

**AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
February 24, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
Municipal Office, 3560 County Road 26**

PRESENT

Mayor Shaver
Deputy Mayor Wynands
Councillor Bowman
Councillor Henry
Councillor Pape

PRESS

STAFF PRESENT

Shannon Geraghty (CAO), Lindsey Veltkamp (Clerk), Chief Rob Bowman (Mgr. of Protective Services), Jon Stadig (Mgr. of Public Works), Melissa Banford (Planner), Kathleen Cole (Mgr. Parks, Recreation & Facilities), Vikki Werner-Mackeler (Deputy Clerk)

REGRETS

CALL TO ORDER

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

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Henry
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for February 24, 2025 be adopted.
Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Moved by Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor Bowman
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 Council meeting and the February 14, 2025 Special Budget Council meeting as distributed to all members.
Carried

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

DELEGATIONS & PETITIONS

- Every Kid in Our Community Leeds & Grenville – Jane Hess

CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS

- AMO Request for Support re: Social & Economic Prosperity Review

Moved by Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Henry

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

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AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca).

Carried

COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS

UCLG Council: Mayor Shaver provided an update
SNCA/RVCA: Mayor Shaver provided an update
Recreation: Councillors provided an update
Library Board:
EDTAC: Councillor Pape provided an update
PAC: Deputy Mayor Wynands provided an update
SGODB:
Administration: CAO Geraghty provided an update

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Report 2025-027

Moved by Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor Bowman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to renew the River Route Transit Service Partnership Agreement for the period of April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Carried

Report 2025-028

Moved by Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Henry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the submission of an application through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund for the purchase of a bus for the River Route service with the Town of Prescott and the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal.

Carried

Shannon Geraghty, CAO, provided Council with a review of the Council Compensation Expense Policy. He highlighted areas including the required review of the policy 18 months prior to a municipal election and conference attendance. He requested that Council provide feedback to staff with any changes to be brought forward to the next Council meeting.

OPERATIONS

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PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

Report 2025-007

Moved by Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor Bowman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recommend to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Consent Granting Authority that consent application B-141-24 be approved, subject to seven (7) conditions of approval, as detailed in Staff Report 2025-007.

Carried

Report 2025-025

Moved by Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Henry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recommend to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Consent Granting Authority that consent application B-2-25 be approved, subject to four (4) conditions of approval, as detailed in Staff Report 2024-025.

Carried

Report 2025-026

Moved by Deputy Mayor Wynands, seconded by Councillor Pape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Planner's report 2025-026 for information.

Carried

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Pape, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wynands

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Numbered 3763-2025 being a By-Law to authorize civil marriage solemnization services and issuance of marriage licenses in the Township of Augusta be read a first time, a second time, a third time, and be enacted as read.

Carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor Wynands, seconded by Councillor Pape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Numbered 3764-2025 being a By-Law to adopt and levy the 2025 tax rates and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment in the Township of Augusta be read a first time, a second time, a third time, and be enacted as read.

Carried

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Grenville Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting on Friday, February 28th starting at 6pm. Tickets are available from Deputy Mayor Wynands. There will be live and silent auctions.
- The Mayor's Breakfast is on Friday, March 28th. Registration is available on the Township's website.
- Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to raise funds for the families effected by the recent fire in Prescott. The fundraiser is being held on Saturday, March 1st at 5pm and 6:30pm at St. John's Anglican Church. There will be 2 sittings.

QUESTION PERIOD FOR THE PUBLIC

QUESTION PERIOD FOR THE PRESS

CLOSED SESSION AS PER SECTION 239 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT 2001

Moved by Councillor Pape, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wynands

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council move to a closed meeting at 7:04 pm. To discuss matters pertaining to:

- Approval of Closed Session Minutes (February 10, 2025)
- One matter under Section 239(2)(c), proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality – specifically purchase offer for municipal land
- One matter under Section 239(2)(b), personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – specifically staffing

Carried

Council recessed at 7:04 p.m.

Council resumed at 7:11 p.m.

RISE FROM COUNCIL IN CAMERA

Moved by Deputy Mayor Wynands, seconded by Councillor Pape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Session is adjourned at 8:07 pm and that Council resumed the open meeting to report out.

Carried

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REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Pape, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wynands

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council met in closed session to discuss proposed disposition of land and receive information from staff regarding staffing

Council:

- Provided Instruction to Staff

Carried

BY-LAW TO CONFIRM PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Moved by Deputy Mayor Wynands, seconded by Councillor Pape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 3765-2025 confirm the proceedings of Council of the Township of Augusta at its meeting held on February 24, 2025 be read a first time, a second time, a third time, and be enacted as read.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Henry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council be adjourned to March 10, 2025 at 8:10pm.

Carried.