



The Corporation of The Town of Cobourg
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes

January 28, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Victoria Hall, Cobourg

Members Present: Mayor Lucas Cleveland
Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty
Councillor Randy Barber
Councillor Adam Bureau
Councillor Brian Darling
Councillor Miriam Mutton

Members Absent: Councillor Aaron Burchat

Staff Present: Kevin Ashfield, Deputy Fire Chief
Chris Challenger, Director of Development
Adam Giddings, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Brent Larmer, Municipal Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Kristina Lepik, Deputy Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services
Laryssa McGlashon, Council and Committee Coordinator
Lacricia Turner, Director, Community Services
Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer
Laurie Wills, Director, Public Works & Engineering

Staff Present Virtually: Terry Hoekstra, Deputy Director, Engineering

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lucas Cleveland called the Meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Addendum Items

None.

3. Confirmation of Agenda

3.1 Confirmation of the January 28, 2026 Regular Council Agenda

Moved by Councillor Randy Barber

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

THAT Council confirm the agenda, as circulated.

Carried

4. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Not required.

5. Reconvene into Open Meeting

Not required.

6. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that we are located in the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations have been stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that today remain vigilant over their health and integrity for generations to come. We are all Treaty people.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary (Financial) Interest

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest from Members of Council.

8. Items Arising from Closed Session

None.

9. Adoption of Minutes

9.1 Council Minutes for Adoption

9.1.1 December 12, 2025 Emergency Minutes

9.1.2 December 15, 2025 Special Minutes

9.1.3 December 17, 2025 Regular Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

THAT Council approve the minutes of Cobourg Municipal Council, as circulated.

Carried

9.2 Standing Committee Minutes Received for Information

There are no Standing Committee Minutes for January, due to there being no Staff Reports the meetings were deemed to not be required and were cancelled.

10. Community Announcements

Members of Council presented verbal reports on matters within their respective areas of responsibility.

11. Departmental Updates/Discussion

The CAO provided information and updates to Council and the Public on Divisional areas.

12. Delegations

None.

13. Information from External Organization / Information from Advisory Committees or Task Forces

None.

14. Consent Agenda

14.1 Community Services, Protection and Economic Development Standing Committee

Due to there not being any current items for consideration, this meeting was deemed to not be required and was cancelled.

14.2 Public Works, Planning and Development Standing Committee

Due to there not being any current items for consideration, this meeting was deemed to not be required and was cancelled.

14.3 Corporate, Finance and Legislative Standing Committee

Due to there not being any current items for consideration, this meeting was deemed to not be required and was cancelled.

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty

THAT Council adopt the following recommendations within the consent agenda as a single motion.

14.4 Correspondence

14.4.1 Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding concerns with the legislative changes contained in Bill 68 regarding the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg does not support the legislative changes to the OMERS Act contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees; and

FURTHER THAT Council endorse the Mayor sending the letter of support raising concerns with the legislative changes contained in Bill 68 to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs;
- The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
- The Honourable David Piccini; and
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

14.4.2 Correspondence from the Ontario Energy Board regarding a Notice of Hearing regarding an order approving the renewal of a natural gas franchise agreement with the Town of Cobourg

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Ontario Energy Board regarding a Notice of Hearing regarding an order approving the renewal of a natural gas franchise agreement with the Town of Cobourg for information purposes.

Carried

15. Items Extracted from Consent Agenda

15.1 Report No. PW-2026-001 from the Deputy Director of Engineering regarding Southwest Sanitary Sewershed Master Plan Presentation

Moved by Councillor Brian Darling

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty

THAT Council receive Report No. PW-2026-001 for information purposes.

Carried

15.2 Report No. COMM-2026-001 from the Director of Community Services, Manager of Recreation, and Manager of Parks regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2026-2035) Progress Presentation

Moved by Councillor Randy Barber

Seconded by Councillor Miriam Mutton

THAT Council receive Report No. COMM-2026-001 for information purposes.

Carried

15.3 Report No. PW-2026-002 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering regarding Assumption of Road and Infrastructure for Public Use East Village Phases 2, 3 and 4

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

THAT Council enact By-law No. 007-2026 being a By-law to assume municipal services and infrastructure at East Village Phases 2, 3, and 4 on Registered Plan 39M-875, namely the streets known as:

