



TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES

Regular Meeting of Council

Minutes

August 5, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Office, Chantry

Members Present: Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Deputy Mayor Deborah Anne Hutchings, Councillor Jeff Banks, Councillor Paula Banks, Councillor Dustin Bulloch, Councillor Linda Carr, Councillor Sue Dunfield, Councillor Ron Pollard (late)

Members Absent: Councillor Marcia Maxwell

Staff Present: Shellee Fournier, CAO, Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk, Gene Richardson, Fire Chief/CEMC, Thomas Fehr, Manager of Development Services (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoogenboom called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and advised that a Fire Ban is in effect which should be respected. We also had a couple of great Fairs over the last couple of weeks that were well attended.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Township of Rideau Lakes acknowledges that we live and work and are meeting on ancestral territories of indigenous people. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous peoples and honor their past, present and future. The Township values and respects their cultural heritage and relationship to the land.

ROLL CALL

Members of the public in attendance who signed in: John Fenik

EMERGENCY ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if there were any emergency additions or amendments to the Agenda and the following were requested:

Councillor Dunfield: Request to add the Picnic Held in Portland on Monday under Business Arising Agenda #9.3.

Councillor P. Banks: Request to move Notice of Motions 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3 under New Business as items #13.3, 13.4 and 13.5.

Councillor P. Banks: Request to add a Notice of Non-Confidence in the Mayor under New Business Agenda item 13.6.

RESOLUTION 176-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks

Seconded by Councillor Dunfield

Be it resolved that the Procedural By-Law be set aside to add an item under Business Arising 9.3 (Picnic in Portland), to move Notice of Motion Agenda Items 14.1 through 14.3 under New Business, and add a Motion under New Business 13.6 (Non Confidence in Mayor).

Carried

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION 177-2025

Moved by Councillor Bulloch

Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved, that the Agenda be approved and adopted as amended.

Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any Council Member had a Pecuniary Interest in any Item on the Agenda and if so, the Nature of that Interest and the following was declared:

Arie Hoogenboom, do declare a direct pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 and a conflict of interest, non-pecuniary in nature, related to any other matter including matters under the Township of Rideau Lakes Code of Conduct in regards to items 18.2, 18.8 & 18.9 namely the July 14, 2025 MSC Minutes and Closed Matters under Section 239(2)(e)&(f) on the Regular Council Meeting Agenda dated August 5, 2025. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Legal action against the mayor.

DELEGATIONS: None

STAFF REPORTS

Gene Richardson, Fire Chief/Manager of Community Protection: Replacement Fire Vehicle Award of Contract

Gene Richardson, Fire Chief/Manager of Community Protection, provided a verbal and written report to Council regarding Replacement Fire Vehicle Award of Contract under Report FIRE-2025-18.

RESOLUTION 178-2025

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchings

Be it resolved that Council pass a by-law authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign an agreement with Mike Fair Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Ltd. for the purchase of a 2025 Crew Cab 4X4 Truck in the amount of \$50,227.00 (plus the Township's portion of the HST) and the applicable licensing fee, as presented in Council Report Fire 2025-18.

Carried

Tom Fehr, Manager of Development Services: Freeland Road/Road Allowance – Concession 1, Lots 26 to 28, Bastard Township

Tom Fehr, Manager of Development Service provided a verbal and written report to Council regarding Freeland Road/Road Allowance - Concession 1, Lots 26 to 28, Bastard Township under Report DS-2025-21.

RESOLUTION 179-2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor Bulloch

Be it resolved that, Council pass a By-Law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a purchase and sale agreement for \$1 to accept the lands being offered by the owner of 3828 Big Rideau Lake Road, as presented in Council Report DS-2025-21.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

MHAC Rec #2025-30 - Statement to be Included on the 2026 Rideau Lakes Road Map

Councillor Ron Pollard (late) joined the meeting at 6:17 pm.

RESOLUTION 180-2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor Bulloch

WHEREAS at the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) Meeting held July 17, 2025 Recommendation #2025-30 was passed recommending to Council that the following statement be included in the 2026 Rideau Lakes Road map:

"Early History of Rideau Lakes Archeological evidence shows that Indigenous peoples

have continuously lived in the Rideau lakes area for at least 9,000 years. Indigenous artifacts have been found around all of the lakes in this area."

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes hereby recommends that MHAC Rec #2025-30 be referred to the Economic Development Committee for discussion.

Carried

Councillor Dunfield: Portland Picnic

Councillor Dunfield updated Council on the Picnic that Portland held in Hanna Park yesterday noting that MPP Clark, Councillors Dunfield, Carr, J. Banks and P. Banks attended along with 120+ people. Councillor Dunfield provided thanks to staff Leila and John and the Portland and Area CEC volunteers.

