

Minutes
Council meeting
Municipality of West Grey

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 9 a.m.
West Grey municipal office, council chambers and virtual

Members present: Mayor Kevin Eccles
 Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson
 Councillor Scott Foerster
 Councillor Doug Hutchinson
 Councillor Joyce Nuhn
 Councillor Geoffrey Shea
 Councillor Doug Townsend

Staff present: Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
 Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer
 Karl Schipprack, Director of Community and Development Services/CBO
 Geoff Aitken, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works
 Rob Martin, West Grey Chief of Police
 Phil Schwartz, West Grey Fire Chief
 Ashley Noble, Communications Coordinator
 Krista House Langdon, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to order

Mayor Eccles called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Moment of reflection

Mayor Eccles called for a moment of reflection.

3. Declarations of interest

3.1 Councillor Nuhn - 2026 Ayton-Normanby Homecoming Committee

Councillor Nuhn declared a conflict with agenda item 9.1.1 - correspondence from the 2026 Ayton-Normanby Homecoming Committee, as she is a member of that committee.

4. Delegations and presentations

4.1 Delegation from Sara Hopkins Re: Gravel Mining Community Impacts

Sara Hopkins, resident and member of the Saugeen Preservation Society, provided a delegation on the community impacts of gravel mining.

Ms. Hopkins commented on activities at existing aggregate pits and noted that noise, gravel, and dust are expected to increase if applications for an aggregate pit expansion and two new aggregate pits are approved.

Ms. Hopkins asked Council to consider the benefits of a balanced economy that was not focused so heavily on aggregate extraction.

4.2 Delegation from Judi Smelko Re: Gravel Mining in West Grey

Judi Smelko, resident and member of the Saugeen Preservation Society, provided a delegation on aggregate activities in Ontario and in West Grey.

Ms. Smelko asked Council to consider implementing an interim control bylaw to pause any zoning changes for proposed aggregate pits and requested that Council create new/updated policies related to aggregate extraction.

5. Public meetings

There were no public meetings.

6. Comment period

Marian Ratcliffe, resident, commented in support of the delegations contained within item 4.

Joyce Hall, resident, commented in support of the delegations contained within item 4.

7. Adoption of minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Special Council (Budget) Meeting held on December 10, 2024

7.2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 2024

7.3 Minutes of the Public Council Meeting held on December 17, 2024

R-250114-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT the minutes of the special Council meeting held on December 10, 2024, and the regular Council meeting and the public planning meeting held on December 17, 2024, be adopted."

Carried

8. Committee and board reports

8.1 Minutes of the West Grey Police Services Board Meeting held on November 18, 2024

8.2 Highlights of the Grey County Council Meeting held on November 28, 2024

8.3 Highlights of the Grey County Council Meeting held on December 12, 2024

8.4 Minutes of the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission Meeting held on December 18, 2024

R-250114-002

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT the minutes of the committees and boards are hereby received."

Carried

9. Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received for which direction of Council is required

Having declared a conflict of interest with item 9.1.1, Councillor Nuhn left the Council table at this time.

9.1.1 2026 Ayton-Normanby Homecoming Committee

R-250114-003

Moved by Councillor Townsend

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of correspondence received December 16, 2024, from the Ayton Normanby-Homecoming Committee respecting the 2026 Ayton-Normanby Homecoming, Council authorizes the CAO and Clerk to enter into a MOU with the Ayton-Normanby Homecoming Committee for the 2026 homecoming."

Carried

Councillor Nuhn returned to the Council table at this time.

9.2 Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-250114-004

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

"THAT Council receives all correspondence not otherwise dealt with."

Carried

10. Staff reports

10.1 West Grey Fire Service, Chief

10.1.1 Fire Protection Grant Transfer Payment Agreement

The West Grey Fire Chief provided an overview of the report.

R-250114-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT in consideration of staff report 'Fire Protection Grant Transfer Payment Agreement', Council receives the report for information purposes."

Carried

10.2 Director of Infrastructure and Public Works

10.2.1 IPW-2025-01– West Grey Drinking Water Systems – 2024/25 Inspection Reports

The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works provided an overview of the report.

R-250114-006

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

"That in consideration of staff report 'IPW-2025-01 – West Grey Drinking Water Systems – 2024/25 Inspection Reports', Council receives the report for information purposes."

