



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 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
Steve Travale, Councillor

Council Absent: Gregory J. McLean, Councillor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Carri-Ann Scott, Manager, Child Care Services
Brad Thomson, Facilities and Parks Supervisor
Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator

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. Council Member Long-Standing Service Recognition Presentation

Deputy Mayor Kym Hutcheon shared remarks about Mayor Chris Peabody's accomplishments over the past 25 years that he has served on Brockton Council.

Both Deputy Mayor Hutcheon and Bruce County Warden, Luke Charbonneau presented Mayor Chris Peabody with a Long-Standing Service Recognition from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, recognizing his 25 years of service as a Council member with the Municipality of Brockton.

Mayor Peabody shared reflections on his years of service on Council, and extended his gratitude to his family, staff, Council members, and the community for their trust and support over the past 25 years.

4. Walkerton Fire Department Long-Standing Service Recognition Presentation

4.1 Adam Penner - 20 Years of Service

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services and Mayor Chris Peabody presented Adam Penner with a recognition certificate and pin for his 20 Years of Service with the Walkerton Fire Department.

4.2 John Markauskas - 25 Years of Service

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services and Mayor Chris Peabody presented John Markauskas with a recognition certificate and pin for his 25 Years of Service with the Walkerton Fire Department.

5. Acceptance of Council Agenda

Resolution 25-24-01

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on December 9, 2025 as presented.

Carried

6. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

7. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

8. Delegations

8.1 Bobbi Sharpe and Brenda Sharpe - Recommend By-Law Regulating Trapping Along Trails

Bobbi Sharpe informed Council about her long-standing views about ecosystems and natural competition to create a healthy balance between animals and the environment. Ms. Sharpe expressed her view that trapping was cruel and harmful to the environment. Ms. Sharpe highlighted for Council the impact of new development on wildlife and ecosystems.

Ms. Sharpe expressed concern with the traps that were set along the Riverbend Trail and her belief that it would result in ecosystem damage and noted that beavers were considered by many to be a keystone species. Ms. Sharpe noted that she wanted Council to pass a law prohibiting beaver trapping along the Saugeen River Trail.

Ms. Sharpe noted that she would provide a written version of her by-law recommendation to the Municipality.

Mayor Peabody requested a staff report to come forward about beaver trapping along the Saugeen River Trail.

9. Minutes

9.1 Public Information Meeting Minutes (Building Permit Fee Changes) - November 15, 2025

9.2 Council Minutes - November 25, 2025

Resolution 25-24-02

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes from both the Public Information Meeting (Building Permit Fee Changes) and the Council Meeting on November 25, 2025 as presented.

Carried

10. Business Arising From the Minutes

11. Reports

11.1 Brockton Child Care Centre and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board Childcare and Renovation Project

Council expressed support and excitement for the proposal to build a standalone ten (10) room childcare centre in Brockton. Carri-Ann Scott, Manager, Child Care Services responded to questions from Council about the funding and potential timeline.

Resolution 25-24-03

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2025-08 – Brockton Child Care Centre and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board Childcare and Renovation Project prepared by Carri-Ann Scott, Manager, Child Care Services and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer in so doing acknowledges the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board's submission of a formal Capital Priorities Funding proposal for a new purpose-built child care facility and related St. Teresa school renovation.

Carried

11.2 Economic Development Update – December 2025

Resolution 25-24-04

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number ED2025-17 - Economic Development Update – December 2025, prepared by Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator, for information purposes.

Carried

11.3 November 2025 Water and Wastewater Operations Maintenance

Resolution 25-24-05

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number UT2025-15 –November 2025 Water and Wastewater Operation Maintenance, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Carried

11.4 Direction to Staff – Outstanding Funding Gap Recovery Options

Council supported increasing the user fees and placing the revenue into a reserve fund to maintain the Walkerton tennis/pickleball courts. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions from Council about the allocation of revenue from the user fees.

Ms. Serratore noted that the Tennis/Pickleball Court Fundraising Committee had no further options or resources to recoup the funding gap.

Ms. Serratore advised that using the tax mitigation reserve fund would be using surplus from previous years as the amounts from 2024 and 2025 were not yet finalized.

Resolution 25-24-06

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-32 – Direction to Staff: Outstanding Funding Gap Recovery Options, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, and Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and further support Option A: User Fee and Membership Contribution Model with a user fee of \$65.00 and Option C: Municipal Reserve Transfer as outlined.

Carried

11.5 Q4 Requests for Quotes Summary

Resolution 25-24-07

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-33 - Q4 Requests for Quotes Summary, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, for information purposes.

Carried

11.6 2025 Year-End Surplus and Deficit Transfers

Resolution 25-24-08

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2025-31 - 2025 Year-End Surplus and Deficit Transfers, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer for information purposes and further authorizes the following year-end transfers:

Surplus/Deficit Transfer - Utility Budget - any surplus/deficit from the 2025 Municipality of Brockton Utility Budgets be transferred to or from the Reserve Fund for future Capital expenditures.

Surplus/Deficit Transfer - Brockton Building Services Budget - any surplus/deficit from the 2025 Municipality of Brockton Building Services Budget be transferred to or from the Equipment Reserve Fund - Building as per the *Ontario Building Code*.

Surplus/Deficit Transfer – Operating - any surplus/deficit from the 2025 Municipality of Brockton Operating Budget be transferred to or from the Brockton Working Capital Reserve. And any unused funds for special projects from the 2025 Municipality of Brockton Budget be transferred to the Reserve Fund for the completion of these projects in 2025.

Surplus/Deficit Transfer - Capital Budget - any surplus/deficit from the 2025 Municipality of Brockton Capital Budget be transferred to or from the Reserve Fund for each department for future Capital expenditures.

