



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Bruce County Council Chambers - 30 Park Street, Walkerton, ON

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Kym Hutcheon, Deputy Mayor
Mitch Clark, Councillor
Tim Elphick, Councillor
B. Carl Kuhnke, Councillor
Gregory J. McLean, Councillor
Steve Travale, Councillor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator

1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor Peabody called for a moment of silence in memory and grief for Mat Eckert, Olivia Rourke, Danica Baker, Kaydance Ford, Rowan McLeod and Nick Wood.

2. Acceptance of Council Agenda

Council decided to dispense with Notices of Motion for Items 15.1 and 15.2 on the agenda and consider both items following Item 7.1.

Resolution 25-12-01

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on May 27, 2025 as amended to consider Items 15.1 and 15.2 following Item 7.1.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

4. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

5. Delegations

6. Minutes

6.1 Council Minutes - May 13, 2025

Resolution 25-12-02

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

7. Business Arising From the Minutes

7.1 Resolution on Bill 5: Unleashing Ontario's Economy Act

Councillor McLean noted concerns with Bill 5, explaining the impacts for local control and planning autonomy.

Mayor Peabody discussed the fact that Bill 5 would erode Indigenous consultation in contrast to the goals of the County of Bruce Reconciliation Action Plan.

Resolution 25-12-03

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5 – Unleashing Ontario's Economy Act, which proposes changes that may have significant impacts on municipal authority, planning processes, environmental protections, and local governance; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Brockton values local autonomy, environmental stewardship, and the ability to plan responsibly for the long-term well-being of its residents and communities; and

WHEREAS Bill 5 may diminish the ability of municipalities to make land-use planning decisions that reflect local needs and priorities, potentially undermining public engagement and responsible development practices; and

WHEREAS the proposed legislation may centralize decision-making at the provincial level in a manner that is inconsistent with the principles of local democracy and accountable governance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Brockton formally opposes Bill 5 – Unleashing Ontario's Economy Act; and

THAT the Municipality of Brockton urges the Government of Ontario to reconsider the proposed legislation and engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the public; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Huron—Bruce, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities

Carried

7.2 Motion - Donation to Victims of May 23, 2025 Accident

Councillor Clark spoke to the motion, advocating that Council support the families impacted by the tragedy, and determine the best approach for a donation.

Resolution 25-12-04

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

Whereas a devastating multi-vehicle collision occurred on May 23, 2025, near London, resulting in the tragic loss of five lives and leaving our broader regional community and families in mourning;

And Whereas this heartbreaking event has affected many families and first responders and has prompted an outpouring of support from across Southwestern Ontario;

And Whereas the Municipality of Brockton wishes to express its deepest condolences and solidarity with those impacted by this tragedy;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton directs staff to explore and report back on appropriate options for the Municipality to make a contribution in memory of the victims — either:

- a financial donation to a designated memorial fund, victim support charity, or road safety organization; or
- an in-kind donation such as the planting of commemorative trees or a similar symbolic gesture within the community;

And Further That Council supports making this gesture as a show of compassion, remembrance, and regional unity in the face of this profound loss.

Carried

7.3 Motion - Rental Fee Waiver Confirmation

Resolution 25-12-05

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approves waiving the hall rental fees for the Walkerton Community Centre for the memorial services for the Walkerton District Community School students and teacher.

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 East Ridge Business Park Signage Pricing

Resolution 25-12-06

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby accepts Report Number ED2025-08 – East Ridge Business Park Signage Pricing, prepared by Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, and in doing so approves the revised pricing structure for the pylon sign located at the south entrance to the East Ridge Business Park for inclusion in the Fees & Charges By-Law.

Carried

8.2 Walkerton Centennial Park Pavilion Relocation

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services responded to questions from Council about the design of the pavilion. Ms. Gillis noted the roof shape would change to accommodate snow loads and noted some additional storage that

would be incorporated staying within the amount of the insurance proceeds. Ms. Gillis noted in the future solar panels could be installed on the roof of the pool washroom facility if the technology improved in the future.

Resolution 25-12-07

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-12- Walkerton Centennial Park Pavilion Relocation, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves staff recommendation to relocate the park pavilion within Centennial Park.

