



**CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF CLARENCE-ROCKLAND
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 13, 2024
Council Chambers
415 rue Lemay Street, Clarence Creek, Ont.

PRESENT: Mario Zanth, Mayor
Kyle Cyr, Councillor Ward 1
Stephane Fournier, Councillor Ward 2
Samuel Cardarelli, Councillor Ward 4
Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle, Councillor Ward 6
Trevor Stewart, Councillor Ward 7
Diane Choinière, Councillor Ward 8
Pierre Voisine, Chief Administrative Officer
Monique Ouellet, Clerk
Karine McCulloch, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Carl Grimard, Councillor Ward 3
André J. Lalonde, Councillor Ward 5

1. Opening of the meeting

Mayor Mario Zanth calls the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Mario Zanth reads the land acknowledgement of Indigenous territories.

3. Moment of Reflection

Councillor Stewart recites the moment of reflection.

4. Adoption of the agenda

RESOLUTION 2024-110

Moved by Diane Choinière

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

None

6. Closed Meeting

Members of Council move to the conference room adjacent to the Council Chambers at 6:47 p.m. and return to the Council Chambers at 7:03.

RESOLUTION 2024-111

Moved by Samuel Cardarelli

Seconded by Diane Choinière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting be adjourned in order to discuss the following items, as stipulated in Section 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended:

6.1 Closed Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2024

6.2 CUPE ratification

CARRIED

7. Resolution to resume open meeting

RESOLUTION 2024-112

Moved by Kyle Cyr

Seconded by Samuel Cardarelli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the closed session be adjourned to resume the regular meeting.

CARRIED

8. Closed Meeting report

Mayor Mario Zanth informs the members of the public that Council discussed some matters in closed session and that directives were given to staff, however, a resolution is to be considered:

RESOLUTION 2024-113

Moved by Samuel Cardarelli
Seconded by Diane Choinière

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the ratification of the 2024-2026 Collective Agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), subject to ratification by CUPE and its members.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED That the Mayor and the Administration be authorized to participate in a joint press release.

CARRIED

9. Announcements / Special Presentations

Councillor Fournier underlines the effort of the Clarence-Rockland Fire Department for their donation to the Muscular Dystrophy.

Councillor Choinière mentions the Christmas market to be held at the Centre Communautaire de Bourget on Sunday, November 24, from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be a brunch, booths and artisans on site.

Councillor Péladeau-Houle mentions the Christmas market to be held at the Centre Ronald Lalonde in St-Pascal-Baylon on Saturday, November 16.

Councillor Stewart mentions the Hammond Golf Club Christmas Market to be held on Saturday, November 23.

9.1 Report from the Mayor regarding the last UCPR council meeting

At the UCPR Council meeting on October 30th, the Counties presented their budget, projecting a 4.66% increase. As part of this budget presentation, the Counties shared a slide featuring a table that clearly outlined the distribution of funds across municipalities and illustrated the impact on taxpayers within each municipality.

Mayor Mario Zanth presents a table demonstrating the distribution of funding across municipalities. Based on the levy proportion, it shows that while Clarence-Rockland receives \$566,546 from these funding streams, its taxpayers actually contribute more through taxes, specifically \$711,415. Consequently, taxpayers in Clarence-Rockland are directly supporting roads and other projects in Prescott-Russell municipalities.

Although the UCPR treasurer acknowledged that these programs may not serve the best interests of all UCPR municipalities, my attempts to remove them received little support.

Following my unsupported motion, County Council passed a motion to add the PRAPT funding, another program, to the Road Transfer Fund and to increase its funding by 1%. This decision means that Clarence-Rockland taxpayers will contribute even more toward the projects of other municipalities.

The role of a regional government is providing services to all municipalities, I do not believe it should tax the residents of our municipality to fund activities in others, especially when they have no say in selecting these projects.

