CORPORATION OF THE

CITY OF CLARENCE-ROCKLAND

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2026
Council Chambers
415 rue Lemay Street, Clarence Creek, Ont.

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

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

Mayor Mario Zanth recites the moment of reflection.

4. Adoption of the agenda

RESOLUTION 2026-16

Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle
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 6:48 p.m. and return to the Council Chambers at 6:58 p.m.

Councillor Diane Choinière join the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2026-17

Moved by Trevor Stewart
Seconded by André J. Lalonde

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 Adoption of the Closed Session Minutes of February 11, 2026

6.2 Human Ressources Matter

6.3 Property Matter

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7:23 p.m. due to a disturbance in the audience.

7. Resolution to resume open meeting

RESOLUTION 2026-18

Moved by Stephane Fournier
Seconded by Kyle Cyr

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.

9. Announcements / Special Presentations

None

10. Committee of the Whole items

10.1 Delegations/Presentations

a. Jennifer Falconer for Alto High-Speed Rail Project with Giovanna Mingarelli, MP

Mayor Mario Zanth acknowledges that many residents are here tonight, either in person or via Facebook, for the presentation on the proposed Alto High-Speed Train Project.

He clarifies that the purpose of the presentation is for Council to receive information and ask questions to better understand the project and its potential impact on the municipality. He notes that a proper consultation process is to be carried out by Alto as the project moves forward.

He emphasizes that this is a federal project, not a municipal one, and that the municipality is equally at risk, particularly with respect to its infrastructure.

Jennifer Falconer from the Alto High-Speed Train Project delivers her presentation, assisted by members of her team.

In the following minutes, any reference to Alto refers to all Alto employees who were present to answer Council's questions.

Further to questions regarding whether expropriation would begin immediately following the passage of Bill C‐15 and whether this implied that a final route had been selected, Alto confirmed that no final route has been determined and that land acquisition has not begun. Alto indicated that the project remains in the corridor refinement phase and that any future land acquisition would begin no earlier than next year, with priority given to negotiated agreements with landowners. Expropriation would only be considered as a last resort once a final alignment is confirmed.

Further to questions regarding the potential use of the Prescott–Russell Trail as a rail corridor and the impacts on the villages of Hammond and Bourget, Alto stated that no specific alignment has been finalized. Alto explained that the current objective is to narrow the corridor options and that existing linear infrastructure, such as highways and established corridors, is being prioritized to minimize impacts. Alto further confirmed that splitting villages will be avoided wherever possible.

Further to questions regarding the division of farmland, reduced access for agricultural equipment, and potential loss of agricultural productivity, Alto acknowledged that agricultural impacts are a key consideration. Alto emphasized that minimizing impacts on farming operations is a priority and that compensation would be based on market value and impacts on the remaining property, including reduced efficiency and access limitations. Design measures such as underpasses and access corridors are being considered, and compensation would reflect operational impacts where mitigation is not feasible.

Further to questions regarding compensation for infrastructure changes and emergency response planning adjustments arising from road closures, dead‑ ends, and impacts on emergency response times, Alto committed to working closely with municipalities and counties to assess infrastructure impacts. Alto indicated that emergency access and service continuity are key considerations and that mitigation measures such as overpasses and underpasses will be evaluated to avoid isolating communities and to maintain emergency response capabilities.

Further to questions regarding the potential use of de‑ icing fluids during winter operations and associated risks to groundwater and wells, Alto explained that winter operations are still in the research and planning stage. Alto indicated that any winterization methods would be subject to the federal impact assessment process and that environmental impacts must be identified, avoided where possible, and mitigated. No specific de‑ icing method has been selected at this stage.

Further to questions regarding the maintenance or replacement of recreational trails, including snowmobile and cycling routes, if affected by the project, Alto stated that recreational impacts will be addressed during the alignment refinement process. Alto indicated that mitigation or replacement measures would be considered where trails are affected, depending on feasibility and identified impacts.

