

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting

Date: March 23, 2026, 5:45 P.M.

Location: Council Chambers - Hybrid
60 Snyder's Road West
Baden, Ontario
N3A 1A1

Members Present: Mayor N. Salonen
Councillor S. Cressman
Councillor K. Wilkinson
Councillor H. Sidhu
Councillor L. Dunstall
Councillor S. Martin

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, J. Willmer
Director of Community Services, C. Catania
Deputy CAO / Director of Corporate Services, H. O'Krafka
Director of Infrastructure Services, K. VanderWal
Director of Development Services, A. Martin
Director, Financial Services/CFO, Harjot Grewal
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk, A. Jaggard
Supervisor of Legislative Services/ Deputy Clerk, J. Bouzane
Desktop Support Technician, R. Ubhi

1. CALL TO ORDER

Resolution No. 2026-58

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor S. Martin

THAT the Regular Council Meeting held on March 23, 2026, be called to order at 5:45 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. CLOSED SESSION (5:45 p.m.)

Resolution No. 2026-59

Moved by: Councillor H. Sidhu

Seconded by: Councillor S. Martin

THAT a Closed Meeting of Council be held on March 23, 2026, at 5:45 p.m. at the Wilmot Administrative Complex, in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, to consider the following:

2.6.1 WSIB and Identifiable Individual - CAO-2026-012

239 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

2.6.2 Development Services Staffing - DS-2026-04

239 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

2.6.3 Information Technology Security Matters

239 (2) (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;

Motion Carried Unanimously

2.1 Call to Order

2.2 Territorial Land Acknowledgement

2.3 Adoption of the Agenda

2.4 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest Under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

2.5 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

2.6 Reports

2.6.1 WSIB and Identifiable Individual - CAO-2026-012

2.6.2 Development Services Staffing - DS-2026-04

2.6.3 Information Technology Security Matters

2.7 Back to Open Session

3. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION (7:00 p.m.)

Resolution No. 2026-60**Moved by:** Councillor L. Dunstall**Seconded by:** Councillor S. Martin

THAT Council reconvenes in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor S. Cressman read the Territorial Land Acknowledgment.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were made on March 23, 2026:

11.2 Specific Interest Delegations

11.2.4 Dave Emrich regarding Item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

11.2.5 Nick Demelo regarding item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

11.2.6 Penny Collins regarding item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

12 Correspondence

12.3 Citizens for Safe Groundwater Letter to Council

6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**Resolution No. 2026-61****Moved by:** Councillor S. Martin**Seconded by:** Councillor H. Sidhu

THAT the Agenda as presented for the Regular Council meeting of March 23, 2026, be adopted.

Motion Carried Unanimously

7. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

Mayor Salonen declared a pecuniary interest on the following item:

1. Item 14.5 with the reason being that she resides on the subject road.

No other disclosures of pecuniary interest were declared.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolution No. 2026-62

Moved by: Councillor S. Martin

Seconded by: Councillor L. Dunstall

THAT the motion be amended to insert: that the delegate B. Wolfe's submissions be removed as attachments from the Council minutes of January 29 and February 9, 2026.

Motion Defeated

Resolution No. 2026-63

Moved by: Councillor K. Wilkinson

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

That the main motion be amended to insert: and that the February 9, 2026 Special Council meeting minutes be amended to insert:

- The total debt for 2026 is about \$15 million.
- Through 2026 the Township will have repaid about \$2.5 million.
- The 2026 addition of \$4.8 million in debt servicing will increase debt servicing costs from about 6.11% in 2025 to 9% in 2026.
- This increase to 9% keeps below the 25% provincial threshold.
- The amount of interest that we will be paying in 2026, on existing debt, is about \$600,000, plus about \$117,546 for the new debt added in this budget.
- The total amount of interest that the Township will pay for the \$15 million debt will be about \$717,546, very approximately;

And that the debt serving cost be recorded per estimates given: \$685,000 and \$600,000.

Motion Carried

Resolution No. 2026-64

Moved by: Councillor K. Wilkinson

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

THAT the Minutes of the Special Councils meetings of January 29, 2026 and February 9, 2026, and the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 23, 2026 and the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 2, 2026, be adopted as presented, with the following amendments to the February 9, 2026 Special Council meeting minutes to insert:

- The total debt for 2026 is about \$15 million.
- Through 2026 the Township will have repaid about \$2.5 million.
- The 2026 addition of \$4.8 million in debt servicing will increase debt servicing costs from about 6.11% in 2025 to 9% in 2026.
- This increase to 9% keeps below the 25% provincial threshold.
- The amount of interest that we will be paying in 2026, on existing debt, is about \$600,000, plus about \$117,546 for the new debt added in this budget.
- The total amount of interest that the Township will pay for the \$15 million debt will be about \$717,546, very approximately;

And that the debt serving cost be recorded per estimates given: \$685,000 and \$600,000.

Motion Carried

9. PUBLIC MEETINGS

10. PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Draft Official Plan Direction: Growth Target and Intensification

Director of Development Services, Andrew Martin introduced the presentation.