Therefore, I, with the support of Council, would like to direct administration to:

- Undertake a legal review of these UCPR funding programs from a governance standpoint to determine their legality.
- Conduct a study to explore governance options for Clarence-Rockland, supported by a legal opinion outlining potential processes for change. This study should include a service comparison and a detailed review of the financial model, specifically how taxation has been allocated per municipality over the last 10 years.
- Implement a communication strategy to inform residents of Clarence-Rockland about how their tax dollars are allocated, both locally and in other municipalities.

This is essential information, especially as we face increased budget pressures.

Councillor Cardarelli request to abstain from voting, due to his job.

The five Council members present vote in favor of the directive to be given to the administration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the administration be directed to:

- Undertake a legal review of these UCPR funding programs from a governance standpoint to determine their legality.
- Conduct a study to explore governance options for Clarence-Rockland, supported by a legal opinion outlining potential processes for change. This study should include a service comparison and a detailed review of the financial model, specifically how taxation has been allocated per municipality over the last 10 years.
- Implement a communication strategy to inform residents of Clarence-Rockland about how their tax dollars are allocated, both locally and in other municipalities.

10. Committee of the Whole items

10.1 Delegations/Presentations

a. Marc-André Periard of UCPR on Paramedic Services

Marc-André Periard explains that there was changes to Paramedics services in the last few years, so he wanted to give an update and opportunity to ask questions.

Following questions, Marc-André Periard clarifies that the services offered by the paramedics do not replace CCAC services, but rather cover the shortfall, due to the lack of personnel.

10.2 Petitions and Correspondence

None

10.3 Notice of motion

Mayor Mario Zanth turns the chair over to Councillor Diane Choinière for the presentation of his member's resolution, in the absence of Councillor Andre Lalonde.

a. Notice of motion presented by Mayor Zanth and seconded by Councillor Fournier to amend the Municipal Grant Program Policy in order to remove program 3: Significant events.

Mayor Mario Zanth clarifies that the goal is not to cancel events. The aim is to make the process fair for all. All organizations should go through the same process to obtain grants from the City. They should all have to submit a financial report.

Councillor Stewart proposes to modify the municipal subsidy program, to remove certain criteria such as the maximum of 3 years for the same activity and that the activities must be different, so that carnivals are not disadvantaged.

Councillor Cardarelli proposes keeping program 3: signature events but modifying it to require events in this program to submit a financial report as well.

Mayor Mario Zanth returns to his seat.

Mayor Mario Zanth notifies public advisor will take a 5-minute break, 8:19 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.

10.4 Committee/Staff Reports

a. Report and presentation on the Clarence-Rockland Museum's strategic plan

Presentation by Kathleen Brown from Lord Cultural Resources.

Following questions about the next steps, Martin Irwin explain that they will look at government framework options in the beginning of the new year. They will meet with potential partners and come back to council.

Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

WHEREAS the proposed Clarence-Rockland Museum Strategic Plan defines key issues and includes strategic goals and recommended directions over the next five years;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council approves the Clarence-Rockland Museum Strategic Plan, as presented in report PROG2024-003.

CARRIED

b. Non-Core Asset Management Plan

Following questions, Frederic Desnoyers mentioned that the reserve policy was updated to include the inflation on reserve, in the amount of 1.5% every year, as recommended by the consultant. For the road reserve, the by-law provides for 1% of the budget, but the reality is that the need is more than one percent. Therefore, it is suggesting adding the inflation to this amount, for a percentage of 2.5% per year.

Moved by Samuel Cardarelli

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends:

THAT Council approve the City's Asset Management Plan for Non-Core Assets as attached to Report FIN2024-37; and

THAT an additional amount equivalent to 1.5% of tax rate increase in the years 2025 and on, be added to increase the contributions to reserves for non-core assets; and

THAT Council approve the revised reserve and reserve fund policy as attached to Report FIN2024-37.

11. Committee of the Whole Report

Mayor Zanth explains that the items discussed in Committee of the Whole will be considered at the next regular Council meeting.

