



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

December 10, 2025  
Council Chambers  
415 rue Lemay Street, Clarence Creek, Ont.

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

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Mayor Mario Zanth calls the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Mario Zanth reads the land acknowledgement of Indigenous territories.

**3. Moment of Reflection**

Councillor Grimard recites the moment of reflection.

**4. Adoption of the agenda**

The mayor adds an item to the agenda.

## **RESOLUTION 2025-104**

**Moved by** Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

**Seconded by** Samuel Cardarelli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted, with the addition of item 11.3:  
Delegation of Authority – Settlement Negotiations for Labour-Related Matters.

**CARRIED**

### **5. Disclosure of pecuniary interests**

None

### **6. Announcements / Special Presentations**

None

### **7. Committee of the Whole items**

#### **7.1 Delegations/Presentations**

None

#### **7.2 Petitions and Correspondence**

##### **a. Correspondence from November 28, 2025 - South Nation Conservation - Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO #025-1257**

Mayor Mario Zanth explains the situation with the Conservation Authority in the province.

This item will be presented in open meeting.

Mayor Mario Zanth passes the chair to Councillor Fournier for his motion.

#### **7.3 Notice of motion**

##### **a. Notice of motion proposed by Mayor Zanth and seconded by councillor Grimard for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell to study and consider the implementation of a county-level OPP service delivery and governance model**

Mayor Mario Zanth explains his motion.

This motion will be presented in open meeting.

Mayor Mario Zanth takes back the chair.

**b. Notice of motion proposed by Councillor Grimard and seconded by Councillor Fournier to add the Remembrance Day ceremony organized by the Legion as a significant event to the municipal grant program**

Councillor Grimard explains his motion. He confirms that the Legion is organizing the event and the city is only providing services. He would like to see the city's support and the cost of that support put in writing.

Following questions, Frederic Desnoyers mentions that a report will be brought to the council in January regarding the municipal grant policy. He mentions that few council members responded to the survey and that the responses were contradictory, so he has no changes to propose.

**7.4 Committee/Staff Reports**

**a. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan Update**

Jean-Luc Jubinville introduce the project.

**a. Presentation by Stantec**

Presentation by Bob Williams from Stantec.

Following questions, Jean-Luc Jubinville mentions that the update of the transportation master plan began in 2024 and the Bourget's official plan was withdrawn in May 2025. The master plan was therefore ready beforehand. The influence of the Bourget's official plan is minimal, and the projects for Bourget are still in place and will go ahead.

Following questions, Bob Williams from Stantec mentions that the best option for public transportation would be an on-demand service. The threshold of users that would make that option viable would depend on the operation cost.

**8. Committee of the Whole Report**

Mayor Mario Zanth explains that the items discussed in Committee of the Whole will be considered at the next regular Council meeting, however, two resolutions are to be considered.

Council members agreed at two-third to vote on both items at tonight's meeting.

For the two motions, Mayor Mario Zanth pass the chair to Councillor Fournier.

**RESOLUTION 2025-105**

**Moved by** Mario Zanth

**Seconded by** Carl Grimard

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;

AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC's field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Clarence-Rockland urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2025-106**

**Moved by** Mario Zanth

**Seconded by** Diane Choinière

WHEREAS policing services within the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR) are provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), which delivers services guided by consistent provincial standards across all municipalities; and

WHEREAS administering OPP services at the upper-tier level can provide cost-planning efficiencies by centralizing oversight, coordinating county-wide budgeting, and distributing costs more fairly across all communities that receive the same provincially delivered policing model; and

WHEREAS the OPP provides province-wide professional policing standards, including access to specialized units (such as canine, tactical, emergency response, and forensic services) and modern policing infrastructure, benefiting all municipalities regardless of size or capacity; and

WHEREAS consistent policing procedures and provincial training standards support a uniform experience for all residents across the region and contribute to uniform law enforcement expectations across municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS the OPP's scalable and flexible service model allows resources to be adjusted based on workload, local needs, seasonal fluctuations, or emergency situations—an advantage not easily achievable through independent municipal police services; and

WHEREAS centralized oversight of policing services at the upper-tier level reduces administrative duplication, aligns governance across the county, and

may allow the consolidation of OPP detachment boards in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA); and

