Tourism
 Gary Staples, Chief Paramedic
 Rohan Thompson, Director of People & Equity
 Brenda Wagner, Director of Health and Human Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Horner called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Warden Horner announced that the meeting is being live streamed and publicly broadcast. The recording of this meeting will also be available on our website in the future.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Warden Horner shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. ROLL CALL

The Clerk verbally took a roll call of the Councillors in attendance.

Following the roll call, the Clerk provided an overview of the new direct to Council meeting structure.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor McLean

THAT the agenda and any addendum distributed for the April 24, 2025 meeting of Council, be approved.

CARRIED

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

5.1 Councillor Post - General Government Services: Community Grant Allocation Recommendations

Councillor Post declared a pecuniary interest regarding item 11.4 - 2025 Community Grant Allocation Report as she volunteers with Celebrate Your Awesome.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of Council on April 10, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

7. PROCLAMATIONS, DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month - May 2025

Warden Horner proclaimed the month of May 2025 as MS Awareness Month in the County of Dufferin. James Jackson, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Ambassador Dufferin/Caledon, was in attendance to accept the proclamation.

7.2 Community Living Month - May 2025

Warden Horner proclaimed the month of May 2025 as Community Living Month in the County of Dufferin. Diane Kite and Elena Bellassai, Community Living Dufferin, were in attendance to accept the proclamation.

Councillor Philip Rentsch (Grand Valley) joined the meeting at 9:10 am.

7.3 First Responders Day - May 1, 2025

Warden Horner proclaimed May 1, 2025 as First Responders Day in the County of Dufferin. Gary Staples, Chief Paramedic, was in attendance to accept the proclamation.

7.4 Emergency Preparedness Week – May 4 - 10, 2025

Warden Horner proclaimed May 4 - 10, 2025 as Emergency Preparedness Week in the County of Dufferin.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

9. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Councillor Rentsch requested the following items be moved to Section 12 for discussion:

- Item 10.1 - Community Development and Tourism: Planning and Economic Development Summit
- Item 10.2 - Health and Human Services: Dufferin County Paramedic Service 2024 Annual Report
- Item 10.3 - Health and Human Services: Dufferin Oaks 2024 Resident and Family Satisfaction Survey
- Item 11.1 - Community Development and Tourism: New County Pre-Consultation Process
- Item 11.3 - General Government Services: Overview of the Spring 2025 Severe Weather Events
- Item 11.4 - General Government Services: Community Grant Allocation

10. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION REPORTS

All items from Section 10 were moved to Section 12 for discussion.

11. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FOR DIRECTION

11.1 General Government Services: Access Dufferin Minutes - March 19, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Benotto

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the minutes from the Access Dufferin meeting on March 19, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

12. DISCUSSION OF REPORTS SEPARATED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Community Development and Tourism: Planning and Economic Development Summit

A report from the Director of Community Development and Tourism, dated April 24, 2025, to outline the process leading up to the Planning and Economic Development Summit on June 12, 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the report from Director of Development and Tourism, Report #Planning and Development-2025-033, County Summit on Planning and Economic Development, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.2 Health and Human Services: Dufferin County Paramedic Service 2024 Annual Report

A report from the Chief Paramedic, dated April 24, 2025, to provide the annual Paramedic Services report.

Moved by: Councillor Benotto

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the report from the Chief Paramedic, Report # Paramedic Services-2025-003, 2024 Annual Report, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.3 Health and Human Services: Dufferin Oaks 2024 Resident and Family Satisfaction Survey

A report from the Director of Health and Human Services, dated April 24, 2025, to provide the results of the 2024 Dufferin Oaks Resident and Family Satisfaction survey.

Moved by: Councillor Little

Seconded by: Councillor Mills

That the report from the Director of Health and Human Services, Report #Health and Human Services-2025-12, Dufferin Oaks 2024

Resident and Family Satisfaction Survey, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.4 Community Development and Tourism: New County Pre-Consultation Process

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Benotto

THAT the report from the Director of Community Development and Tourism, Report #Planning and Development-2025-022, titled New County Pre-Consultation Process, dated April 24, 2025, be received;

AND THAT draft Pre-Consultation Policy be adopted;

AND THAT By-law 2019-10, be repealed.