Further to questions regarding tree removal and habitat loss in an area with already limited forest cover, Alto stated that impact avoidance is the first priority. Where impacts cannot be avoided, Alto indicated that mitigation and habitat compensation measures would be developed in coordination with federal and provincial regulators to maintain ecological function.

Further to questions regarding training for local emergency services, Alto confirmed that emergency preparedness is a project requirement. Alto indicated that once the alignment is refined, it will coordinate with municipalities and emergency service providers to ensure appropriate training and information sharing.

Further to questions regarding whether local electrical capacity could support an electric rail system, Alto indicated that early discussions have begun with electricity system operators and utilities. Alto explained that final power requirements will depend on the refined alignment, but ensuring a reliable power supply without compromising local capacity is a core project requirement.

Further to questions regarding lessons learned from past infrastructure projects involving extensive expropriation, Alto stated that land acquisition for this project will be limited strictly to what is required. Alto indicated that the final right‑of‑way is anticipated to be approximately 60 metres and that unnecessary expropriation will be avoided.

Further to questions regarding community anxiety caused by uncertainty, Alto confirmed that the Ottawa–Montréal corridor will be refined to approximately one kilometre in width by the end of the year. Alto indicated that this refinement is intended to provide greater clarity to affected communities while detailed engineering work continues.

b. Jerry Pearson from Rolling Luxury to request funding for local transportation

Members of Council take a break from 8:13 p.m. to 8:32 p.m.

Jerry Pearson delivers his presentation.

Mayor Mario Zanth notes that, since the service would operate only from Rockland, not all villages would be able to benefit from it.

Council members comment on the potential cost of the project for taxpayers.

10.2 Petitions and Correspondence

None

Mayor Mario Zanth yields the chair to Councillor Cyr for his notice of motion.

10.3 Notice of motion proposed by the Mayor Mario Zanth and seconded by Councillor Fournier to initiate exploratory discussions on Public Transit Services to Clarence-Rockland with the City of Ottawa

Mayor Mario Zanth explains that this is related to the Transportation Master Plan and represents a first step in exploring possible options.

In response to questions about past discussions, Mayor Mario Zanth notes that the City has previously met with the City of Ottawa to discuss transportation in general, not specifically OC Transpo. The discussions addressed not only Rockland-to-Ottawa routes but also connections serving the west and south of Ottawa.

The motion is coming to next meeting for consideration.

Mayor Mario Zanth takes back the chair.

10.4 Committee/Staff Reports

a. Solid waste management strategy: presentation by Jean-Louis Gaudet from EXP Global Inc.

Denis Longpré introduces the update on the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Presentation by Jean-Louis Gaudet from EXP Global Inc.

In response to questions, Denis Longpré mentions that the Food Cycler is being explored as an option for food diversion.

When asked about next steps, Denis Longpré explains that each recommendation will be brought to Council in separate reports. He notes that the City is not expected to be mandated to implement composting before the early 2030s, based on population growth.

Regarding multi-municipal partnerships, Denis Longpré explains that these could take the form of a joint collection contract or a shared organic collection site. He specifies that there are currently no multi-municipal partnerships related to waste management.

When asked about the source of statistics on garbage composition, Denis Longpré explains that the data comes from provincial statistics.

Regarding provincial approval for organic diversion, Denis Longpré explains that the province requires municipalities to divert 50% of their organics but does not specify how this must be achieved.

Finally, Denis Longpré notes that there are currently no subsidy programs associated with this provincial policy.

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Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle
Seconded by Diane Choinière

THAT the final report on Solid Waste Management Strategy prepared by EXP Global Inc. and dated February 2026, as presented in report WM2026-001, be received as information.

CARRIED

b. Review of Permitting and Licensing By-laws

In response to questions, Pierre Voisine explains that the two key changes to the Business By-law are that business licenses will apply only to businesses established in the municipality, not to those operating for just a day, and that the annual fee will be replaced by a one-time fee for new businesses.