Carried

10.3 Director of Community and Development Services/CBO

10.3.1 Additional Proposed Tower Antenna Installation – Multiple Locations

The Director of Community and Development Services/CBO provided an overview of the report.

R-250114-007

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of staff report 'Additional Proposed Tower Antenna Installation – Multiple Locations', Council directs staff to provide a letter of concurrence to the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (IESDC) regarding the proposed telecommunication tower installation at the following locations:

- i. 614465 Hamilton Lane, in the geographic township of Glenelg, in the Municipality of West Grey;**
- ii. 422348 Concession 6 NDR, in the geographic township of Bentinck, in the Municipality of West Grey; and**
- iii. 234707 Concession 2 WGR, in the geographic township of Bentinck, in the Municipality of West Grey."**

Carried

10.4 Director of Finance/Treasurer

10.4.1 2025 Budget

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the report.

R-250114-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Shea

"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 Budget', Council receives the report for information purposes."

Carried

10.4.2 2025 Interim Tax Levy Bylaw and 2025 Borrowing Bylaw

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the report.

R-250114-009

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 Interim Tax Levy Bylaw and 2025 Borrowing Bylaw', Council directs staff to bring forward bylaws respecting:

- 1. the 2025 interim tax levy; and**
- 2. the borrowing of temporary funds that may be required to meet current expenditures and liabilities."**

Carried

11. Questions

Councillor Nuhn inquired about bridge closures and the impact on directing emergency services on affected roads. The Chief Administrative Officer requested that Council to notify staff directly with any concerns so that EMS dispatch could be advised immediately.

Council recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

12. Motions for which notice was previously given

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

13. Notices of motion

13.1 Councillor Shea Re: Proactive Approach to Managing Aggregate

Councillor Shea presented the following Notice of Motion that was supported by Councillor Nuhn:

“THAT Council directs staff to bring forward a report on policy or planning options that would allow the Municipality to take a more proactive approach to managing aggregate extraction in West Grey.”

14. Announcements

Deputy Mayor Hutchinson thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Toronto Maple Leafs alumni game on December 14, 2024. Deputy Mayor Hutchinson advised that proceeds of the fundraising event provided assistance for 75 families in West Grey, with additional support planned for distribution in February.

Councillor Hutchinson requested an update regarding frazil ice. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the situation is being carefully monitored, and that Municipal staff are working with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and local contractors to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken; six high-hoes worked continuously over several days to remove slush from the river, thus helping stabilize water levels and improve river conditions. CAO Harris thanked staff and local contractors who worked tirelessly to help prevent flooding.

Mayor Eccles thanked the Ayton Firefighters for a successful New Year's breakfast on January 1, 2025, noting that approximately 600 people were served.

15. Closed session

There was no closed session.

16. Report from closed session

There was no closed session.

17. Bylaws

17.1 Bylaw No. 2025-001

"A bylaw to confirm the proceedings of the public and regular meetings of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey."

17.2 Bylaw No. 2025-002

"A bylaw to amend the Municipality of West Grey Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw No. 37-2006, as amended, as it relates to ZA22.2024."

17.3 Bylaw No. 2025-003

"A bylaw to amend the Municipality of West Grey Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw No. 37-2006, as amended, as it relates to ZA21.2024."

17.4 Bylaw No. 2025-004

"A bylaw to adopt the estimates of revenue and expenditures for the year 2025 for the Municipality of West Grey."

17.5 Bylaw No. 2025-005

"A bylaw to provide interim tax levies for the year 2025 for the Municipality of West Grey."

17.6 Bylaw No. 2025-006

"A bylaw authorizing the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey."

17.7 Bylaw No. 2025-007

"A bylaw to stop up and close a portion of the unopened road allowances on multiple PINS in the geographic town of Durham."

17.8 Bylaw No. 2025-008

"A bylaw to authorize the sale of lands in the geographic town of Durham to Khanani Developments Inc."

R-250114-010

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT Bylaw Numbers 2025-001, 2025-002, 2025-003, 2025-004, 2025-005, 2025-006, 2025-007, and 2025-008 be passed and enacted."

Carried

18. Adjournment

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Mayor Kevin Eccles

Jamie M. Eckenswiller, Clerk