



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 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
Michael Crawford, Councillor
Tim Elphick, 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
Dominic Paquette, Building and Planning Manager/CBO
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
Carri-Ann Scott, Manager, Child Care Services
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
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. Acceptance of Council Agenda

Resolution 26-07-01

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on March 24, 2026 as presented.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None disclosed.

5. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

5.1 Planning Report - Zoning By-Law Amendment Application Z-2026-008

Monica Morrison, Bruce County Land Use Planning Manager, informed all in attendance of the ways to receive updates about the application.

Ms. Morrison provided an overview of the application to sever lands as a surplus non-farm lot recognizing that the agricultural lands would prohibit the establishment of a new residential use, and the related Consent files. A holding

provision was proposed to recognize the areas of high archeological potential which would allow the applicant to proceed without an archeological assessment required upfront. Ms. Morrison reviewed the application's alignment with the County policies for surplus farm residences. Ms. Morrison advised that the holding provision protects the lands until future development is required, noting that at that time, the archeological assessment would need to be completed.

Ms. Morrison noted that there were no comments submitted from agencies or members of the public in opposition to the application.

There were no questions from Council. No members of the public indicated that they wish to participate when given the opportunity to do so.

Resolution 26-07-02

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That Council approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z-2026-008 for 438 BRUCE ROAD 15 CON 13 PT LOTS 3 AND 4 (Greenock Township) Municipality of Brockton and that the necessary by-law be brought forward to Council for adoption to facilitate the related Consent(s) to sever a +/- 0.78 hectare (ha) surplus farm dwelling, and +/-20 ha area for a lot addition to the neighboring farm from a +/- 60.5 ha agricultural parcel.

Carried

6. Delegations

6.1 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority - Water Quality Program

Emily Williamson, Water Quality Technician from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority reviewed the water quality program with Council and described the results from the Brockton area. Ms. Williamson noted what was being tested from the samples and how frequently the samples were taken. Ms. Williamson reviewed the limits that were recommended federally in comparison to the amount that was trending within the studied watershed.

Ms. Williamson responded to questions from Council about the program that was being offered on a voluntary basis. Council expressed support for the program and the work being undertaken by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

Ms. Williamson explained the water sampling process and the rationale for the 20-year long-term forecast and further responded to an inquiry on the Teeswater River data, noting that the area is more heavily agricultural and exposed to run off.

Mayor Peabody thanked Saugeen Valley Conversation Authority staff for their assistance in watershed monitoring and the flooding situation in Pinkerton.

7. Minutes

7.1 Council Minutes - March 10, 2026

Resolution 26-07-03

Moved By: Michael Crawford

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2026 Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising From the Minutes

9. Reports

9.1 2026 Organizational Review Status Report

Carri-Ann Scott, Brockton Child Care Centre Manager, responded to questions from Council about the potential software review, noting its inclusion in the 2026 budget.

Council expressed appreciation for staff in implementing the organizational review recommendations and inquired about further ways to support the Centre. Ms. Scott advised that staff are highly trained and motivated to continue contributing to the lives of children and families while meeting legislative requirements and working within the parameters of Provincial and Federal funding and regulations. Ms. Scott encouraged continued communication with Council while remaining proactive and responsive.

Resolution 26-07-04

Moved By: Michael Crawford

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby accepts Report Number BCCC2026-02 - 2026 Organizational Review Status Report, prepared by Carri-Ann Scott, Manager, Child Care Services, and in doing so looks forward to further bi-yearly updates as the actions in the review progress.

Carried

9.2 Economic Development Update – March 2026

Mayor Peabody welcomed the business owners investing in Brockton's economy. Council acknowledged the expansion of Cody's Egg Shack in Walkerton and recognized Cody's efforts, noting that March 25th as National Cerebral Palsy Day.

Resolution 26-07-05

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number ED2026-04 - Economic Development Update – March 2026, prepared by Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator for information purposes.

Carried

9.3 Standardized Design Guidelines HAF

Resolution 26-07-06

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BLDG2026-02 - Standardized Design Guidelines HAF, prepared by Dominic Paquette, Building and Planning Manager/CBO for Council's approval.

Carried

9.4 February 2026 Water and Wastewater Operations Maintenance

Resolution 26-07-07

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number UT2026-03 –February 2026 Water and Wastewater Operation Maintenance, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Carried

9.5 Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request

Resolution 26-07-08

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the motion dealing with Report Number REC2026-07 - Walkerton Minor Hockey Funding Request and identified as Item 10.5 on the March 10, 2026 Council Agenda that was tabled at the March 10, 2026 Council Meeting be taken from the table for the purpose of a vote.

Defeated

9.6 Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request Follow up

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services confirmed that the sea cans have been purchased by Walkerton Minor Hockey and explained the proposed \$400 annual fee in comparison to room rental fees.

Council discussed whether the Municipality has use for the sea cans given the new storage agreement with the Ministry of Transportation.

Council discussed the associated costs and insurance requirements. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer advised that Walkerton Minor Hockey had insurance for its equipment.