12. Council Members' Items

12.1 Resolution presented by Councillor Cardarelli and seconded by Councillor Grimard to request that the administration review and report on the addition of benches and garbage receptacles on our urban collector roads

Following questions, Councillor Cardarelli clarifies that the motion applies to future development, but also to areas where there is none at present.

RESOLUTION 2024-114

Moved by Samuel Cardarelli

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

WHEREAS the City of Clarence-Rockland has seen rapid growth, it is essential that our public infrastructure reflects the needs of all residents;

WHEREAS the current design guidelines and engineering standards for collector roads do not identify opportunities for the placement of benches and garbage receptacles;

WHEREAS this will enhance accessibility, promote cleanliness, encourage a healthy community, and adapt to the evolving demographics of our city;

BE IT RESOLVED that the administration review and report back to council with recommended design guidelines and engineering standards for our urban collector roads, with the aim of adding benches and garbage receptacles;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the administration consider the long-term maintenance and budget implications of such additions, ensuring that they are sustainably managed.

CARRIED

12.2 Resolution presented by Councillor Fournier and seconded by Councillor Cardarelli to review the Fireworks Bylaw, focusing on modernizing the sale of fireworks within the city.

RESOLUTION 2024-115

Moved by Stephane Fournier

Seconded by Samuel Cardarelli

WHEREAS the city bylaw regarding the sale of fireworks has not been reviewed since May 24 2022;

WHEREAS the current city bylaw restricts the sale of fireworks to the seven business days immediately preceding Victoria Day, St-Jean Baptiste, Canada Day, and New Year's Day;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council mandates the administration to review the Fireworks Bylaw, focusing specifically on modernizing the sale of fireworks within the city.

CARRIED

12.3 Resolution presented by Mayor Zanth and seconded by Councillor Cyr to request that Council commit to allocating a grant of \$11,842 to the Clarence-Rockland Expo in it's 2025 budget.

Mayor Mario Zanth proposes to defer this motion to Monday, at the Budget meeting.

RESOLUTION 2024-116

Moved by Mario Zanth

Seconded by Kyle Cyr

WHEREAS the Clarence-Rockland Expo is months in the planning process; and

WHEREAS the Clarence-Rockland Expo will be happening in April 2025; and

WHEREAS the City of Clarence Rockland allocated \$11, 842 to the Clarence-Rockland Expo in its 2024 budget; and

WHEREAS the Clarence-Rockland Expo requested from the City of Clarence-Rockland a financial amount of \$11, 842 and in-kind contribution including access to the arena, free of charge for the Thursday before the event and Monday morning after the event, two support employees, round tables, chairs, garbage and stage, for their 2025 event;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council commits to allocating a grant of \$11, 842 to the Clarence-Rockland Expo in its 2025 budget; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the council commits to allocating an in-kind contribution which includes access to the arena, at no cost on the Thursday

before the event as well as the Monday following the event, two support employees, round tables, chairs, garbages, and a stage for the 2025 event.

DEFERRED

12.4 Resolution presented by Councillor Trevor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle to request a report from administration on the Alphonse Carriere Centre

RESOLUTION 2024-117

Moved by Trevor Stewart

Seconded by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

WHEREAS Hammond is a growing and thriving community with dozens of active groups and events each year; and

WHEREAS most of these events take place at Hammond's community centre, the Alphonse Carriere Centre; and

WHEREAS the 2024 Building Condition Assessment identified critical needs for the community centre, but additional work is required to optimize the centre to meet the growing needs of the community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council mandates the administration to prepare a report on the needs and costs of renovations required to optimize the Alphonse-Carrière Community Centre in Hammond, so that these costs for plans and specifications can be considered in the 2025 budget.