CARRIED

12.5 General Government Services: Overview of the Spring 2025 Severe Weather Events

A report from the Manager of Preparedness, 9-1-1 and Corporate Projects, dated April 24, 2025, to provide an overview of the recent significant weather events and seek approval to engage stakeholders for feedback on the response.

Moved by: Councillor Little

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the report from the Manager of Preparedness, 9-1-1 and Corporate Projects, Report #Office of the CAO-2025-020, Overview of the Spring 2025 Severe Weather Events, be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to conduct a thorough debriefing of the severe weather events detailed in this report;

AND THAT the debriefing process include engagement with the members of the community who wish to contribute to the process;

AND THAT a complete After-Action Report with recommendations be presented to County Council for consideration.

CARRIED

12.6 General Government Services: Community Grant Allocation Recommendations

Councillor Post declared a conflict on this item. (Councillor Post declared a pecuniary interest regarding item 11.4 - 2025 Community Grant Allocation Report as she volunteers with Celebrate Your Awesome.)

A presentation and report from Headwaters Communities In Action, dated April 24, 2025, to recommend allocation of the 2025 Community Grant funds.

Councillor Post left the room during consideration of the Celebrate Your Awesome grant allocation motion.

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT the report from Headwaters Communities In Action, dated April 24, 2025, regarding 2025 Community Grant allocations, be received;

AND THAT the 2025 Community Grant funds be distributed as follows:

Bee Ambassadors Canada \$3,000

Bethell Hospice Foundation \$3,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin and District \$8,000

Caledon Meals on Wheels \$8,450 (multi year funding)

Career Education Council \$3,000

Dufferin Arts Council \$15,000

Fiddlehead Care Farm \$7,500 (multi year funding)

Food For You \$5,000

Headwaters Arts \$5,500
Headwaters Health Care Centre - TeleCheck \$2,000
Joyful Sound Gospel Choir \$12,337
Kinette Club of Shelburne \$3,000
Montgomery Village Public School Council \$3,000
Orangeville and District Horticultural Society \$1,000 (multi year funding)
Orangeville Community Band \$3,000 (multi year funding)
Orton Community Association \$2,925
Princess Elizabeth Public School Council \$5,000
Rotary Club of Orangeville \$3,000
Shelburne and District Agricultural Society \$2,500
Streams Community Hub \$5,000 (multi year funding)
The Rotary Club of Shelburne \$5,000
Theatre Orangeville \$5,000
Westminster United Church - Orangeville \$6,418

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Mills
Seconded by: Councillor White

THAT Celebrate Your Awesome be awarded \$5,000 (multi year funding) in 2025 Community Grant funds.

CARRIED

12.7 Long Term Debt Annual Report

A report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated April 24, 2025, to provide an annual update on the County's long-term debt position and future borrowing capacity.

Moved by: Councillor White
Seconded by: Councillor Gerrits

THAT the report from Manager of Corporate Services, Treasurer, Report #Corproate Services -2025-015 Long Term Debt Annual Report, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.8 Long Term Financial Overview

A presentation and report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated April 24, 2025, to provide a long term financial overview.

Moved by: Councillor Post

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT the report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, Report #Corporate Services-2025-017, Long Term Financial Overview, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.9 RECESS

Warden Horner called a recess at 10:44 am. The meeting resumed at 10:52 am.

12.10 Road Rationalization Plan

A report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated April 24, 2025, to provide financial considerations related to the Road Rationalization Plan.

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Taylor

THAT the report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, Report #Corporate Services-2025-016, Road Rationalization Plan, dated April 24, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

12.11 Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation Update – March 2025

A report deferred from April 10, 2025 Council meeting from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer to provided an update on the Road Network Rationalization Plan implementation.

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, Report #Public Works-2025-011, Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation Update – March 2025, dated March 27, 2025, be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to collaborate with local municipal staff where necessary to develop any required temporary agreements related to road maintenance of roads being transferred to/from the County;

AND THAT staff be directed to work with Town of Orangeville staff to develop any necessary long-term agreements related to transfer of Riddell Road to the County to delineate ongoing responsibilities related to County Road operations and capital versus local municipal responsibilities, including trails, ground keeping, sewers, sidewalks, etc.