- Rollings Avenue from 43 m North of Stirling Way centreline to the Northern intersection of Rollings Avenue and Lonsberry Drive.
- Lonsberry Drive from 18 m East of Rollings Avenue centerline to the Southern intersection of Rollings Avenue and Lonsberry Drive.
- Morgan Street from 8 m North of Rollings Avenue centerline to the intersection of Lonsberry Drive and Morgan Street.
- Lonsberry Drive From 21 m East of Morgan Street centerline to 55 m West of Morgan Street centerline.
- Lonsberry Drive from the eastern limit of 460 Lonsberry Drive to the intersection of Drewery Road and Lonsberry Drive.
- Bennett Avenue from the centerline of Drewery Road to the centerline of Rollings Street
- Rollings Street from the western limit of 199 Rollings to the eastern limit of 167 Rollings. Including Hammerhead boulevard
- Hayward Street from the centerline of Bennett Avenue to the eastern limit of 466 Haward Street (129 m)
- Drewery Road from the centerline of Bennett Avenue to the eastern limit of 448-458 Drewery Road (131 m)

Carried

15.4 Report No. PW-2026-003 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering regarding a Request to Utilize Engineering Consulting Services

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

THAT Council reallocate a maximum of \$75,000 from the staff contingency reserve to be used for engineering consulting services for development works, capital projects and asset management.

Carried

16. By-laws

16.1 By-law No. 004-2026 being a By-law to Authorize Borrowing

16.2 By-law No. 005-2026 being a By-law to Authorize an Interim Tax Levy

16.3 By-law No. 006-2026 being a By-law to Establish Water Rates and Wastewater Rates (COR-2025-024)

16.4 By-law No. 007-2026 being A By-Law to Assume Municipal Services and Infrastructure at East Village Phase 2, Phase 3, and Phase 4 on Registered Plan 39M-875 (PW-2026-002)

Moved by Councillor Randy Barber

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law No. 004-2026 to By-law No. 007-2026 and to dispense with the reading of the By-laws by the Municipal Clerk and that the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

Council recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

Mayor Lucas Cleveland rescinded the position of Chair to Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty at 8:00 p.m.

17. Notice of Motion / Motion for Which Notice Has Been Given

17.1 Notice of Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Senior and Accessibility Assistance Snow Removal Pilot Program

Moved by Mayor Lucas Cleveland

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

WHEREAS the Towns of Oshawa, Ajax, Clarington, and other surrounding municipalities operate senior snow removal programs to support seniors and residents facing accessibility barriers; and

WHEREAS Council and staff of the Town of Cobourg routinely receive numerous complaints each winter regarding limited availability and affordability of private snow removal operators; and

WHEREAS snow accumulation at the ends of driveways and on sidewalks presents a safety and accessibility barrier for seniors and residents with accessibility challenges as identified by the Accessibility Advisory Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to draft and implement a Snow Removal Assistance Pilot Program, to commence by the next winter season in 2026; and

FURTHER THAT while operational delivery will be undertaken by Public Works, the program shall be managed and administered through the Town's customer service kiosk, including intake, coordination, and participant communication; and,

FURTHER THAT eligibility to participate in the program shall be for residents with accessibility challenges that meet criteria as identified and recommended by the Towns Accessibility Advisory Committee;

FURTHER THAT Staff report back to Council by the June Standing Committee with a proposed pilot program indicating a defined number of program spaces and with details related to how the program will be administered, level of service expectations, and an estimate of costs for additional Staff and equipment needs.

Amended

Moved by Councillor Brian Darling

Seconded by Councillor Miriam Mutton

MOTION TO AMEND

That the following paragraph be removed from the motion:

NOW THEREFORE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to draft and implement a Snow Removal Assistance Pilot Program, to commence by the next winter season in 2026; and

Carried

Moved by Mayor Lucas Cleveland

Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

WHEREAS the Towns of Oshawa, Ajax, Clarington, and other surrounding municipalities operate senior snow removal programs to support seniors and residents facing accessibility barriers; and

WHEREAS Council and staff of the Town of Cobourg routinely receive numerous complaints each winter regarding limited availability and affordability of private snow removal operators; and

WHEREAS snow accumulation at the ends of driveways and on sidewalks presents a safety and accessibility barrier for seniors and residents with accessibility challenges as identified by the Accessibility Advisory Committee;

NOW THEREFORE IT RESOLVED THAT while operational delivery will be undertaken by Public Works, the program shall be managed and administered through the Town's customer service kiosk, including intake, coordination, and participant communication; and

FURTHER THAT eligibility to participate in the program shall be for residents with accessibility challenges that meet criteria as identified and recommended by the Towns Accessibility Advisory Committee; and

FURTHER THAT Staff report back to Council by the June Standing Committee with a proposed pilot program indicating a defined number of program spaces and with details related to how the program will be administered, level of service expectations, and an estimate of costs for additional Staff and equipment needs.