CARRIED

13. Consent Items

RESOLUTION 2024-118

Moved by Diane Choinière

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following items, as identified under the consent items category on the regular meeting agenda of November 13, 2024, be adopted:

13.1 Adoption of the Regular Council Meeting Minute of October 9th, 2024

13.2 Receipt of the minutes of the following meetings:

a. Clarence-Rockland Public Library Board Meeting of June 18, 2024

b. Planning Committee Meetings of May 29, July 31 and August 28, 2024

13.3 Receipt of the Weekly Correspondence Packages of October 2024

13.4 The following recommendations from Committee of the Whole of October 9th, 2024 :

a. Resolution to support the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign

c. Resolution to confirm a Status Quo for the Committee Structure of the Planning Committee and the Committee of Adjustment

d. Resolution to approve the 2025 Council Meetings Calendar

e. Resolution to approve Policy No. TP2024-001, establishing guidelines for winter control

13.5 Resolution to approve the salaries paid from September 15 to October 26, 2024

13.6 Resolution to approve the accounts paid from October 1 to November 3, 2024

13.7 Resolution to adopt a tax reduction under Sections 357-358 of the Municipal Act

13.8 Receipt of Report FIN2024-44, on the financial operating budget status for the period ending September 30, 2024

13.10 Resolution to approve the Health and Safety Policy

13.11 Resolution to approve the Senior Commitment Occupational Health & Safety Program

13.12 Resolution to acknowledges that South Nation Conservation is applying for funding for tree planting, in partnership with the City of Clarence-Rockland.

CARRIED

Text of the resolutions as adopted by consent under Resolution 2024-118:

13.1 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 9, 2024, be adopted.*

13.2a. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clarence-Rockland Public Library Board Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2024, be received.*

13.2b. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Planning Committee Meetings Minutes of May 29, July 31 and August 28, 2024, be received.*

13.3 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the weekly correspondence packages no. 2024-89-2024-90, 2024-91 and 2024-92, be received and filed.*

13.4a. *WHEREAS there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario; and*

WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow; and

WHEREAS the province has provided additional funding and supports, but it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

WHEREAS municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

WHEREAS this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

WHEREAS there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Clarence-Rockland hereby supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign and calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially; and

THAT the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority and appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports; and

THAT the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan; and

THAT this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis; and

THAT the federal government is included in these conversations; and

THAT both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted; and

THAT this Council calls on the residents of Clarence-Rockland to join in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to:

- *The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*
- *The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada*
- *The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
- *The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health*
- *The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services*
- *The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions*
- *Local MPs*
- *Local MPPs and*
- *Ontario's Big City Mayors*

13.4c. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT further to the receipt of Report CLERK2024-12, the Committee Structure of the Planning Committee and the Committee of Adjustment shall remain as Status Quo.*

- 13.4d.** *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2025 Meeting Calendar, as proposed in Report No. CLERK2024-11 be approved.*
- 13.4e.** *BE IT RESOLVED THAT Policy No. TP2024-001, establishing guidelines for winter control, be approved; and*
THAT Policy No. INF2016-11 be repealed.
- 13.5** *BE IT RESOLVED that the salaries paid from September 15th, 2024, to October 26th, 2024, to the gross amount of \$1,679,266.51 and to the net amount of \$1,176,653.19 be adopted as recommended.*
- 13.6** *BE IT RESOLVED that the accounts paid from October 1st, 2024, to November 3rd, 2024, in the amount of \$4,496,993.30 be adopted as recommended.*
- 13.7** *BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby adopts tax reductions in the amount of \$1,024.81, being the City's share, under sections 357 & 358 of the Municipal Act, against all lands concerned, as described in Schedule "A" to Report No. FIN2024-041.*
- 13.8** *THAT Report No. FIN2024-44, being the financial operating budget status for the period ending September 30, 2024, be received as information.*
- 13.10** *WHEREAS the City of Clarence-Rockland needs to review the City's health and safety policy annually;*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Health and Safety Policy attached to report No. PRO2024-002, be approved.
- 13.11** *WHEREAS the City of Clarence-Rockland has completed a health and safety audit from the Public Services Health & Safety Association.*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senior Commitment Occupational Health and Safety Program attached to report No. PRO2024-001, be approved.
- 13.12** *WHEREAS the City of Clarence-Rockland has had extreme weather events and invasive species, like the Emerald Ash Borer, have greatly reduced tree canopy cover in Eastern Ontario; and*
WHEREAS the South Nation Conservation is undertaking a Municipal Tree Planting Partnership;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges that South Nation Conservation is applying for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities' Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative for Municipal Tree Planting Partnership, in partnership with the City of Clarence-Rockland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council also recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within our municipality, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs, and that if approved this project will be counted towards that limit.