CARRIED

13. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

There was no strategic plan update this month.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

15. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

16. MOTIONS

16.1 County Planning Function

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Benotto

WHEREAS as an upper-tier municipality, Dufferin County has a responsibility under the provincial planning framework for managing growth and providing guidance on land-use planning for the County's eight lower-tier municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Dufferin County is expected to grow to over 100,000 people and nearly 42,000 jobs by 2051 according to the Provincial Policy Statement, 2024;

AND WHEREAS this growth will increasingly require a broader, strategic approach to land-use and long-term policy planning within Dufferin County;

AND WHEREAS Dufferin County is always striving to innovate and improve service delivery;

AND WHEREAS staff have scheduled a "Planning and Economic Development Summit" for June 12, 2025, which is intended to provide an overview of the division of planning and economic development responsibilities between upper and lower tier municipalities as well as the forecasted growth for all local municipalities across the County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dufferin County Council acknowledges and supports in principle, the County's upper-tier planning function as an integral and strategic part of the land-use and long-range policy planning processes;

AND FURTHER that Council utilize the upcoming "Planning and Economic Development Summit" as an opportunity to openly and constructively discuss ways in which the planning function can work more effectively for the benefit of Dufferin County residents.

CARRIED

16.2 Suspending Use of X (Twitter)

Moved by: Councillor Creelman

Seconded by: Councillor Mills

WHEREAS a number of municipalities and others are dropping 'X' (formerly known as Twitter) as a social media tool as it has become an increasingly toxic and biased online platform;

AND WHEREAS 'X' has not been a widely used or effective tool for communication with our residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Dufferin suspend the use of its X account pending cancellation as soon as possible;

AND THAT the County make efforts to alert users of our decision while also identifying alternatives.

For (12): Councillor Benotto, Councillor Capes, Councillor Creelman, Councillor Gardhouse, Councillor Little, and Councillor Mills

Against (22): Warden Horner, Councillor Gerrits, Councillor Hawkins, Councillor McLean, Councillor Post, Councillor Rentsch, Councillor Soloman, Councillor Taylor, and Councillor White

Absent (2): Councillor Hall, and Councillor Nix

LOST (12 to 22)

16.2.1 Dufferin County X Account

A report from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 24, 2025, to provide information on the County's use of the social media platform X.

17. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Benotto

THAT Council move into Closed Session at 11:22 am in accordance with the Municipal Act, Section 239 2(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

17.1 New Operations Centre Project – Update 4 (Municipal Act, Section 239 2(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality)

18. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

While in closed session, Council considered a staff report regarding the Southern Operations Centre Project.

Moved by: Councillor Benotto

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT Council return to open session (11:47 am).

CARRIED

19. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Councillor Creelman left the meeting at 11:48 am.

Moved by: Councillor Post

Seconded by: Councillor Mills

THAT staff proceed as discussed in closed session.

CARRIED

20. BY-LAWS

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT By-Law 2025-25 be read a first, second and third time and enacted.

CARRIED

20.1 2025-25 Upper Grand District School Board (Lease - Mel Lloyd Centre)

A by-law to ratify the actions of the Warden and the Clerk for executing an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the

Upper Grand District School Board.
Authorization: Council - April 24, 2025

21. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Gardhouse inquired if other local municipalities have developed policies in relation to first responders travelling through speed camera zones with their emergency lights activated. Councillor Taylor noted the Town of Orangeville is working to develop their policies and will ensure emergency vehicles responding to calls are addressed in their policies. Councillor Benotto noted the Town of Shelburne has developed their policy and he will request it be circulated.

Councillor Mills thanked the Economic Development Division for organizing the Investors Tour that took place on April 23, 2025 to showcase some of the Dufferin County tourism assets. Councillor Mills noted there was 45 participants and it was a successful first tour. He noted the tour was funded by a Rural Economic Development Grant.

22. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

2025-26 Confirmatory By-Law - April 24, 2025

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin at its meeting held on April 24, 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Capes

Seconded by: Councillor Gerrits

THAT By-Law 2025-26 be read a first, second and third time and enacted.

CARRIED

23. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held in the Dufferin Room at 30 Centre St, Orangeville on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Moved by: Councillor Benotto

Seconded by: Councillor Post

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

Warden

Clerk