Carried

11.7 Provincial Consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities

Council voiced the importance of maintaining existing land trusts that had been donated to Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

Council supported the model being reformed but noted concerns surrounding the large Regional Conservation Authority catchment area and risk of diminished representation.

Council noted Brockton's strong agricultural sector, and challenges that have arisen in the past with SVCA.

Resolution 25-24-09

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report CLK2025-18 - Provincial Consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk and in doing so provides direction on submitting comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario on behalf of the Municipality of Brockton based on the recommendations outlined by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority: maintain existing local land trusts; advocate for a smaller Regional Conservation Authority catchment area; ensure there is support for local agricultural sectors; and request further information on catchment area representations.

Carried

11.8 Saugeen Municipal Airport Cost Sharing Agreement

Resolution 25-24-10

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2025-15 - Saugeen Municipal Airport Cost Sharing Agreement, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in so doing supports the Agreement coming forward for passage by By-Law.

Carried

11.9 2025 Brockton Accomplishments

Mayor Peabody noted the Municipality's good year in review, noting the increased training through the Regional Fire Training Centre and steady issuance of Building Permits.

Resolution 25-24-11

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2025-14 – 2025 Brockton Accomplishments, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator for information purposes.

Carried

12. Public Notification

12.1 Council Vacancy

A vacancy exists on Brockton Council for one (1) Councillor. Nominations will be accepted by the Clerk's Office during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday) commencing at 8:30 a.m. on December 8, 2025 until January 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Visit Brockton.ca/CouncilVacancy for full instructions on the application process.

12.2 Notice of Public Meetings - New Walkerton Official Plan and Brockton Community Improvement Plan Update

The Municipality of Brockton will be holding two public meetings under Sections 17 and 28 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.P.13. on December 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bruce County Council Chambers. The first meeting is a statutory public meeting for a [new Official Plan](#) for Walkerton. The second public meeting is for a new [Community Improvement Plan update](#) that will provide financial incentives related to multi-unit and affordable housing for eligible properties in the Municipality.

12.3 2026 Budget Meetings

Council will hold Special Budget Meetings at the Bruce County Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the 2026 Mayor's Budget.

12.4 Hometown Holiday Hunt

The Hometown Holiday Hunt is happening now until December 19th! Visit participating Walkerton businesses to find the hidden Walkerton ornament for a chance to win a prize. Visit Brockton.ca/HolidayHunt for more details.

12.5 Municipality Closed for Holiday Season

The Municipal Office and Brockton Child Care Centre will be closed for the holidays at 1:00 p.m. on December 24, 2025 until January 1, 2026. Both offices reopen on January 2, 2026.

The Community Services (Parks and Recreation) Administration Office will be closed at 1:00 p.m. on December 24, 2025, and again on December 25th, December 26th, December 31st and January 1, 2026. Council and staff wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

The Brant Landfill will be closed on December 24th at 1:00 p.m. and on December 31st at 1:00 p.m. The Brant Landfill and Greenock Transfer Station will both be open on December 27, 2025 and January 3, 2026.

12.6 2026 Recycling Changes

As per Provincial Legislation enacted across the Province, residents of Brockton will be moving to the Producer Responsibility Model starting January 1, 2026. Businesses of Brockton will be responsible for their own collection beginning January 1, 2026 under the new program. For more information, visit [Circular Materials' webpage](#) or visit Brockton.ca/Recycling.

Mayor Peabody expressed enthusiasm in showcasing the new recycling program through a promotional video.

13. Correspondence Requiring Action

14. Information

14.1 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Comments on Proposed Boundaries for Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

14.2 City of Windsor Resolution - Impacts of Bill 68 Amendments to Conservation Authorities Act

14.3 Town of Petrolia Resolution - Rent Protection for Tenants

14.4 Mayor of Welland - Call to Action: Standing Together for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

Deputy Mayor Hutcheon expressed support for bringing forward Item 14.4.

Resolution 25-24-12

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives all items provided in Section 14. Information.

Carried

15. By-Laws

Resolution 25-24-13

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

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 2025-089 - GrantMatch Corp. Renewal Agreement By-Law
- By-Law 2025-104 - Appoint Dominic Paquette as Building and Planning Manager/Chief Building Official By-Law
- By-Law 2025-105 - Borrowing to Meet Current Expenditures for 2026 By-Law
- By-Law 2025-106 - 2026 Interim Tax Levy By-Law
- By-Law 2025-107 - Saugeen Municipal Airport Cost Sharing Agreement By-Law
- By-Law 2025-108 - Amend Appendix to Bruce County EMS Tiered Response Agreement By-Law

Carried

16. Committee Minutes

Resolution 25-24-14

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

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 - September 24, 2025
- Elmwood Community Centre Board Minutes - October 1, 2025
- Elmwood Community Centre Board Minutes - November 5, 2025

Carried

17. New Business Brought Forward

1. Holiday Season Activities

Mayor Peabody extended appreciation to the various community groups who organized recent holiday events including Breakfasts with Santa, Santa Claus Parade, and Holiday House Tour, as well as the Community Services (Recreation) and Economic Development Departments for their work on the

Hometown Christmas Market. Mayor Peabody wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

18. Closed Session

Resolution 25-24-15

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton enter into Closed Session at 8:01 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to:

- Labour relations or employee negotiations - **Staffing Encampment Response**

Carried

Resolution 25-24-16

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

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

Carried

19. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 25-24-17

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

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 2025-109 - December 9, 2025 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

20. Adjournment

Resolution 25-24-18

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:30 p.m. to meet again on December 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. for the Special Council Meeting to consider the 2026 Mayor's Budget.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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