Carried

8.3 2024 Plow Truck Price Increase

Nicholas Schnurr confirmed that the attachments for the truck that was ordered increased in price. Council discussed the increase in long-term debt and whether the overage should be funded through surplus funds.

This item was tabled until Item 8.7 Financial Update - 2025 Budget Changes Report was discussed.

Resolution 25-12-08

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2025-09 - 2024 Plow Truck Price Increase, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so, authorizes long-term debt.

Tabled

8.4 Hanover/Walkerton Landfill Leachate Management Class EA Public Information Centre

Resolution 25-12-09

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number WM2025-07 - Hanover/Walkerton Landfill Leachate Management Class EA Public Information Centre, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Carried

8.5 Infrastructure Grant Opportunity – HSWS (Health and Safety Water Stream)

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations responded to an inquiry advising that additional items cannot be added into the application as only shovel ready projects would be considered for the grant funding.

Resolution 25-12-10

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number UT2025-07 - Infrastructure Grant Opportunity – HSWS (Health and Safety Water Stream), prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so authorizes staff to submit an application to the HSWS grant for the Water Tower project

8.6 Curbside Collection RFP Contract Award Update

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations advised that new subdivisions, such as Walker West, would also be included in the Walkerton green bin program.

Council discussed feedback from residents, and expressed support for Option 1, with the opportunity to expand the program after 5 years pending sufficient interest.

Resolution 25-12-11

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number WM2025-06 - Curbside Collection RFP Contract Award Update, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so, proceeds with option number 1 as outlined: Green Bin program for Walkerton

8.7 Finance Update – 2025 Budget Changes

Council supported the green bin program, and discussed the various budget changes, and whether the projects should be funded from the surplus or deferred for future consideration in the 2026 budget.

Council discussed each project and rationale for funding the project through surplus funds or not, as well as whether funds should be included in any reserve funds.

Nicholas Schnurr provided clarification on the Brant Landfill earth works project and green bin project. Council choose to remove the green bin project as it could be funded through the 2026 budget but use surplus funds to cover the Brant Landfill earth works.

Council discussed the tennis/pickleball court project and fundraising shortfall that occurred. Council chose not to fund the project through surplus funds to establish a precedent about community fundraising projects.

Council discussed the ball diamond project and chose not to fund the project through surplus funds.

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services clarified the timeline for the Centennial Pool diving board which should be installed within a month, noting the donations received to help fund the cost. Council decided to fund the project using surplus funds.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer provided clarification on the benches at the Child Care Centre and intention of bringing additional shade to the playground. Council chose not to fund the project through surplus funds.

Council discussed the additional costs for the plow truck and decided to fund the cost difference using surplus funds.

Council discussed the remaining surplus funds, and the benefits by providing a tax rate reduction.

Councillor Elphick raised the suggestion of putting some funds into reserves for the policing/court security and prisoner transportation costs to offset the impact in 2026. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer noted that \$60,500 was used from

the tax stabilization reserve fund in the 2025 budget and that amount of surplus funds could be placed back into reserves.

Ms. Serratore provided an overview of the tax rate following the decisions made, being a 1.63% reduction to the previously set tax rate of 4.175 resulting in a total tax rate increase of 2.50% for 2025.

Resolution 25-12-12

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-16 – Finance Update – 2025 Budget Changes, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so approves using surplus funds to cover the following:

- \$30,000 for insurance claims - two incidents of facility damage
- \$50,000 for Brant Landfill Earth Work for Cell 3
- \$7,941.83 for Walkerton Centennial Pool Diving Board Replacement
- \$81,662.07 for additional expenses related to the plow truck
- \$60,500 into reserves for future Court Security and Prisoner Transportation and Policing Contract costs
- \$269,000 to be returned to Brockton taxpayers reducing the tax rate by 1.63%

Carried

8.3 2024 Plow Truck Price Increase (Reconsidered)

Resolution 25-12-13

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby authorizes the motion regarding Report PW2025-09 - 2024 Plow Truck Price Increase, tabled earlier in the May 27, 2025 Council Agenda, from the table for the purposes of a vote.

Carried

Resolution 25-12-14

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2025-09 - 2024 Plow Truck Price Increase, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so authorizes funding the purchase of the plow equipment using surplus funds.