13.4b Resolution to grant the request submitted by Summer Spirits Festival to void invoice no.10073749 which was issued further to the partnership agreement for the Clarence-Rockland Festival

Arguments were given by council members, concerning the cancellation of the invoice:

For:

- We want to encourage organizations to invest in the municipality and create new events for residents.
- The items invoiced were required by the City for their programming. The organization could not choose what they needed but were imposed what had already been required by the City.
- The municipality would have incurred those costs, had they not partnered for the event.

Against:

- A clause in the agreement stipulated that the organization would be responsible for any deficit.
- The council did not want to set a precedent.

RESOLUTION 2024-119

Moved by Stephane Fournier

Seconded by Trevor Stewart

WHEREAS Council received a letter dated October 7, 2024 from Summer Spirits Festival requesting that the City consider forgiving invoice no. 10073749; and

WHEREAS Council has received a breakdown of the fees invoiced as requested by the Committee of the Whole on October 9, 2024;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby authorizes the administration to void invoice no.10073749.

CARRIED

13.9 Resolution to approve the Policy on the use of artificial intelligence

RESOLUTION 2024-120

Moved by Trevor Stewart

Seconded by Samuel Cardarelli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the City's new AI Use Policy for the use of artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools in the workplace, as recommended in Report No.CORP2024-12.

CARRIED

14. Committee /Staff Reports

None

15. By-laws

RESOLUTION 2024-121

Moved by Diane Choinière

Seconded by Stephane Fournier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-laws be adopted:

15.1 2024-104 being a By-law to appoint Shade Group Inc. to update the Engineer's Report for the Pillion Municipal Drain

15.2 2024-105 being a By-to to repeal By-law 2016-108: Licensing, regulating and governing the owners and drivers of Taxicabs

15.3 2024-106 being a By-law to authorize the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Eastern Ontario Snowmobile Club

15.4 2024-107 being a By-law to repeal by-law 2015-167 in order to terminate the agreement with Laurier Lalonde to scavenge at the landfill site

15.5 2024-108 being a By-law to amend the Procedure By-law 2022-118 in order to update the Planning Committee meeting dates

15.6 2024-109 being a By-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet the current expenditures during 2025

15.7 2024-110 being a By-law to provide for interim tax levies for the year 2025

15.8 2024-111 being a By-law to amend By-law 2017-84, which provides for the licensing, regulating, and governing of Chip Wagons within the City of Clarence-Rockland

15.9 2024-112 being a by-law to authorize the award of a construction contract to Goldie Mohr Ltd. for the Cobbs Lake Creek Municipal Drain

15.10 2024-113 being a by-law to amend the Zoning for 1014 Filion

15.11 2024-115 being a by-law to confirm the appointment of the Chief Building Official, building inspectors and property standards officers for the City of Clarence-Rockland

CARRIED

16. Confirmatory By-law

RESOLUTION 2024-122

Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

Seconded by Samuel Cardarelli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 2024-114, being a confirmatory by-law for the regular meeting of November 13, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

Mayor Mario Zanth adjourns the meeting at 9:48.

Mario Zanth, Mayor

Karine McCulloch, Deputy Clerk