

**Minutes**  
**Council meeting**  
**Municipality of West Grey**

**Tuesday, November 4, 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 Infrastructure and Development  
 Ashley Noble, Communications 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**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Delegations and presentations**

**4.1 Delegation from Cobide Engineering Inc. (On Behalf of Domm Construction Ltd.) Re: Victoria Street, Ayton**

Steve Cobean of Cobide Engineering, representing Domm Holdings Inc., provided a delegation on the proposed reconstruction of Victoria Street in Ayton.

Mr. Cobean noted that Domm Holdings had submitted two letters to Council expressing concerns that their original message regarding the project had not been properly conveyed.

Mr. Cobean noted that staff have since met with representatives from Domm Construction to review the contents of the letters and to discuss the work required on Victoria Street in Ayton.

**4.2 Delegation from Aurora Renewables Inc. Re: Proposed Development of a Battery Energy Storage System in West Grey**

Greg Rossetti of Aurora Renewables Inc. provided a delegation regarding a proposed Battery Energy Storage System in West Grey. Mr. Rossetti provided an overview of the project, and noted that if successful, the battery field would be located at 102269 Concession 6, Ayton. Mr. Rossetti noted that Aurora Renewables Inc. requires a municipal support resolution as part of their Independent Electricity System Operator submission.

**5. Public meetings**

There were no public meetings.

**6. Comment period**

Judi Smelko, West Grey resident, spoke to item 10.1.2. Ms. Smelko shared her views and opinions on the proposed interim control bylaw and its implications.

Sarah Hopkins, West Grey resident, spoke to item 10.1.2. Ms. Hopkins provided comments regarding the proposed interim control bylaw and shared her opinions and perspective on the matter.

**7. Adoption of minutes**

**7.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 21, 2025**

**7.2 Minutes of the Public Planning Meeting held on October 21, 2025**

**7.3 Minutes of the Special (Budget) Council Meeting held on October 28, 2025**

R-251104-001

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 21, 2025, the public meeting held on October 21, 2025, and the special Council meeting held on October 28, 2025, be adopted."**

**Carried**

**8. Committee and board reports**

**8.1 Minutes of the West Grey Public Library Board Meeting held on September 10, 2025**

**8.2 Minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting held on September 18, 2025**

**8.3 Minutes of the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission Meeting held on October 15, 2025**

**8.4 Highlights of the Grey County Council Meeting held on October 23, 2025**

R-251104-002

Moved by Councillor Townsend

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT the committee and board reports be received for information purposes."**

**Carried**

**9. Correspondence**

**9.1 Correspondence received for which direction of Council is required**

**9.1.1 ROMA 2026 Conference Delegation Opportunities**

R-251104-003

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence from the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) respecting 2026 ROMA Delegation Requests, Council directs staff to submit delegation requests with relevant ministries respecting aggregate extraction, changes to**

conservation authorities, frazil ice, doctor recruitment, and other topics that staff may deem necessary."

Carried

**9.1.2 Correspondence from Skyline Energy Re: Request for Municipal Support Resolution**

R-251104-004

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Shea

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence dated October 24, 2025, from Skyline Energy respecting a request for a municipal support resolution for the West Grey Battery Energy Storage System project, Council directs the Mayor to sign the IESO municipal support resolution on behalf of West Grey."**

Carried

**9.1.3 Correspondence from Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit Re: Host Municipality**

R-251104-005

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence received from Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) dated October 17, 2025, respecting Saugeen Mobility Host Municipality, Council receives the correspondence for information purposes."**

Carried

**9.1.4 Correspondence from the Municipality of Grey Highlands Re: Boundary Adjustment Request**

R-251104-006

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence received from the Municipality of Grey Highlands respecting a request for a boundary adjustment, Council directs the CAO to send a letter to the Municipality of Grey Highlands noting that West Grey is not interested in a boundary adjustment on the West Grey-Grey Highlands boundary at Markdale during this term of Council."**

Carried

**9.2 Correspondence received for which direction of Council is not required**

R-251104-007

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

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

Carried

Council recessed from 10:08 a.m. to 10:17 a.m.

