



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

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

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Kym Hutcheon, Deputy Mayor (attended remotely)
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)
Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
Dominic Paquette, Acting Chief Building Official and Zoning Administrator
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

1. National Anthem of Canada

The Council Meeting began with the playing of [Toronto Symphony Orchestra's instrumental recording](#) of O' Canada.

2. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

3. Acceptance of Council Agenda

Resolution 25-20-01

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on September 23, 2025 as presented.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None disclosed.

5. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

6. Delegations

7. Minutes

7.1 Council Minutes - September 9, 2025

Resolution 25-20-02

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the September 9, 2025 Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising From the Minutes

9. Reports

9.1 Parks and Recreation Summer 2025 Department Update

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services responded to questions from Council about tracking tree plantings and removals. Council commented on the new benches installed throughout Walkerton, including Lobies Park and along the Saugeen River Trail.

Resolution 25-20-03

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-19 - Parks and Recreation Summer 2025 Department Update, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Carried

9.2 Walkerton Capitals Junior C Hockey Club Facility Use Agreement

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, responded to questions from Council regarding the agreement. Councillor Elphick discussed the dates in the agreement in comparison to the Walkerton Capitals Jr. C. Hockey Inc.'s game schedule as released by the league and proposed an amendment to the motion to reference an amended agreement as mutually agreeable between the parties.

Resolution 25-20-04

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-20 - Walkerton Capitals Junior C Hockey Club Facility Use Agreement, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves a By-Law coming forward entering into a facility use agreement with the Walkerton Capitals Jr. C. Hockey Inc. as amended by mutual agreement of the parties.

Carried

9.3 Chief Building Official's Activity Report for July and August 2025

Mayor Peabody noted the statistics in the report, and thanked staff for their work involved in the building permit being issued to LiUNA, noting the development plans underway for the training facility.

Resolution 25-20-05

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BLDG2025-07 –Chief Building Official’s Activity Report for July and August 2025, prepared by Dominic Paquette, Acting Chief Building Official and Zoning Administrator for information purposes.

Carried

9.4 Rural Ontario Development Program Application

Resolution 25-20-06

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number ED2025-14 – Rural Ontario Development Program Application, prepared by Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator, and provides pre-budget approval for the Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program in the amount of \$44,037.47 to support Community Infrastructure Enhancements in 2026, in advance of the Walkerton Homecoming event and the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo.

Carried

9.5 2026 IPM Requests

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions from Council about the staffing requests associated with the event, noting that the costs included in the report were representative of the staff time involved as an in-kind donation. Ms. Watson advised that most staff hours would be spent during the regular workday, with some overtime hours expected.

Council discussed the costs associated with OPP policing, and emergency services, encouraging that perhaps the costs could be funded Provincially.

It was noted that the Municipal Liaison Committee, and Bruce County are dividing up the associated costs for the event, including Bruce County offering to fund EMS related costs.

Ms. Watson advised that \$25,000 was an estimate based on discussions related to additional officers required in the area and increase in calls for service in the area related to traffic and the event, rather than the contract paid-duty officers to be arranged directly with the IPM organizers that is expected at an estimate of at least \$100,000 based on similar events in the area.

Council discussed the amount of funds being requested from the Municipality, noting the impact on taxpayers, and suggested that additional information be obtained as this event would also be supported Provincially and Federally.

Action: Mayor Peabody will request a meeting with the IPM Chair providing Council's feedback and request that additional information be brought back to Council.

Resolution 25-20-07

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2025-12 – 2026 IPM Requests, prepared by Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, and in doing so provides further direction to staff related to the extent of Municipal Support to include in the 2026 budget for the International Plowing Match event

in Brockton: Conduct a meeting with IPM representatives to further discuss the associated costs of the event, including limiting hard costs to the Municipality.

Carried

9.6 2026 Budget Survey Results

Council noted the preference for increasing user fees and general acceptance of a small tax rate increase, with a focus on core services and infrastructure.

