



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

November 17, 2025
Council Chambers
415 rue Lemay Street, Clarence Creek, Ont.

PRESENT: Mario Zanth, Mayor
Stephane Fournier, Councillor Ward 2
Carl Grimard, Councillor Ward 3
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: Kyle Cyr, Councillor Ward 1
Samuel Cardarelli, Councillor Ward 4
André J. Lalonde, Councillor Ward 5

1. Opening of the meeting

Mayor Mario Zanth calls the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. on November 17, 2025.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Moved by Carl Grimard

Seconded by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

None

4. Presentation of the Mayor's Draft Budget for 2026

Monique Ouellet, Clerk, explains the procedure implemented this year under the strong mayor powers. The mayor's budget was prepared following a directive he provided to the administration.

This evening, Council is acting as a committee and will provide feedback to the mayor on his budget. The mayor will review the comments received and may revise his budget before its official presentation to Council, scheduled for December 10, 2025.

Monique Ouellet then explains the procedure to follow if councillors wish to propose amendments to the mayor's budget after it is presented to Council.

Frédéric Desnoyers presents the draft 2026 mayor's budget. The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the agenda.

Frédéric Desnoyers points out that the main changes to the budget, which account for most of the \$1.6 million increase for 2026, relate to: OPP costs, contributions to reserves for the asset management plan, contributions to reserves related to inflation, and salary increases based on collective agreements.

Pierre Voisine, Chief Executive Officer, presents the proposed changes to his department's budget. He notes that the \$50,000 allocated for consultations will be added to the \$25,000 already included in the budget, for a total of \$75,000. He lists the projects currently under evaluation that could benefit from consultations.

In response to questions, Pierre Voisine clarifies that a position dedicated to this type of work exists in other municipalities. This option could be considered in future years. According to him, a dedicated person is needed to develop projects and integrate the various municipal stakeholders required for their implementation.

Michel Cousineau presents the changes within the Corporate Services Department. He notes in particular the cybersecurity project aimed at keeping systems up to date.

Martin Rousseau presents the changes to the Protection and Building Services Department.

In response to questions, Martin Rousseau explains the recruitment process for volunteer firefighters and the expectations regarding their availability.

Jean-Luc Jubinville presents the changes to the Operations Department: Public Works / Parks and Facilities.

In response to questions, Jean-Luc Jubinville specifies that the kitchen and the electrical panel are part of the planned renovations at the Alphonse-Carrière Community Centre, and that the project is being carried out in partnership with community groups to meet their needs.

Also, in response to questions, he indicates that five students are needed, and that they can be interchanged between the various services in his department. He adds that since grants are not guaranteed from year to year, he cannot rely on them when preparing the budget.

Julian Lenhart presents the changes to the Community Development Department.

In response to questions, he mentions that the \$14 million provincial grant covered phases 1 and 2 of the St-Jean Street project. As the total cost of the project is \$30 million, the remaining amount is funded through development charges and debt.

Frédéric Desnoyers then presents the other proposed increases.

In response to questions regarding childcare services, he explains that the provincial grant covers certain administrative costs related to childcare centres.

He adds that the contribution to reserves in 2026 includes a 2% increase for inflation compared to the previous year's contributions. The presented budget indicates that by the end of 2026, the reserves will be fully or nearly fully depleted due to the projects submitted to Council.

In response to questions, he confirmed that the municipality's debt limit is set at 25% of its revenue. With the 2026 budget as presented, debt would be 9.32% of eligible municipal revenue.

Following the announcement of a \$40 million capital budget for 2026, Pierre Voisine notes that projects must be ready to begin in order for the municipality to be able to apply for grants.

Several councillors express their appreciation for the fact that projects are presented to them throughout the year, which allows them to review them and provide comments. This greatly facilitates the budget.

5. Committee Recommendations

The committee is not making any recommendations to the mayor regarding his budget. It will be presented to the council as is, with a municipal tax increase of 4.98%.

6. Adjournment

The Mayor adjourns the meeting on 7:31 p.m. on November 17, 2025.

Mario Zanth, Mayor

Karine McCulloch, Deputy Clerk