Carried

17.2 Notice of Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Cobourg Warming and Respite Center

Moved by Mayor Lucas Cleveland

Seconded by Councillor Randy Barber

THAT Council direct staff to immediately begin the process of establishing a Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre, intended to bookend the current services being provided and to serve as a safe, dignified indoor place to go for individuals experiencing homelessness during periods when no shelter or respite space is otherwise available; and

FURTHER THAT Council affirm its commitment to providing a safe workplace for municipal staff, and affirm that Victoria Hall is not an appropriate location for a de facto emergency shelter due to a lack of warming space being provided by the service manager and that vulnerable individuals deserve access to a dignified space that creates the opportunity for visiting social services and health service organization to meet with individuals in a confidential and appropriate setting, and that Victoria Hall will continue to function as a public civic building; and

FURTHER THAT Council identify the former D'Arcy Place facility (Building 19), or a similarly located town owned building or through the purchase or rental of temporary structure that can be located in the general vicinity of the former D'Arcy Place, as the preferred location to be advanced for this purpose, while any required review or work related to the second floor of the facility is undertaken; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to take the necessary operational steps to open the facility as soon as reasonably possible, including coordination with community partners, risk mitigation measures, and interim operational planning; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to explore the feasibility of a coordinated bus pick-up and drop-off arrangement between the County warming room and the Cobourg Warming Room, to improve access and continuity of services; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the reallocation of the existing municipal security contract currently assigned to the bus shelter and Victoria Hall, in whole or in part, to support security and safety needs associated with the Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre; and

FURTHER THAT Council further authorize staff to expend up to a maximum of \$30,000, over and above any reallocated security contract resources, to support start-up, operational, and safety costs necessary to open the facility, with funding source(s) to be identified by staff; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to establish a municipal charitable account at Victoria Hall to immediately begin accepting donations and issuing charitable tax receipts for contributions made in support of the Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre; and that advertise this opportunity through communications network, and

FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council with updates on implementation progress, operating costs, partnership opportunities, and any further Council approvals required.

Amended

Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty rescinded the position of Chair to Councillor Brian Darling at 9:26 p.m.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Randy Barber

MOTION TO AMEND

That the motion be replaced with the following wording:

THAT Council direct Staff to attempt to secure and find a location for a warming room that is in accordance with Town By-laws, policies, and procedures; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to bring an operational plan and cost back to Council; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to put a call out to organization that provide respite services to support onsite operations.

Defeated

Moved by Mayor Lucas Cleveland
Seconded by Councillor Adam Bureau

MOTION TO AMEND

That the following wording be removed from the motion:

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the reallocation of the existing municipal security contract currently assigned to the bus shelter and Victoria Hall, in whole or in part, to support security and safety needs associated with the Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre; and

Carried

Councillor Adam Bureau left the meeting at 9:50 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Moved by Mayor Lucas Cleveland
Seconded by Councillor Randy Barber

THAT Council direct staff to immediately begin the process of establishing a Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre, intended to bookend the current services being provided and to serve as a safe, dignified indoor place to go for individuals experiencing homelessness during periods when no shelter or respite space is otherwise available; and

FURTHER THAT Council affirm its commitment to providing a safe workplace for municipal staff, and affirm that Victoria Hall is not an appropriate location for a de facto emergency shelter due to a lack of warming space being provided by the service manager and that vulnerable individuals deserve access to a dignified space that creates the opportunity for visiting social services and health service organization to meet with individuals in a confidential and appropriate setting, and that Victoria Hall will continue to function as a public civic building; and

FURTHER THAT Council identify the former D'Arcy Place facility (Building 18), or a similarly located town owned building or through the purchase or rental of temporary structure that can be located in the general vicinity of the former D'Arcy Place, as the preferred location to be advanced for this purpose, while any required review or work related to the second floor of the facility is undertaken; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to take the necessary operational steps to open the facility as soon as reasonably possible, including coordination with community partners, risk mitigation measures, and interim operational planning; and

FURTHER THAT Council further authorize staff to expend up to a maximum of \$30,000, over and above any reallocated security contract resources, to support start-up, operational, and safety costs necessary to open the facility, with funding source(s) to be identified by staff; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to establish a municipal charitable account at Victoria Hall to immediately begin accepting donations and issuing charitable tax receipts for contributions made in support of the Cobourg Warming Room and Respite Centre; and that advertise this opportunity through communications network, and

FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council with updates on implementation progress, operating costs, partnership opportunities, and any further Council approvals required.

Carried

Councillor Brian Darling rescinded the position of Chair to Mayor Lucas Cleveland at 9:54 p.m.

18. Confirmatory By-law

18.1 By-law No. 008-2026, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council Meeting of January 28, 2026

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty

THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law No. 008-2026 and to dispense with the reading of the By-law by the Municipal Clerk to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Town of Cobourg at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 28, 2026 and the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

19. Adjournment

Mayor Lucas Cleveland adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Lucas Cleveland, Mayor

Brent Larmer, Clerk