MINUTES

The following minutes were read as distributed to Council. Mayor Hoogenboom asked for any errors, omissions or questions and none were noted.

- Regular Council Meeting: July 7, 2025
- Municipal Services Committee (Combined) Meeting: July 14, 2025
- Economic Development Committee Meeting: July 7, 2025
- Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting: July 17, 2025
- Planning Advisory and Committee of Adjustment Meetings: July 9 & July 23, 2025
- Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee Meeting: June 18, 2025
- Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Meeting: February 26, March 26, April 30 & May 28, 2025
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Meeting: May 22, 2025

RESOLUTION 181-2025

Moved by Councillor Pollard
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved, that the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes Approves and adopts the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 7, 2025.

Carried

RESOLUTION 182-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchings

Be it resolved, that the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes Approves the Minutes and Adopts all Recommendations contained within the Minutes, unless otherwise dealt with, of the:

- Municipal Services Committee (Combined) Meeting: July 14, 2025
- Economic Development Committee Meeting: July 7, 2025
- Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting: July 17, 2025
- Planning Advisory and Committee of Adjustment Meetings: July 9 & July 23, 2025
- Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee Meeting: June 18, 2025

AND FURTHER that Council Acknowledges the Minutes of the:

- Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Meetings: February 26, March 26, April 30 & May 28, 2025
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Meeting: May 22, 2025

Carried

BY-LAWS

RESOLUTION 183-2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved, that the following By-Laws be taken as read a first and second time the short way this 5th day of August, 2025:

- By-Law 2025-95: Agreement - Village of Westport - Enforcement of Ontario Building Code-Residential Tenancies Act
- By-Law 2025-96: Contract - Rush Truck Centre - purchase 2026 International Tandem Plow Truck
- By-Law 2025-97: Contract - Whitekker Environmental Services - Water Testing
- By-Law 2025-98: Contract - Commercial Fire Trucks Contract - 2026 Pumper
- By-Law 2025-99: Amend By-Law 2019-23 - Establish Community Enhancement Committees (Senior Group Financials)
- By-Law 2025-100: Amend By-Law 2024-124 - Amend Human Resources Policy

- By-Law 2025-101: Amend By-Law 2025-15 - Council and Staff Relationship Policy (Strong Mayor Powers)
- By-Law 2025-102: Contract - Mike Fair Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Ltd - 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD Crew Cab truck
- By-Law 2025-103: ZBA-9-2025 John & Kathryn Looby, 79 Otter Lake Rd, SE
- By-Law 2025-104: Purchase and Sale Agreement - Freeland Road / Road Allowance

Carried

RESOLUTION 184-2025

Moved by Councillor Bulloch
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchings

Be it resolved that By-Laws 2025-95, 2025-96, 2025-97, 2025-98, 2025-99, 2025-100, 2025-101, 2025-102, 2025-103 and 2025-104 be taken as read a third time and finally passed this 5th day of August, 2025.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION: None

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Motion: Councillor Dunfield - Recreation Agreements

RESOLUTION 185-2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchings

WHEREAS The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes has recreation agreements with the Township of Athens, the Village of Westport and the Town of Smiths Falls;

AND WHEREAS these recreation agreements allow residents of Rideau Lakes to use the recreational facilities in Athens, Westport and Smiths Falls at the same registration fee as their respective taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS it has been quite some time that these recreation agreements have been reviewed;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes requests that the Township of Athens, the Village of Westport and the Town of Smiths Falls provide to the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes the registration numbers of Rideau Lakes residents that were registered in all programs that used their respective facilities during 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT these numbers be provided to the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes by September 30, 2025 in time for 2026 budget deliberations.

Carried

Appointment of Councillor Bulloch to Committees

RESOLUTION 186-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes hereby appoints Councillor Dustin Bulloch to the following Committees:

- Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
- Friends of the Cataraqui Trail
- Planning Advisory and Committee of Adjustment
- Morton and Area Community Enhancement Committee

AND FURTHER that Councillor Carr be removed as an appointed Council member of same.

Carried

Councillor P. Banks - Override of Mayor Veto re: Confirmatory By-Law 2025-94 (Chantry Office)

Mayor Hoogenboom advised he would not read this motion into the record and asked Deputy Mayor Hutchings to take over as Chair for this item.

