

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday November 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Dr. S.F. Monestime Council Chambers.

Council Present: Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger
Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner
Councillor Fern Levesque
Councillor Loren Mick
Councillor Laura Ross
Councillor Garry Thibert
Councillor Spencer Bigelow

Staff Present: Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk
Paul Laperriere, Interim CAO/Treasurer
Dexture Sarrazin, Director of Community Services
Melody Byers, Executive Assistant

*When a recorded vote is requested and the minutes indicate the recorded vote was "Unanimous" it means all Councillors present and noted above voted in favour unless otherwise indicated.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Bélanger at 5:01 p.m.

2. Announce Electronic Participants

Clerk announced that there was no online participation.

3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 To Adopt the agenda as presented or amended

Resolution Number 24-229

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting agenda dated Monday November 11, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED – unanimous

4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

Mayor Bélanger declared a conflict on Item #15.1 on the agenda, more direct the declaration was on the In Camera (Closed) Session agenda Item # 1.1.

5. Presentations and Delegations

6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of October 28, 2024

6.2 To adopt the minutes as presented or amended

Resolution Number 24-230

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting of Monday October 28, 2024.

CARRIED – unanimous

7. Notice of Motions

Councillor Mick arrived at 5:10 p.m.

7.1 Forest Industry Support

Resolution Number 24-231

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Spencer Bigelow

WHEREAS, the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa recognizes how vital the Forestry Industry is to the Economy in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, the success of the forest sector is critical to the economic and social prosperity of Ontario communities, employing 137,000 people;

AND WHEREAS, the forest industry has invested over \$3.8 billion in Ontario since 2018;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to market global investment in the bioeconomy, similar to critical minerals and electric vehicle manufacturing, and become a leading international jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, the North American pulp and paper sector has seen a significant rationalization in production capacity, with investment dollars going to competing international jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS, in the last year, Ontario has seen three pulp, paper, and containerboard mills idle or close, negatively impacting communities and the solid wood mills that depend on these facilities as markets for mill by-products and pulpwood;

AND WHEREAS, U.S. tariffs on softwood lumber are expected to double in 2025, to approximately 30%;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario should work with federal colleagues to pursue a softwood lumber settlement that works in the best interests of Ontario lumber producers and advocate for a financial backstop;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to procure greater amounts of energy (i.e., electricity, heat, fuels, biochar, etc.) from forestry by-products and forests to assist in heavy industry decarbonization and Ontario's forecasted electricity demands;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario's successful and oversubscribed *Forest Biomass Program* should continue post-2027;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario will actively seek investment to restart idled softwood kraft lines in Ontario and Quebec to provide immediate relief for some sawmill producers;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario's \$10 million *Sawmill Chip Program*, ending March 25, 2025, will likely need to continue and expand in the absence of an immediate restart of a currently idled pulp mill to avoid curtailments at solid wood facilities;

AND WHEREAS, 5-year bilateral power purchase agreements (PPAs) with forest biomass-fired electrical generation facilities are insufficient and should be expanded both in terms of length and volume to provide communities, industry, and workers with a certain future;

AND WHEREAS, the public *Forest Access Roads Funding Program*, which provides for the public use of Ontario's forests, should be increased to \$75 million/year to reflect inflationary pressures and support legacy infrastructure upgrades (i.e., roads, bridges, and water crossings).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa support the implementation of the Ontario Forest Industries Association's 2025 Ontario Budget Recommendations in support of attracting investment and maintaining forest operations and employment in Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT at a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Forestry and Forest Products, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister of Mines, Minister of Energy and Electrification, Minister of Finance, MP Anthony Rota, MPP Vic Fedeli, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA, and OFIA.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.2 Change in Start Time for November 25, 2024 Meeting

Resolution Number 24-232

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves a change in the start time of the Regular Meeting of Monday November 25, 2024 to begin at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

8. Correspondence

8.1 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit – Perspectives from Northern Ontario for Public Health Funding Review

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.1.

8.2 Town of Aurora – Fair Distribution of GST from New Home Sales

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.2 and directed staff to bring back a support resolution at the next regular meeting.

8.3 Jp2g Consultants Inc. – Mattawa Marina Project

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.3.

8.4 Ministry of Energy & Electrification – Ontario's Affordable Energy Future

8.5 ROMA – Explore ROI's Rural Housing Information System & Rural Community Well-Being Dashboard

8.6 Ontario Clean Water Agency – Mattawa Water & Wastewater Systems Quarterly Operations Report

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.6.

9. Standing Committee Recommendations/Reports – Motions

10. Staff Reports – Motions

11. By-Laws

12. Old Business

12.1 Council – Food Cycler Municipal Solutions

There was no update from staff on the food cycler municipal solutions. Deputy Mayor Gardiner questioned if Council had an appetite for this or remove it. Council spoke to this and would like to see it move forward. This will be brought back again under old business.

12.2 Beautification Committee Terms of Reference & Committee Structure

There was no update from staff. This will be brought back again under old business.

12.3 Fence Request at 640 Brydges Street

Council requested a report from the By-law Enforcement Officer/Chief Building Official on this matter before making their final decision.

13. New Business

14. Questions from Public Pertaining to Agenda

15. In Camera (Closed) Session

15.1 CAO/Treasurer Position Update

In accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 Section 239 (2)(b)

b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Mayor Bélanger declared a conflict of interest on Item # 1.1 on the closed session agenda and removed himself from Council Chambers.

Mayor Belanger returned to Council Chambers.

Resolution Number 24-233

Moved by Councillor Spencer Bigelow

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council proceed in Camera at 5:42 pm in order to address a matter pertaining to: b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

CARRIED – unanimous

16. Return to Regular Session

Resolution Number 24-234

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting reconvene at 6:18 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

Mayor Belanger advised that the closed session was to discuss CAO/Treasurer position.

17. Motions Resulting from Closed Session

18. Adjournment

18.1 Adjournment of the meeting

Resolution Number 24-235

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the November 11, 2024 meeting adjourn at 6:19 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

**Approved Minutes as Certified by
the Municipal Clerk**