Council discussed the demographic of respondents, and satisfaction levels, noting respondents' priorities for funding roads and bridges, waste management and recycling, and emergency services.

Resolution 25-20-08

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-24 - 2026 Budget Survey Results, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Rachel Bryan, Customer Service Representative/Finance Clerk, and Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer for information purposes.

Carried

9.7 Community User Group Budget Requests – 2026 Budget Consideration

Council reviewed the requests received, noting that a grant was recently received to improve the Walkerton ball diamonds, and fencing work being completed at the ball diamonds this Fall, suggesting that those requests be removed.

Council noted the challenge in deciding whether to approve or reject the requests at this meeting, voicing a preference to receive additional information and analysis on the requests from the community user groups.

Action: Staff to prepare an additional report for the October 28, 2025 Council Meeting.

Council suggested that the Municipality adopt a similar approach to Bruce County, to not raise funds for healthcare equipment from the tax base and instead encourage the Ministry of Health to fund this crucial equipment for our hospitals.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) provided an overview of the Strong Mayor Powers impact on the 2026 budget, which has resulted in a different budget process than previous years.

Mayor Peabody advised that under his Strong Mayor Powers' Directive to Staff, the preferred tax rate increase for the 2026 budget would be between 5-6%.

Resolution 25-20-09

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-25 – Community User Group Budget Requests – 2026 Budget Consideration, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, for information purposes; and further, that Council provide direction on which, if any, of the submitted requests should be considered for inclusion in the 2026 Municipal Budget: That staff be directed to prepare a report with an analysis from each user group for the October 28, 2025 Council Meeting.

Carried

10. Public Notification

10.1 Bruce County Bridge Closure - Closure of 12th of Brant Bridge on Concession 12, Chesley

Bruce County has closed the 12th of Brant Bridge on Concession 12, Chesley until further notice following damage to the bridge, allowing for an inspection to be completed.

10.2 Bruce County Road Closure - Bruce Road 19 Between Concession 10 and Concession 12, North of Walkerton

Bruce County has closed Bruce Road 19 between Concession 10 and 12 North of Walkerton from September 22, 2025 to late October 2025 to complete a culvert replacement.

10.3 Run4Health

The 15th Annual [Run4Health](#) is happening Sunday, September 28, 2025 in Walkerton. Individuals can register to participate in a Half Marathan, 10k Run, 5k Run, 5k Walk, or 1k Family Run. Registration and Sponsorships support the Walkerton and District Hospital Foundation.

10.4 Tax Installment Due Date – September 30, 2025

The final 2025 Brockton Tax Installments are due September 30, 2025 and November 28, 2025.

10.5 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30th. The Municipality will raise the Every Child Matters flag on our community flag pole at the Municipal Office in recognition.

An Every Child Matters Sunset Vigil is being held at Memory Lane Pavilion (430 Durham St., Walkerton) on September 30th starting at 6:30 p.m. with a short walk to the Market Garden (312 Durham St., Walkerton).

Stay tuned for our Walk for Wenjack and screening of The Secret Path happening on October 21, 2025 in Walkerton.

10.6 Municipal Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

The Municipality of Brockton is closed on Monday, October 13, 2025 in recognition of Thanksgiving Day. Our offices reopen on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Staff and Council wish you a safe and happy holiday weekend!

11. Accounts

11.1 Accounts - \$3,271,229.03

Resolution 25-20-10

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approve payment of the accounts in the amount of \$3,271,229.03.

Carried

12. Correspondence Requiring Action

12.1 Enbridge Gas - Consultation on the Future of Natural Gas Expansion in Ontario

Mayor Peabody provided a status update on natural gas in Brockton, advising that the Provincial grant for 21 million for natural gas for rural areas has unfortunately stalled due to inflationary pressures. The Municipality would be working with EPCOR and Enbridge on reapplying for Phase 3 of the project.

Resolution 25-20-11

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

Whereas the Province has posted ERO 0250923, *Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion*, seeking feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders on how Phase Three (3) could best support access to natural gas for community development.