Senior Policy Planner, Rachel Greene and Joe Nethery, Nethery Planning provided an overview of the presentation.

Opportunity was provided for Council to ask questions and provide feedback, including on proposed growth rate targets.

There was discussion regarding growth rate targets and the potential to identify areas within the Township where higher density development would be permitted, to provide clarity and support investment.

11. DELEGATIONS

11.1 General Interest Delegations

11.2 Specific Interest Delegations

11.2.1 Betsy Daub regarding Item 14.2 Proposed Municipal Sustainability Manager - CAO-2026-13

11.2.2 Bart Van Andel regarding Item 14.2 Proposed Municipal Sustainability Manager - CAO-2026-13

11.2.3 Philip Wendland regarding Item 14.4 Petersburg Water System Direction and Final Design - IS-2026-09

11.2.4 Dave Emrich regarding Item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

11.2.5 Nick Demelo regarding item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

11.2.6 Penny Collins regarding item 14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Dunstall pulled Item 12.3.

Resolution No. 2026-65

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

That Council receive the correspondence from Citizens for Safe Groundwater (Item 12.3); and

That Council request that the Region consider the correspondence and the Township's concerns as previously recorded in Township resolution 2026-27; and

That this resolution, together with the correspondence, be sent to the attention of Regional Council for inclusion on a Region of Waterloo Council agenda; and

That Council request that the Region of Waterloo make the well monitoring data publicly available.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- 12.1 Barry Wolfe regarding February 23, 2026 Council Meeting
- 12.2 Barry Wolfe regarding March 2, 2026 Council Meeting
- 12.3 Citizens for Safe Groundwater Letter to Council

13. CONSENT AGENDA**Resolution No. 2026-66**

Moved by: Councillor S. Cressman

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

THAT Consent Agenda Items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7 and 13.8 be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Council varied the order of business to consider Item 14.2 next, to expediently address staff reports with registered delegates.

13.1 Master Plans Overview - CAO-2026-10

THAT Report CAO-2026-10 Master Plans Overview be received for information.

13.2 Explore Waterloo Region – Tourism Update - CAO-2026-09

THAT Report CAO-2026-09 Explore Waterloo Region – Tourism Update be received for information.

13.3 Community Services Master Plan Update and Accomplishments - CS-2026-05

THAT Report CS-2026-05 Community Services Master Plan Update and Accomplishments be received for information.

13.4 By-law to deem lots not to be part of a plan of subdivision - DS-2026-03

THAT Report DS-2026-03 By-law to deem lots not to be part of a plan of subdivision, be, received for information; and,

THAT Council, by By-law, deem Registered Plan 627 as it applies to Lots 134 and 134, not to be part of registered plan of subdivision; and

THAT Council authorize the by-law to be registered on title as required under Section 50(28) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990,c.P.13, as amended.

13.5 Re-purpose Rescue 627 to Rehab Apparatus - FS-2026-01

THAT Report FS-2026-01 Re-purpose Rescue 627 to Rehab Apparatus be received for information; and,

THAT Council authorize the Fire Service to retain Rescue 627 upon its replacement in 2026 and repurpose the unit as a dedicated Rehabilitation (“Rehab”) Apparatus in support of legislated firefighter health and safety requirements; and

THAT no capital funds be requested in 2026 for this repurpose initiative, with a full needs assessment and any recommended budget requests to be presented to Council for the 2027 budget.

13.6 2025 Annual Summary and Water Quality Report - IS-2026-03

THAT Report IS-2026-03 2025 Annual Summary and Water Quality Report be received for information; and,

THAT Council confirms its commitment to providing the necessary resources for the ongoing implementation, maintenance, and continual improvement of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) as outlined in this report.

13.7 Infrastructure Asset Condition and Investment Needs: Sanitary and Water - IS-2026-06

THAT Report IS-2025-06 Infrastructure Asset Condition and Investment Needs: Sanitary and Water be received for information; and,

That the watermain and sanitary sewer repair program be referred to the 10-year capital forecast as part of the Long Range Financial Plan.

13.8 2025 Annual Sanitary and Stormwater Performance Reports - IS-2026-07

THAT Report IS-2026-07 2025 Annual Sanitary and Stormwater Performance Reports be received for information.

14. REPORTS

14.1 2026 Work Plan - CAO-2026-11

Chief Administrative Officer, Jeff Willmer presented the report.

Resolution No. 2026-70**Moved by:** Councillor S. Cressman**Seconded by:** Councillor K. Wilkinson

THAT Report CAO-2026-11 2026 Work Plan, be received for information;
and,

THAT the proposed 2026 Work Plan attached to Report CAO-2026-011
be endorsed.

Motion Carried Unanimously14.2 Proposed Municipal Sustainability Manager - CAO-2026-13

Chief Administrative Officer, Jeff Willmer presented the report.

Delegate B. Daub addressed Council.

Delegate B. Van Andel addressed Council.

If the position were not supported by all parties, staff would report back to
Council.