Ms. Gillis responded to an inquiry on the timeline for the proposal, noting that the intent of the arrangement was to offer the sea cans to Walkerton Minor Hockey until the program ceased with the Municipality being able to either reuse or sell the sea cans following this arrangement.

Resolution 26-07-09

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-09 - Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request Follow up, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so authorizes Option 4 in regards to request of financial assistance to purchase two sea cans for up to \$7,000.00 to store vital equipment for "Ice Palace" operations.

Carried

9.7 Confirmation of Council Direction Regarding Request for Proposal for Arena Project

Council discussed the option of retrofitting the existing Walkerton Arena, noting the financial constraints and importance of having both the available funding and roadmap for the project completion.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer outlined the proposal to initiate a phased RFP to provide touch points for decision-making prior to advancing further and evaluate the potential of a renovation with detailed analysis. Ms. Watson noted that this Council Report includes information on the recent significant flooding at the existing arena and confirm Council's decision on pursuing a renovation of this facility.

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services responded to a question from Council on the approximate cost for the RFP, noting that similar projects retained a project consultant for a year at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

Council discussed the financial challenges of building a new arena and a desire to understand whether a renovation of the existing arena could extend the lifespan by approximately 15 years.

Council debating pursuing both a new arena and a renovation/retrofit of the existing Walkerton arena.

Council discussed affordability concerns, noting the impact on the taxpayer for a new facility and whether it would be beneficial to ratepayers to extend the life of the current arena until a future path forward has been outlined.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) reviewed the motion Council passed at the March 10th Council Meeting to initiate an RFP for a retrofit/renovation of the existing Walkerton arena and outlined the process of reconsidering that motion should Council wish to amend that decision.

Council chose not to reconsider the original motion that authorized moving forward with a consultant to review a retrofit or renovation to the existing facility.

Resolution 26-07-10

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby reconsider Resolution 26-06-11 regarding authorize staff to initiate a Request for Proposal and procurement process to retain a qualified project consultant to advance detailed planning for a retrofitted or renovation to the existing Walkerton arena.

Defeated

~~**Resolution 26-07-10**~~

~~Moved By: Kym Hutcheon~~

~~Seconded By: Steve Travale~~

~~That Council of the Municipality of Brockton receive Report Number REC2026-10 —Confirmation of Council Direction Regarding Request for Proposal for Arena Project, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in so doing authorizes proceeding with Option _____ as direction for staff in developing the scope for the Request for Proposal (RFP) and procurement process for retaining a qualified project consultant for the Municipality's arena project.~~

9.8 Special Events Exemption from Outdoor Vending/Refreshment Vehicle Licencing By-Law 2021-085

Council debated the impact on local businesses by allowing a one-time exemption for the Ribfest event organizer.

Council supported working towards a solution and debated the differences between Walkerton Homecoming and the for-profit Ribfest event.

Ms. Gillis advised that the Ribfest organizer would still be paying associated costs to rent Centennial Park, the pavilion, and picnic tables and waste disposal containers. Ms. Gillis responded to an inquiry into whether Ribfest would be donating back to the community, noting that the event would draw visitors to Brockton and encourage an economic impact as the event is occurring in conjunction with Summer Streetfest.

Resolution 26-07-11

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-08 - Special Events Exemption From Outdoor Vending Licensing By-Law 2021-085, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so allows a one-time exemption from the vendor licensing fees under the Municipality's Outdoor Vending/Refreshment Vehicle Licensing By-Law 2021-085 for food vendors participating in the following two major special events in Walkerton during Summer 2026:

- Ribfest 2026 (three-day event)
- 2026 Walkerton Homecoming

Carried

9.9 2025 Council Remuneration and Expenses Update

Mayor Peabody noted that Brockton's remuneration was likely below the median.

Resolution 26-07-12

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2026-10 – 2025 Council Remuneration and Expenses Update, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer for information purposes.

Carried

9.10 Bruce Grey Mentorship 2026 Donation Request

Resolution 26-07-13

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2026-11 – Bruce Grey Mentorship 2026 Donation Request, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so approves the donation of \$150.00 to Bruce Grey Mentorship.

Carried

9.11 2026 Q1 Requests for Quotes Summary

Resolution 26-07-14

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2026-12 – 2026 Q1 Requests for Quotes Summary, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, for information purposes.

Carried

9.12 Pinkerton Flooding

Council thanked Mayor Peabody and staff for their communications and efforts related to the Pinkerton flooding event.

Resolution 26-07-15

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2026-07 – Pinkerton Flooding, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve and execute necessary purchases and expenditures required to mitigate impacts and damages associated with the Pinkerton flooding event, notwithstanding that a formal emergency has not been declared;

And further that these purchases be funded, where applicable, from the Emergency Measures Reserve Fund;

And further that staff report back to Council on expenditures and funding recovery opportunities as information becomes available.

Carried

9.13 2026 Salary Compensation Review – Market Comparators

Mayor Peabody explained that the Committee had met and created a list of comparators matching closely in population size and taxation base and recommended including the Municipality of Kincardine as a neighbouring Municipality.

Council disagreed with the recommendation, noting that Kincardine would be an outlier and may result in a skewed average.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer explained that the consultant would compare data from Brockton against the list of comparators, noting that any extreme outliers would be removed, and Council would receive the data assessing all positions.

Councillor Clark requested a recorded vote.

Resolution 26-07-16

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby supports Report Number CO2026-03 – 2026 Salary Compensation Review – Market Comparators, prepared by Mayor Chris Peabody, and in doing so approves the salary market comparators presented in Schedule 2.

Member of Council	Yea	Nay
Mitch Clark		1
Michael Crawford		1
Tim Elphick		1
Kym Hutcheon		1
Gregory McLean	1	
Steve Travale		1
Chris Peabody	1	
Totals	2	5

Defeated

Resolution 26-07-17

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Steve Travale

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby supports Report Number CO2026-03 – 2026 Salary Compensation Review – Market Comparators, prepared by Mayor Chris Peabody, and in doing so approves the salary market comparators presented in Schedule 1 (excluding the Municipality of Kincardine).

10. Public Notification

10.1 Municipal Offices Closed for Easter

The Brockton Child Care Centre, Community Services (Parks and Recreation) Administration Office, and Municipal Office will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026 and Monday, April 6, 2026 in recognition of Easter. Offices reopen on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Council and staff wish you a safe and happy holiday weekend!

11. Correspondence Requiring Action

11.1 Request to Proclaim National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month

Resolution 26-07-18

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby proclaims April as Organ and Tissue Awareness Month, and further approves raising the Be a Donor flag on the community flag pole at the Municipal Office and the flag pole at the Elmwood Community Centre for a period of one week beginning April 17-24, 2026 in recognition of Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month.

Carried

11.2 Bluewater Radio Support for Service Expansion

Resolution 26-07-19

Moved By: Michael Crawford

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton endorse sending a letter of support for Bluewater Radio's CRTC application to expand its coverage area as indicated on the attached map.

Carried

12. Information

12.1 Ontario Ombudsman Letter - Closed Meeting Complaint Investigation

12.2 Notice of Decision - Bruce County Official Plan Amendment C-2025-007 (Candue Homes c/o Cobide)

12.3 ElectHER Now Media Release - Online Campaign School Aims to Prepare Women for 2026 Election

12.4 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit Board Minutes - January 9, 2026

12.5 Bruce County Resolution - Letters of Support for Goderich Harbour Developments

12.6 Township of Black River-Matheson Resolution - Prioritization of Safety on Highway 11 and 17

12.7 Township of Oro-Medonte Resolution - Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments Health and Safety Concerns

12.8 County of Prince Edward Resolution - Sustainable Police Services

12.9 Township of Puslinch Resolution - Support on Reduced Rate Distribution of Library Resources

12.10 Town of Whitby Resolution - Request for a Comprehensive Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

Resolution 26-07-20

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

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

Carried

Resolution 26-07-21

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton receives for information the letter from the Ombudsman of Ontario dated March 19, 2026 indicating that the Municipality of Brockton did not contravene the Municipal Act, 2001 on August 12 and September 9, 2025.

Carried

13. By-Laws

Resolution 26-07-22

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 2026-028 - Zoning By-Law Amendment Elphick Z-2026-008
- By-Law 2026-029 - Community Living Walkerton and District Letter of Intent By-Law
- By-Law 2026-030 - Zoning Amendment By-Law – Candue Homes c/o Cobide Engineering Z-2025-040
- By-Law 2026-031 - 1665426 Ontario Ltd., D’s Construction, Candue Homes 2020 Ltd. and JT Excavating Ltd. ERBP Agreement of Purchase and Sale By-Law

Carried

14. Committee Minutes

Resolution 26-07-23

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

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

- Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee Minutes - January 14, 2026

Carried

15. New Business Brought Forward

1. History of Proposal for a New Walkerton Arena

Councillor Elphick requested a staff report on the history of Council's decision to pursue a new arena in Walkerton, including previous studies and reports provided by consultants and possible funding sources.

Action: Council directed staff to bring forward an information report with all past decisions and report related to an arena in Walkerton.

2. Federations of Agriculture Politicians Day

Mayor Peabody, Deputy Mayor Hutcheon and Councillor Travale attended the Bruce and Grey County Federations of Agriculture's Politician's Day on March 21st in Elmwood.

3. Kin Canada Conference

Councillor Travale noted that Kin Canada's President will be attending the local zone conference this Saturday, March 28th in Walkerton.

4. Resident Recognition

Councillor Travale extended congratulations to Brockton resident, Emilie Dudgeon, on being appointed Central Student Association President at the University of Guelph.

4. World Down Syndrome Day

Councillor McLean recognized World Down Syndrome Day which occurred on March 21st.

16. Closed Session

A Closed Session did not occur as part of the Council Meeting.

17. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 26-07-24

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

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 2026-032 - March 10, 2026 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

18. Adjournment

Resolution 26-07-25

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:46 p.m. to meet again on April 14, 2026.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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