Council discussed item 15 at this time.

## 15. Closed Session

R-251104-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT Council now goes into closed session to discuss:**

- a. **Minutes of the closed session of the regular Council meeting held on October 21, 2025; and**
- b. **One matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, respecting an interim control bylaw."**

**Carried**

Council discussed item 16 at this time.

## 16. Report from closed session

Mayor Eccles advised that in closed session, Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the closed session of the regular Council meeting held on October 21, 2025; and
- Discussed one matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, respecting an interim control bylaw and that no direction was given.

## 10. Staff reports

### 10.1 Director of Infrastructure and Development

#### 10.1.1 IPW-2025-23-Victoria Street, Ayton

This item was discussed after item 10.1.3.

#### 10.1.2 Proposed Interim Control Bylaw

The Director of Infrastructure and Development provided an overview of the report.

R-251104-009

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of staff report 'Update on Proposed Interim Control Bylaw', Council directs staff to send correspondence to the County of Grey requesting that the Grey County aggregate policies be reviewed."**

**Carried**

#### 10.1.3 Options for RFP to Create Aggregate Policies in West Grey

R-251104-010

Moved by Councillor Townsend

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of staff report 'Options for RFP to Create Aggregate Policies in West Grey', Council receives the report for information purposes."**

**Carried**

### 10.1.1 IPW-2025-23 - Victoria Street Ayton

The Director of Infrastructure and Development provided an overview of the report.

Moved by Councillor Shea  
Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report 'Victoria Street, Ayton - Update', Council approves proceeding with option two, as outlined in the report, with the Municipality contributing \$90,000 for the reconstruction of Victoria Street from Caroline Street to the westerly end of the proposed subdivision."**

R-251104-011  
Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson  
Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT Council defers a decision on staff report IPW-2025-23 Victoria Street, Ayton' until the November 12, 2025, budget meeting."**

Carried

### 11. Questions

There were no questions.

### 12. Motions for which notice was previously given

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

### 13. Notices of motion

There were no notices of motion.

### 14. Announcements

Councillor Townsend advised that the Poppy Campaign at the Durham Legion Branch is underway, adding that Remembrance Day services will be held at local cenotaphs.

Councillor Foerster advised that the Neustadt Craft Show was very successful, with approximately 1,200 attendees.

Councillor Hutchinson advised that the Durham BIA "Halloween Haunt" event held on October 25, 2025, was very successful with strong participation from downtown businesses, West Grey Police, and the West Grey Fire Department. The event was held in partnership with the Durham Agricultural Society and the Durham Lions Club.

### 15. Closed session

This item was discussed after item 9.2.

### 16. Report from closed session

This item was discussed before item 10.

### 17. Bylaws

#### 17.1 Bylaw No. 2025-085

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

#### 17.2 Bylaw No. 2025-086

"A bylaw to amend the Municipality of West Grey Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw No. 37-2006, as amended, as it relates to ZA22.2025."

**17.3 Bylaw No. 2025-087**

"A bylaw to amend the Municipality of West Grey Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw No. 37-2006, as amended, as it relates to ZA23.2025."

**17.4 Bylaw No. 2025-070**

"A bylaw to control the use of land, buildings, or structures for the purpose of new gravel pits or quarries on lands within the Municipality of West Grey."

R-251104-012

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Shea

**"THAT Bylaw Numbers 2025-085, 2025-086, and 2025-087 be passed and enacted."**

**Carried**

R-251104-013d

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Shea

**"THAT Bylaw Number 2025-070 be passed and enacted."**

**Defeated**

**20. Adjournment**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

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Mayor Kevin Eccles

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Jamie M. Eckenswiller, Clerk