Resolution No. 2026-67**Moved by:** Councillor S. Martin**Seconded by:** Councillor L. Dunstall

THAT Report CAO-2026-13 Proposed Municipal Sustainability Manager
be received for information; and,

THAT staff be directed to work with Sustainable Waterloo Region and the
Township of Wellesley to fill a one-year contract position as Municipal
Sustainability Manager, as outlined in Report CAO-2026-13.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Agenda item 14.4 dealt with next.

14.3 2026 Municipal Election – Election Policies - COR-2026-06

Manager of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk, Amelia Jaggard
presented the report.

Resolution No. 2026-71**Moved by:** Councillor S. Martin**Seconded by:** Councillor L. Dunstall

That Report COR-2026-06 2026 Municipal Election – Election Policies be received for information; and,

That staff be directed to present a By-Law to adopt a Municipal Election Recount Policy attached as Attachment 1; and

That staff be directed to present a By-Law to adopt a Use of Municipal Resources During an Election Policy attached Attachment 2.

Motion Carried Unanimously

14.4 Petersburg Water System Direction and Final Design - IS-2026-09

Director of Infrastructure Services, Ken Vanderwal presented the report.

Delegate P. Wendland addressed Council.

Staff confirmed that recommendations regarding tender award and cost allocation would be brought forward to Council following tender.

Discussion included design timelines, sidewalk requirements under AODA, and potential phasing of the project.

Resolution No. 2026-68

Moved by: Councillor K. Wilkinson

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

THAT Report IS-2026-09, Petersburg Water System Direction & Final Design be received for information; and,

THAT Council direct staff to complete the final design of the Petersburg Water System to be an Urban Cross Section with Semi-Mountable Curb and with Concrete Sidewalk on one side of the street; and

That the project be completed in a multi-phase approach with the concrete sidewalk construction being the final phase, and that the funding for the concrete sidewalk construction be recommended for inclusion in the 2027 capital budget.

Motion Carried

Agenda item 14.5 dealt with next.

14.5 Traffic and Parking By-Law Update - IS-2026-04

Mayor Salonen declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and abstained from discussion and voting on this matter. Mayor Salonen left the Chair at 9:17 p.m.

Councillor Martin assumed the Chair.

Director of Infrastructure Services, Ken Vanderwal presented the report.

Delegate D. Emrich addressed Council.

Delegate N. Demelo addressed Council.

Delegate P. Collins addressed Council.

Council requested that staff consult emergency services regarding access on McFayden Street.

Resolution No. 2026-69

Moved by: Councillor H. Sidhu

Seconded by: Councillor L. Dunstall

THAT Report IS-2026-04 Traffic and Parking By-Law Amendment be received for information; and

THAT Council direct Staff to present a by-law to amend By-Law 2016-52 Traffic and Parking By-Law for Council's consideration; and

THAT Council direct Staff to present a by-law at a future meeting to amend By-Law 2016-52 Traffic and Parking By-Law, to implement a 3-Way Stop at the intersection of Wagler Ave and Hunsberger Drive.

Motion Carried

Mayor Salonen assumed the Chair at 9:53 p.m.

Agenda item 14.1 dealt with next.

15. BY-LAWS

Resolution No. 2026-72

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor H. Sidhu

THAT By-Laws 2026-14, 2026-15, 2026-16, 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19, and 2026-20, as attached to this Agenda be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed in Open Council.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- 15.1 2026-14 A By-Law to close the public highway referred to as Alley on Registered Plan 633
- 15.2 2026-15 A By-Law to appoint a Deputy Clerk (Jennifer Bouzane)
- 15.3 2026-16 A By-Law to amend By-Law 2016-52 Traffic and Parking By-Law
- 15.4 2026-17 A By-Law to adopt a Municipal Election Recount Policy
- 15.5 2026-18 A By-Law to adopt a Use of Municipal Resources During an Election Policy
- 15.6 2026-19 A By-Law to deem part of registered plan 627 not to be a registered plan (69 Snyder's Rd W)
- 15.7 2026-20 A By-Law to appoint a Fire Chief and a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Township of Wilmot (Christopher Cleave)

16. NOTICES OF MOTION16.1 Councillor Dunstall

Staff confirmed the feasibility of completing the work within the current year as part of the existing workplan.

Resolution No. 2026-73

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor S. Martin

That Council acknowledge the findings of the completed community centre review, which identified that the Township's community centres require significant capital investment, amounting to millions of dollars over time, and that several facilities currently either barely cover operating costs or operate at a loss, excluding any future capital improvements; and

That Council direct Staff to engage the community on the long-term feasibility, affordability, and appropriate number of community centres for Wilmot Township as a whole, including options that may involve consolidation or reduction in the number of facilities; and

That Staff report back to Council with the results of this community engagement for consideration before further major capital investments are committed.

Motion Carried

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

18. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

19. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Resolution No. 2026-74

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor S. Martin

THAT By-Law 2026-13 to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Regular Council meeting held on March 23, 2026, be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed in Open Council.

Motion Carried Unanimously

20. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2026-75

Moved by: Councillor S. Cressman

Seconded by: Councillor L. Dunstall

THAT the Regular Council meeting of March 23, 2026 be adjourned at 10:35 p.m.