He adds that businesses already established and licensed in Clarence-Rockland will be grandfathered and therefore will not be required to pay the one-time fee. The only exception is if there is a change in the type of business, which may require additional inspections, in which case a new business license would be needed. The City will also implement administrative fees for changes in ownership, for example.

Moved by Stephane Fournier
Seconded by Diane Choinière

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council approve continuing with the review of applicable bylaws and the development of a centralized, modernized permitting and licensing system.

AND THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that council approve a new costing approach to follow a user-pay model, where fees are one-time basis, reflecting the work required by City administration.

CARRIED

c. Variance to Sign By-law - New Beginning Church

In response to questions, Julian Lenhart explains that under the Sign By-law, minor variances can usually be approved by the department. However, due to this particular sign's proximity to buildings and its zoning, it must be submitted to Council.

Regarding the resolution, Julian Lenhart explains that the north face of the sign already exists and was built without a permit. The south face has not yet been constructed and will be closer to neighboring houses; therefore, the administration recommends refusing the requested variance for the south side.

Julian Lenhart notes that both neighbors on either side of the sign were consulted, and the administration's recommendation reflects their wishes.

When asked about the time the sign must be turned off, Julian Lenhart explains that the by-law does not prescribe specific hours. The 9 p.m. time is based on feedback from both neighbors and represents a balance between the existing infrastructure and the impact on residents.

In response to further questions, Julian Lenhart clarifies that the recommendation complies with the by-law requirements, subject to the approval of the variances, and that no studies on the sign's brightness have been conducted.

Members of Council take a break from 9:43 p.m. to 9:47 p.m.

Mayor Mario Zanth confirms to Council that the New Beginning Church has control over both the brightness of the sign and the time it is turned off. He notes that the Church does not want to upset neighbors and will cooperate.

Moved by Stephane Fournier
Seconded by Trevor Stewart

That the Committee of the whole recommends that Council approve the sign variance for the ground sign submitted by New Beginning Church in order to :

- permit a message centre sign, being an illuminated sign closer that 30 meters from a residential property and visible from residential buildings for the sign area facing north only;
- permit a message centre of 1.71 m^2;
- permit a ground sign of a height of 2.13 m.

Subject to the following condition:

- the illumination of the message centre sign must be dimmed as to not create a nuisance to the neighboring property to the north and must be turned off after 9:00 pm.

And that the Committee of the whole recommends that Council refuse the sign variance for the ground sign submitted by New Beginning Church in order to :

- permit a message centre sign, being an illuminated sign closer that 30 meters from a residential property and visible from residential buildings for the sign area facing south only.

CARRIED

d. Variance to Sign By-law - Get Space

In response to questions, Julian Lenhart explains that this sign has not yet been constructed. The reason for the variance request is the proximity to another sign. They are therefore requesting a variance so that the proposed sign meets the criteria, allowing them to obtain their permit.

He adds that the reason this matter goes to Council is that it involves a billboard, and the approving authority for such signs is the Council, not the department.

Following the vote, Pierre Voisine responds to Council’s questions. He notes that, as part of the by-laws review, a hearing committee will be established to consider files that are technical rather than political in nature. He adds that committee members will have the appropriate training and background to make such decisions.

Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle
Seconded by Trevor Stewart

THAT the committee of the whole recommends that Council approve the sign variance application for the existing billboard on Part 7 of Plan 50R- 11380, subject to the condition of replacing the face of the sign with bilingual content that complies with Section 8.8 of the Sign By- law 2015- 160.

CARRIED

11. 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.

12. Council Members' Items

12.1 Resolution proposed by Mayor Mario Zanth and seconded by councillor Lalonde to mandate the administration to prepare a draft Citizen Recognition Policy for Council's consideration

RESOLUTION 2026-19

Moved by Mario Zanth
Seconded by André J. Lalonde

Whereas the City of Clarence Rockland values the contributions, achievements, and positive impacts made by its residents; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario offer formal programs to recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional community service, leadership, volunteerism, or outstanding accomplishments; and

Whereas establishing a structured and transparent Citizen Recognition Policy would provide a consistent framework for acknowledging such contributions within the City of Clarence Rockland;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to prepare a draft Citizen Recognition Policy for Council's consideration, outlining eligibility criteria, nomination processes, recognition categories, and administration procedures.

