



TOWN OF GRIMSBY

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

**October 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Council Chambers
160 Livingston Avenue**

Present: Councillor D. Davoli
Councillor D. Howe
Councillor L. Vardy
Councillor J. Korstanje
Member A. Scandinavo
Member B. Thomson

Absent: Member B. Hutchings

Staff: Deputy Treasurer, A. Cifani
Town Clerk, V. Steele
Director of Finance/Treasurer, T. Del Monaco

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement:
Grimsby is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara/Grimsby stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

3. Disclosure of Interest

There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Davoli stepped down as Chair to bring forward a Notice of Motion. Councillor Howe assumed the role of the Chair.

FC-24- 50

Moved by: Councillor D. Davoli
Seconded by: Councillor L. Vardy

Resolved that section 7.7(1) of the Procedural By-law be temporarily suspended, as per section 12.1, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds to add Councillor Davoli's Notice of Motion to the agenda and discuss tonight.

CARRIED

Councillor Davoli resumed the role of the Chair.

FC-24- 51

Seconded by: Member B. Thomson

Resolved that the October 3, 2024 Finance Committee agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

5. Receipt of Previous Minutes

FC-24- 52

Moved by Councillor J. Korstanje
Seconded by: Councillor D. Howe

Resolved that the Finance Committee minutes of August 22, 2024 and the GEDAC minutes of September 5, 2024 be received.

CARRIED

6. Delegations/Presentations

6.1 James Brennan, Grant Thornton

James Brennan from Doane Grant Thornton presented the draft financial statements and audit report.

FC-24- 53

Moved by: Councillor D. Howe
Seconded by: Member A. Scandivano

Resolved that the presentation from James Brennan be received.

CARRIED

7. Consent Reports

8. Discussion Reports

8.1 FIN-24-27 Consolidated Financial Statement Report

FC-24- 54

Moved by: Councillor J. Korstanje
Seconded by: Member B. Thomson

Resolved that report FIN-24-27, Consolidated Financial Statement Report, dated October 3, 2024 be received; and

1. That the Finance Committee recommends Council approve the 2023 Draft Audited Financial Statements.

CARRIED

8.2 FIN-24-28 2024 Second Quarter Financial Update

FC-24- 55

Moved by: Member A. Scandinavo
Seconded by: Councillor D. Howe

Resolved that report FIN-24-28, 2024 Second Quarter Financial Update, dated October 3, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Memorandum – Peach King Centre Update

FC-24- 56

Moved by: Councillor L. Vardy
Seconded by: Councillor J. Korstanje

Resolved that the memorandum on the Peach King Centre Update be received.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Other Business

10.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor Davoli (Pay-on-Demand Surety Bonds)

FC-24- 57

Moved by: Councillor D. Davoli

Seconded by: Councillor L. Vardy

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has introduced a proposal which would create a new regulation under the Planning Act that would enable developers to use of pay-on-demand surety bonds to secure land-use planning obligations under Section 70.3.1 of the Planning Act; Whereas municipalities need an effective method to ensure developers meet their financial obligations as established through their respective development agreements;

Whereas a Letter of Credit provides a guarantee directly from a certified financial institution (i.e. Bank, etc.) which allows the municipality to draw on the funds as needed;

Whereas pay-on-demand surety bonds used a third-party surety (insurance company) rather than a financial institution to provide these guarantees, financial institutions are subject to more stringent financial regulations, which introduces additional risk to the municipality and the tax payer;

Whereas the process to call on these funds is more complex, and may involve significant legal fees, and the proposed regulation does not adequately address downgrading of credit ratings of these insurance companies, renewals and defaults, related thereto;

Whereas it is estimated that the costs for developing, implementing, and maintaining these surety bonds could have significant financial impact to the municipality;

Whereas the proposal takes the decision for the type of guarantee being provided out of the municipalities hands, and into the developer's hands; and

Whereas the proposal was published on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-9198), on September 16, 2024, with a 30-day comment period ending October 16, 2024;

Therefore be it resolved that Council direct staff to prepare detailed comments on the impact of this proposed change and submit the comments to the ERO by October 16, 2024 together with this resolution; and

Be it further resolved that the same be shared with Mr. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP and other municipalities within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

CARRIED

11. Next Meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

D. Davoli, Chair

V. Steele, Town Clerk