WHEREAS additional efficiencies may be achieved by planning OPP infrastructure (such as satellite offices or detachment resources) from a county-wide perspective rather than responding to the needs of individual municipalities in isolation; and

WHEREAS policing is, in practice, a regionally oriented service similar to Paramedic Services, which are already administered at the county level; and

WHEREAS several Ontario jurisdictions—including (but not limited to) Haldimand County, Norfolk County, Lanark County, Renfrew County, the District Municipality of Muskoka, and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—operate under regional or single-tier OPP service delivery models that demonstrate efficiencies and equitable access to policing resources; and

WHEREAS all residents of Prescott and Russell benefit from the same provincial OPP service model and should therefore contribute equitably to its cost through a uniform, county-administered approach;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Clarence-Rockland formally supports the concept of administering OPP services at the upper-tier (County) level to ensure equitable cost-sharing for all residents and improved operational efficiency across the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests that the United Counties of Prescott and Russell study and consider the implementation of a county-level OPP service delivery and governance model—including analysis of billing implications, required approvals under the Community Safety and Policing Act, consolidation of detachment boards where feasible, and county-wide planning of policing infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Council of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, all local municipalities within the UCPR, and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

**CARRIED**

Once the motions are voted, Mayor Mario Zanth takes back the chair.

## **9. Council Members' Items**

### **9.1 Presentation of the 2026 Budget by Mayor Mario Zanth**

The municipal taxes increase for 2026 will be of 4.98%.

**RESOLUTION 2025-107**

**Moved by** Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

**Seconded by** Stephane Fournier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2026 Budget, as presented by Mayor Mario Zanth, be received.

**CARRIED**

**10. Consent Items**

**RESOLUTION 2025-108**

**Moved by** Stephane Fournier

**Seconded by** Carl Grimard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following items, as identified under the consent items category on the regular meeting agenda of December 10, 2025, be adopted:

10.1 Adoption of the minutes of the following meetings:

a. Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2025

b. Budget Committee meeting of November 17, 2025

10.2 Receipt of the minutes of the Municipal Grants Program Committee of September 3, 2025

10.3 Receipt of the Weekly Correspondence Packages for November 2025

10.4 Resolution to approve the salaries paid from October 12 to November 8, 2025

10.5 Resolution to approve the accounts paid from October 31 to November 27, 2025

10.6 Resolution to authorize tax reductions under Section 357-358 of the Municipal Act

10.7 The following recommendations from Committee of the Whole of November 12, 2025

a. Resolution to adopt the 2026 Council Meeting Calendar

b. Resolution to approve the 10-year Plan for Asphalt Roads

10.8 Resolution to receive the list of contracts awarded over \$50 000 from January 1st to November 25, 2025

**CARRIED**

***Text of the resolutions as adopted by consent under Resolution 2025-108:***

- 10.1a. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 12, 2025, be adopted.*
- 10.1b. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Budget Committee meeting of November 17, 2025, be adopted.*
- 10.2 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Municipal Grants Program Committee of September 3rd, 2025, be received.*
- 10.3 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT the weekly correspondence packages no. 2025-45, 2025-46, 2025-47 and 2025-48, be received and filed.*
- 10.4 *BE IT RESOLVED that the salaries paid from October 12th, 2025, to November 8th, 2025, in the gross amount of \$1,250,587.48 and in the net amount of \$883,398.83, be adopted as recommended.*
- 10.5 *BE IT RESOLVED that the accounts paid from October 31st, 2025, to November 27th , 2025, in the amount of \$8,512,391.23, be adopted as recommended.*
- 10.6 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby adopts tax reductions in the amount of \$885.39, 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. FIN2025-54.*
- 10.7a. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the 2026 Council Meeting Calendar.*
- 10.7b. *WHEREAS the 2026-2035 ten-year plan for paved roads has been prepared based on data from the asset management system and represents long-term strategic planning; and*
- WHEREAS this plan will be updated annually to reflect the actual conditions of the network and funding priorities;*
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the 2026-2035 Ten-Year Plan for Paved Roads as presented in report FIN2025-46; and*
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the administration be mandated to update the plan annually and present the revisions as part of the annual budget process.*

10.8 *BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report FIN2025-13, which serves to present a list of contracts over \$50,000 awarded by the administration for the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be received as information.*