RESOLUTION 187-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

WHEREAS Section 284.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 permits the Head of Council to veto a By-Law only if it interferes with a prescribed provincial priority;

AND WHEREAS By-Law Number 2025-94 does not interfere with any provincial priority, but instead ensures that Council and staff of the Township of Rideau Lakes receive critical information, for which taxpayers have already paid \$138,000 to support responsible, transparent, and evidence-based decision-making;

AND WHEREAS Section 224 of the Municipal Act, 2001 defines Council's core responsibilities, including to represent the public and consider the well-being of the municipality (224[a]), and to ensure accountability and transparency of municipal operations (224[d.1]);

AND WHEREAS Section 225(c.1) requires the mayor, as Head of Council, to provide information and recommendations to council in support of its responsibilities under Section 224, and the failure to do so undermines these obligations;

AND WHEREAS the mayoral veto in this case is being used to withhold information from council and the public, obstructing transparency, impeding council's ability to govern responsibly, and violating possibly both the letter and the spirit of Sections 224 and 225 of the Municipal Act;

AND WHEREAS any member of Council who supports this veto is, by extension, may be in breach of their legal obligations under Section 224, by failing to represent the public interest and support transparent governance;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes hereby overrides the mayoral veto of By-Law Number 2025-94 pursuant to Section 284.11(8) of the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND FURTHER that By-Law Number 2025-94 shall be deemed passed;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Ombudsman, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario for formal review and to reaffirm that Section 284.11 is not to be used to obstruct lawful council oversight or public accountability.

For (5): Deputy Mayor Hutchings, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor Dunfield

Against (3): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, and Councillor Pollard

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Carried (5 to 3)

(did not meet required 2/3 majority in favour)

Councillor P. Banks - Request for Information to Support Submission on Bill 9 – Integrity Commissioner Framework

RESOLUTION 188-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Carr

WHEREAS the Township of Rideau Lakes is preparing a submission to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy regarding Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Township has experienced 17 Integrity Commissioner (IC) complaints, raising concerns about the current framework and the need for reform;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Council direct staff to provide a detailed breakdown of the costs incurred for each of the 17 IC investigations by August 9th;

AND FURTHER that Councillor Paula Banks prepare a summary of each complaint, including the date, general nature, outcome, and duration, along with commentary supporting the Township's call for legislative reform and independent oversight;

AND FURTHER that the completed report be submitted to the August 11, 2025, MSC meeting for Council review prior to submission to the Standing Committee by the August 18th deadline.

For (5): Deputy Mayor Hutchings, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor Dunfield

Against (3): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, and Councillor Pollard

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Carried (5 to 3)

Councillor P. Banks - V.O.I.C.E. Coalition - Request for Support and Endorsement

RESOLUTION 189-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks

Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers have been extended to 216 Ontario municipalities, with more expected by fall 2025;

AND WHEREAS over 130 municipalities have formally opposed these powers due to concerns over democratic accountability and local governance;

AND WHEREAS the V.O.I.C.E. coalition is hosting an open advocacy session at the 2025 AMO Conference on Monday, August 18, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. at Joey Rideau in Ottawa;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Township of Rideau Lakes endorses and supports this V.O.I.C.E. event and encourages all Ontario municipalities to attend;

AND FURTHER that the attached invitation be sent along with this resolution to all 444 Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Carried

Councillor P. Banks: Vote of Non-Confidence in Mayor

Mayor Hoogenboom advised he would not read this motion into the record and asked Deputy Mayor Hutchings to take over as Chair for this item.

RESOLUTION 190-2025

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

WHEREAS Mayoral Decision MD-2025-02-a, issued on July 18, 2025, contains multiple misstatements and unsubstantiated claims used to justify the veto of By-Law Number 2025-94;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor falsely claimed that Council had not properly considered the offer of a 5-acre parcel of land in Elgin, despite it being discussed in both open and closed sessions, with the mayor present and fully aware;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor continues to promote a misleading narrative about this property, presenting it as the only viable option while downplaying or withholding important information, including shifting conditions around the offer, such as the estimated cost of an MTO-approved entrance off Highway 15 originally requested, and new demands shared only with Council, all of which should now be made public and included in future public meetings;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor previously, in Mayoral Decision MD-2025-01-a, containing some of the same inadequate reasoning, falsely claimed support from MPP Steve Clark for his use of Strong Mayor Powers, an assertion later shown to be untrue;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor continues to cite the Township's debt load as justification for vetoes, despite clear and public legal advice from the Township's solicitor, Mr. Tony Fleming, that debt levels do not constitute valid grounds for a veto under Section 284.11 of the Municipal Act;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor has refused to provide specifics, documentation, or professional evaluations to support his repeated claim that the Chantry project tendering process is "flawed," despite ongoing requests for clarification from Council;

AND WHEREAS these vetoes are based on vague and unprovable assertions, rather than on alignment with prescribed provincial priorities, thereby undermining the intended use of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's veto has effectively only blocked Council and staff from accessing the actual costs associated with the Chantry municipal office renovation project, information that is fundamental to fulfilling Council's legal responsibilities under Section 224 of the Municipal Act, 2001, including:

1. Ensuring accountability and transparency in decision-making,
2. Maintaining the financial integrity of the municipality, and
3. Developing and evaluating the municipality's policies and programs, and

AND WHEREAS Council and staff cannot carry out these statutory duties without access to accurate and timely cost information;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's ongoing obstruction of this information, under the guise of Strong Mayor Powers, constitutes not only a misuse of authority but also an

unreasonable and unauthorized interference with Council's legislative role representing a clear breach of both the spirit and function of the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers were granted by the province for the purpose of advancing specific provincial priorities, particularly housing and infrastructure, and not for bypassing Council's oversight, misrepresenting facts, or withholding critical financial information necessary for transparent, responsible decision-making;

AND WHEREAS the cumulative pattern of misinformation, selective disclosure, unsupported vetoes, and interference with Council's access to vital information reflects a clear pattern of bad faith governance on the part of the Mayor, contrary to both the letter and intent of the Municipal Act and the democratic responsibilities of elected office;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes expresses a motion of non-confidence in the Mayor and formally calls for an immediate end to the misuse of Strong Mayor Powers.

For (5): Deputy Mayor Hutchings, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor Dunfield

Against (3): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, and Councillor Pollard

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Carried (5 to 3)

NOTICE OF MOTION

Through a previous resolution to amend the agenda, the following Notice of Motions were moved up in the agenda under New Business:

14.1 Councillor P. Banks - Override of Mayor Veto re: Confirmatory By-Law 2025-94 (Chantry Office)

14.2 Councillor P. Banks - Request for Information to Support Submission on Bill 9 – Integrity Commissioner Framework

14.3 Councillor P. Banks - V.O.I.C.E. Coalition - Request for Support and Endorsement

MAYOR'S UPDATE

- July 24: I attended in Brockville the Regular County Council Meeting where we received our 2024 audit which had no recommendations for improvement. Later that evening I attended and helped open the Delta Fair. Congratulations to Liz Priebe, the Delta Citizen of the Year.

- July 26th: I attended and spoke at two lake association AGM's. First at Otter Lake where I was the guest speaker and spoke on the importance of tourism in our area. that afternoon I attended the Wolfe Lake AGM.

- July 27th: I participated in the Delta Fair parade.

- July 28th: I accepted an invitation from the president of the Wolfe Lake Association to tour Wolfe Lake.

- August 1st: I helped open the Lombardy Fair and commended the many volunteers who make our rural fairs a great family event.

Shellee Fournier, CAO left the meeting at 8:08 pm.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any questions had been received from the Media and the Clerk advised no questions had been submitted via email.

John Fenik asked questions regarding the budget (legal fees), the Override of the Mayoral Veto, and the motion regarding a report on IC Reports.

Shellee Fournier, CAO joined the meeting at 8:11 pm.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any questions had been submitted by the Public regarding Agenda Items and the Clerk advised the following was received:

Dan Berty as Spokesperson for RL Grassroots: Archives at Chantry Office if renovations take place.

No members of the Public were in attendance at this meeting.

CLOSED MEETING - As per Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act

RESOLUTION 191-2025

Moved by Councillor Carr

Seconded by Councillor Dunfield

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes closes Meeting at 8:24 p.m. to discuss matters as per Section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act*:

- Regular Council Closed Meeting Minutes: July 7, 2025;
- Municipal Services Committee (PW) Closed Meeting Minutes: July 14, 2025;
- Economic Development Committee Closed Meeting Minutes: July 7, 2025;
- One item under Section 239(2)(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Municipal or local board employee
- Two items under Section 239(2)(c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Municipality or local board;
- Two items under Section 239(2)(e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and
- Two items under Section 239(2)(f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose

Carried

REPORT REGARDING CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Hoogenboom left the meeting during closed session.

RESOLUTION 192-2025

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved, that By-Law 2025-105, being a By-Law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Bill of Sale and General Conveyance regarding the Mavety Boathouse on a Road Allowance located in the Village of Newboro, be taken as read a first and second time, the short way, this 5th day of August, 2025.

Carried

RESOLUTION 193-2025

Moved by Councillor Carr
Seconded by Councillor Dunfield

Be it resolved, that By-Law 2025-105, be taken as read a third time and finally passed this 5th day of August, 2025.

Carried

BY-LAW #2025-106: Govern Proceedings of Council: August 5, 2025

RESOLUTION 194-2025

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that By-Law Number 2025-106 being a By-Law to Govern the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes at its Meeting held August 5, 2025 be taken as read a first, second and third time this 5th day of August 2025.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Hutchings declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor

Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk

