

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

There was a Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Present were Mayor David Bennett, Deputy Mayor Daina Proctor, Councillor Glen Campbell, Councillor Doug Humphries, and Councillor Tom Webster. Staff present was Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk, Nathalie Moore, Treasurer, and Nichole Dubeau, Executive Assistant – Recording Secretary.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Bennett read the Land Acknowledgement in its entirety.

### 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Humphries

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16**

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Proctor

**THAT** Council adopt the Agenda for the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

**Carried**

### 5. DELEGATIONS &/or PUBLIC MEETINGS – NONE

### 6. MINUTES

6.1 February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Regular Council

6.2 February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Public Meeting

Moved by Councillor Campbell

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17**

Seconded by Councillor Webster

**THAT** Council approve the following Minutes:

- February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Regular Council
- February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Public Meeting

**Carried**

### 7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### 8.1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Public Advisory members Susan Humphries and Spencer Hopping were present.

##### 8.1.1 Staff Report – Health and Safety Update

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough reviewed the report. Council members were in agreeance to close the office for a staff health & safety training day.

##### 8.1.2 Staff Report – Joint Police Services Board

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough reviewed the report. Councillor Glen Campbell volunteered to be the Council representative.

##### 8.1.3 Staff Report – 2023 Building Report

Treasurer Nathalie Moore reviewed the report.

**8.1.4 Staff Report – 2023 Council Remuneration**

Treasurer Nathalie Moore reviewed the report.

**8.1.5 Staff Report – 2024 Preliminary Budget**

Treasurer Nathalie Moore reviewed the report. She highlighted that after the Tax Work Group session at the County, municipal levies are most likely to increase more over the next few years due to the lack of funding from the Federal and Provincial governments. She added that MPAC has not reinstated assessment cycles, which has also affected tax revenues. With all that, Horton is looking at a 5.4% levy increase for 2024, which staff started at 18% and has worked diligently to decrease. Public Advisory member Spencer Hopping stated his concern with the fact that Horton tax rates have not kept up with inflation rates over the last couple of years. Public Advisory member Susan Humphries stated that it is easier on ratepayers to increase in increments rather than large jumps, and that if this year is only 5.4% increase, how much more will it have to go up in the future years to stabilize. The Public Advisory members suggested increasing the rate to 7% to assist in the coming years. Councillor Humphries stated he does not want to see the Township in a situation where in a few years, there must be a large levy increase because the operating budget and reserves have not been able to keep up with the cost of operating. Councillor Campbell stated that Horton has been able to maintain low levy increases over the past several years, but if increasing the levy a bit more this year can help for the future and operating of this year, he is not opposed to it. Mayor Bennett stated that it is not fair for ratepayers to be presented with 5.4% and then it be raised higher this late into the process. He stated that he is for the 5.4% for this year and next year it can be looked at for a higher increase. Deputy Mayor Proctor stated that with what the Township is contributing to reserves, she believes the Township should be financially stable and that she is supportive of 5.4%, but not higher. Councillor Webster added that contributing to reserves is a priority for the Township but agrees to stay at the proposed 5.4%.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY****9.1 INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE****9.1.1 CAO/Clerk Information Memo**

Discussion went around the table with information previously distributed.

**9.2 ACTION CORRESPONDENCE – NONE****10. BYLAWS – NONE****11. NOTICE TO FILE MOTION FOR NEXT COUNCIL – NONE**

Mayor Bennett stated that the motion he filed previously about the purchase of land will not be coming forward anytime soon because he does not want to put that burden on the ratepayers.

**12. COUNCIL/STAFF MEMBERS CONCERNS – NONE****13. RESOLUTIONS**

Moved by Councillor Humphries

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18**

Seconded by Councillor Webster

**THAT** Council approves the CAO/Clerk's recommendation to close the office on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> for a day of training and team building to review health and safety policies and procedures.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Webster

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19**

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Proctor

**THAT** Council appoint Council Member Glen Campbell to the Joint Police Service Board for the Renfrew Detachment Ontario Provincial Police for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Council Term.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Campbell

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20**

Seconded by Councillor Webster

**THAT** Council receive the following reports as information:

- Staff Report – 2023 Building Report
- Staff Report – 2023 Council Remuneration
- Staff Report – 2024 Preliminary Budget

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Humphries

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21**

Seconded by Councillor Webster

**THAT** Council recommend and direct staff to present a 5.4% levy increase;

**AND THAT** the Public Meeting date be scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Carried**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Proctor

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22**

Seconded by Councillor Humphries

**THAT** Council accept the CAO/Clerk's Information Memo for March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Carried**

**14. IN CAMERA (Closed) SESSION – NONE**

**15. CONFIRMING BYLAW**

Moved by Councillor Campbell

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-23**

Seconded by Councillor Webster

**THAT** Council enact By-law 2024-10– Confirming By-Law.

**Carried**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Bennett declared the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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MAYOR David M. Bennett

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CAO/CLERK Hope Dillabough