And Whereas expanding access to natural gas is identified as a tool to support affordability and economic growth in Ontario communities, with Phases One (1) and Two (2) estimated to enable connections for approximately 17,000 buildings across 59 communities, and 16 projects completed to date.

And Whereas the Municipality of Brockton is working toward its housing and employment land goals, including investments in commercial and industrial lands and economic development goals that contribute to Ontario's broader objective to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031 and recognizes that timely servicing solutions (including natural gas where appropriate) can help enable these targets.

And Whereas Ontario's energy future relies on a balance of affordability, reliability, and sustainability by leveraging a mix of energy solutions—including natural gas, electricity, and emerging energy technologies, to meet growing community needs. And whereas natural gas continues to play a critical role in supporting energy affordability, economic competitiveness, and enabling housing and employment growth across the province.

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Brockton:

1. Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option to other energy solutions to advance Brockton's housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives.
2. Directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting Brockton's priorities, including: priority application types, alignment with Official Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment lands), any Phase 1 and 2 learnings (if applicable) and practical barriers (e.g., timing, permitting, costs, land access).
3. Forwards this resolution to MPP Lisa Thompson, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Ontario Energy Board, AMO, and neighbouring municipalities.

Carried

12.2 2026 ROMA Conference Registration

Council members were asked to inform staff if they plan on attending the 2026 ROMA Conference happening January 18-20, 2026 in Toronto.

13. Information

13.1 Bruce County Public Library Media Release - BCPL Recognizes National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

13.2 Bruce County Media Release - Affordable Additional Residential Unit Funding Program

- 13.3 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit - 2024 Highlights and Ridership Statistics
- 13.4 Municipality of South Huron Resolution - Closure of Before and After School Programs

Resolution 25-20-12

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives all items provided in Section 13. Information.

Carried

14. By-Laws

- 14.1 By-Law 2025-076 - Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant Agreement By-Law
- 14.2 By-Law 2025-077 - Walkerton Capitals Jr. C. Hockey Inc. Facility Use Agreement By-Law
- 14.3 By-Law 2025-078 - 1221058 ONTARIO INC. Servicing Agreement By-Law

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) responded to an inquiry from Council on the associated parkland dedication fees, noting that the agreement provision is based on a legislated ratio under the Planning Act, with the fee being based on the fair market value of the property.

Resolution 25-20-13

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

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

- By-Law 2025-076 - Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant Agreement By-Law
- By-Law 2025-077 - Walkerton Capitals Jr. C. Hockey Inc. Facility Use Agreement By-Law
- By-Law 2025-078 - 1221058 ONTARIO INC. Servicing Agreement By-Law

Carried

15. Committee Minutes

16. New Business Brought Forward

1. Invitation to Walkerton Legion Events

Mayor Peabody advised that the Walkerton Legion was hosting a Remembrance Day dinner on Saturday, November 1, 2025 with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. at 505 Scott Street, Walkerton. RSVP's are due October 29, 2025.

The Walkerton Legion was also hosting Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Walkerton and Mildmay Cenotaphs on November 11, 2025. Walkerton's ceremony begins at 10:50 a.m. and Mildmay's ceremony begins at 1:20 p.m. RSVP's are due October 29, 2025.

2. Walkerton Homecoming 2026 Chicken Fest

Mayor Peabody thanked the Walkerton Homecoming 2026 Committee for the Chicken Fest event this past weekend.

17. Closed Session

Resolution 25-20-14

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton enter into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m. in order to address matters pertaining to:

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees - **Heritage Designated Property Enforcement, Compensation Proposal**
- Labour relations or employee negotiations - **Collective Agreement Approval, Seasonal Employee Proposal**

Carried

Resolution 25-20-15

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

Resolution 25-20-16

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 2025-079 - International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793 Collective Agreement By-Law

Carried

18. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 25-20-17

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

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 2025-080 - September 23, 2025 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution 25-20-18

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:35 p.m. to meet again on October 14, 2025.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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