## **11. Committee/Staff Reports**

### **11.1 Financial plan for the municipal water supply service**

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-109**

**Moved by** Diane Choinière

**Seconded by** André J. Lalonde

WHEREAS the province of Ontario implemented legislative requirements following the tragic events in Walkerton to ensure transparency and financial sustainability of municipal water supply systems; and

WHEREAS the municipality must demonstrate to its council the financial status of the water supply system to enable council members to make informed decisions regarding the investments necessary to maintain adequate service; and

WHEREAS the financial plan presented in this report was developed based on the capital investments identified in the master plan for the water supply system and provides an overview of the projects to be carried out in the coming years as well as the financing arrangements.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the municipal council approve the financial plan for the municipal water supply system, as presented, in order to comply with provincial legislative requirements.

**CARRIED**

### **11.2 Exemption from the requirement to provide parking spaces in exchange for a monetary payment for 1459 Laurier Street**

Following questions, Julian Lenhart mentions that the department will bring to the council recommendations on how to meet this type of request in the future, which is building a business in a commercial zone that offers non-standard lots. The recommendations may be applied to this development and future applications.

The resolution was adopted with the proposed amendments.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-110**

**Moved by** Carl Grimard

**Seconded by** Samuel Cardarelli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the request submitted by Julie Charbonneau (Julie Bistro) for payment in lieu of providing required off-street parking spaces, representing four (4) spaces (one accessible space will be provided on-site), for a total amount of \$6,759.28, and authorize the Director of Community Development to execute the necessary agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council defer payment of fees until July 1, 2026, and mandate the administration to return with recommendations and innovative options to address the policies in place for this type of non-standard project for small businesses.

**CARRIED, as modified**

**11.3 Delegation of Authority – Settlement Negotiations for Labour-Related Matters**

Pierre Voisine explains why such a regulation is necessary.

In response to questions, Pierre Voisine mentions that he is comfortable with a maximum amount of \$25,000 for claims against the city. A higher amount would mean a more complex case and would give the administration enough time to come before Council.

**RESOLUTION 2025-111**

**Moved by** André J. Lalonde

**Seconded by** Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-112 being a By-Law to delegate certain power and duties to the Chief Administrative Officer and amend Schedule A to By-Law 2021-63, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**12. By-laws**

**RESOLUTION 2025-112**

**Moved by** Carl Grimard

**Seconded by** Stephane Fournier

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

12.1 2025-103 being a by-law to provide for interim tax levies for the year 2026

12.2 2025-104 being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet the current expenditures during 2026

12.3 2025-105 being a by-law to establish new user fees and charges for the City of Clarence-Rockland, effective January 1, 2026

12.4 2025-106 being a By-law to appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers

12.5 2025-107 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

12.6 2025-108 being a By-law to authorize the Treasurer to sign the acknowledgement form as required by the Province of Ontario to receive the immediate interim funding of \$118,436 under the Road Safety Initiatives Fund

12.8 2025-110 110 being a By-law to dedicate the lands legally described as Part 2 on Reference Plan 50R-11820, Schnupp Road, as public road.

**CARRIED**

**12.7 2025-109 being a By-law to assume for public use Danika Street, Nellie Street, Maxime Court and Grand Tronc Street under Plan 50M-299 and 50M-339 in Cheney**

Following questions about requirement of paved driveway for neighbor on those streets, Julian Lenhart explain that paving the private driveway is a requirement from the developer. The developer is required to have the driveway paved, but the city is not involved in who does the pavement. This is not part of the road dedication process.

**RESOLUTION 2025-113**

**Moved by** Trevor Stewart

**Seconded by** Diane Choinière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-109, being a By-law to assume for public use Danika Street, Nellie Street, Maxime Court and Grand Tronc Street under Plan 50M-299 and 50M-339 in Cheney, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**13. Confirmatory By-law**

**RESOLUTION 2025-114**

**Moved by** Trevor Stewart

**Seconded by** Diane Choinière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 2025-111, being a confirmatory by-law for the regular meeting of December 10, 2025, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**14. Adjournment**

Mayor Mario Zanth adjourns the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

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Mario Zanth, Mayor

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Karine McCulloch, Deputy Clerk