Carried

9. Public Notification

9.1 Volunteer Recognition Awards

The Municipality of Brockton's 2025 Volunteer Recognition Awards: the Brockton Good Neighbour Award and the Walkerton and District Optimist Club's Outstanding Youth Award were available on our website Brockton.ca/VolunteerAward until May 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. The annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on June 12, 2025 at the Walkerton Community Centre from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

9.2 Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award

The Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award encourages the next generation to build on Brockton's legacy and lead the way in protecting one of our most vital resources. Applications for the Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award are being accepted online [through Community Foundation Grey Bruce's website](#) until May 31, 2025.

10. Accounts

10.1 Accounts - \$827,500.86

Resolution 25-12-15

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approve payment of the accounts in the amount of \$827,500.86.

Carried

11. Correspondence Requiring Action

11.1 Blyth Festival Civic Night Invitation

11.2 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority - Invitation to Celebrate SVCA's 75th Anniversary

12. Information

12.1 Consent Application Notice B-2025-025

12.2 Public Meeting Notice - Official Plan Amendment - Brockton Settlement Expansion C-2024-007

12.3 Ministry of the Solicitor General - OPP Cost Recovery Model Review

12.4 Bruce County Media Release - Celebrating Paramedics Providing Critical Care Across All Communities in Bruce County

12.5 Grey Bruce Community Safety & Well-Being Planning Media Release - New Road Safety Campaign Targets Cannabis-Impaired Driving

12.6 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit 2024 Financial Statements

12.7 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit Minutes - March and April 2025

12.8 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Executive Committee Minutes - April 8, 2025

12.9 Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission Minutes - April 16, 2025

12.10 Hanover/Walkerton Waste Management Committee Minutes - May 6, 2025

12.11 Town of the Blue Mountains Resolution - Advocating for Reduced Provincial Tax Rate on Ontario-Made Cider

12.12 Municipality of Kincardine Resolution - Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act

12.13 Town of Mattawa Resolution - Opposition for expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

12.14 Town of Shelburne Resolution - Opting out of Strong Mayor Powers

Resolution 25-12-16

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives all items provided in Section 12. Information.

Carried

13. By-Laws

No additional By-Laws were passed at this meeting.

14. Committee Minutes

Resolution 25-12-17

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton receive the minutes of the following committees and or boards as presented:

- Elmwood Community Centre Board Minutes - April 2, 2025
- Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee Minutes - April 9, 2025

Carried

15. New Business Brought Forward

1. Automated Speed Enforcement

Deputy Mayor Hutcheon notified Council that she spoke with a Canadian company about automated speed enforcement machines, which the Township of Essa would provide, and Brockton would be responsible for installation and maintenance. Deputy Mayor Hutcheon noted it would take 6 months to come into effect. Mayor Peabody noted that Council looked forward to receiving a Notice of Motion for further consideration of this matter.

2. OPP Cost Recovery Model Review

Councillor Elphick noted the shortcomings of the existing OPP Cost Recovery Model, and the opportunity for Brockton to actively engage in the webinars to note concerns about the impact of court security and prisoner transportation costs.

3. Celebrations of Life

Mayor Peabody advised that he would notify Council of the celebrations of life and funeral services for the WDCS students and staff member, and Nick Wood. Mayor Peabody thanked staff for their quick response and read a letter of condolence he had received from the Mayor of the City of Humboldt.

Councillor Elphick noted that a resolution had been brought forward from The Municipality of Thames Centre Council requesting the Counties of Middlesex and Oxford to complete a study of the Cobble Hills Road intersection and acknowledged the work of first responders on May 23, 2025.

16. Closed Session

Resolution 25-12-18

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton enter into Closed Session at 8:17 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to:

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees - **Vendor Licence Fee Request, Property Remediation Proposal, Committee Appointment Update**
- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiation carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board - **Municipal Service Agreement Negotiation**

Carried

Resolution 25-12-19

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approve the direction provided to staff in Closed Session.

Carried

17. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 25-12-20

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2025-045 - May 27, 2025 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

18. Adjournment

Resolution 25-12-21

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to meet again on June 10, 2025.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) – Fiona Hamilton