CARRIED

13. Consent Items

RESOLUTION 2026-20

Moved by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle
Seconded by Stephane Fournier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following items, as identified under the consent items category on the regular meeting agenda of March 11, 2026, be adopted:

13.1 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2026

13.2 Receipt of the Weekly Correspondence Packages from February 2026

13.3 Resolution to approve the salaries paid from January 4 to February 14, 2026

13.4 Resolution to approve the accounts paid from January 31 to February 26, 2026

13.5 Resolution to adopt the Council Itemized Statement of Remuneration and expenses for 2025

13.6 Resolution to designate the Director of Finance and Asset Management and Treasurer as authorized representative and point of contact for CRA

13.7 Resolution to amend the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to include the 2026-2027 Accessibility Awareness and Community Engagement initiatives

13.8 Resolution to adopt the revised versions of the Accessibility Customer Service Policy and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy

13.9 Resolution to adopt the revised version of the Investment Policy

13.10 Resolution to adopt the revised Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy

13.11 Resolution to adopt the revised version of the Recreation Financial Assistance Policy

CARRIED

Text of the resolutions as adopted by consent under Resolution 2026-20:

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 11, 2026, be adopted.

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the weekly correspondence packages no. 2026-05, 2026-06, 2026-07 and 2026-08, be received and filed.

13.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the salaries paid from January 4th, 2026, to February 14th, 2026, in the gross amount of $1,985,997.24 and in the net amount of $1,322,046.47, be adopted, as recommended.

13.4 BE IT RESOLVED that the accounts paid from January 31st, 2026, to February 26th, 2026, in the amount of $7,091,195.14, be adopted, as recommended.

13.5 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Clarence-Rockland hereby adopts the Itemized Statement of Remuneration and expenses paid in 2025, as per section 284 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as presented under Report No. FIN 2026-09.

13.6 WHEREAS the Corporation of the City of Clarence-Rockland maintains business accounts with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for payroll and HST; and

WHEREAS the CRA requires an authorized representative and primary point of contact to be identified for the purpose of administering the Municipality's accounts and communicating with the CRA; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to update the Municipality's authorized representative and main point of contact to reflect current staffing responsibilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the City of Clarence-Rockland hereby authorizes:

1. *That the Director of Finance & Asset Management / Treasurer, currently held by Frédéric Desnoyers, be designated as the Municipality's primary authorized representative and main point of contact with the Canada Revenue Agency.*
2. *That the above-noted individual be authorized to communicate with the CRA, access all municipal program accounts, submit documentation, make inquiries, and manage account information on behalf of the Corporation.*
3. *That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign any documents required to give effect to this resolution, if required.*
4. *That this resolution supersedes any previous resolution or authorization respecting the Municipality's primary CRA contact.*

13.7 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be amended to include the 2026-2027 Accessibility Awareness and Community Engagement initiatives, as presented under report CLERK2026-04.

13.8 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the revised version of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy (POL5000.5-2603) and the Accessible Customer Service Policy (POL5000.4-2603), as presented in report no. CLERK2026-03.

13.9 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the revised version of the Investment Policy (POL4009.6-2603), as presented in report no. FIN2026-07.

13.10 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the revised version of the Reserve and Reserve Funds Policy (POL4009.8-2603), as presented in report no. FIN2026-08.

13.11 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the revised version of the Recreation Financial Assistance Policy (POL5016.2-2603), as presented in report no. PROG2026-002.

14. Committee/Staff Reports

None

15. By-laws

RESOLUTION 2026-21

Moved by André J. Lalonde
Seconded by Trevor Stewart

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

15.1 2026-20 being a By-law to authorize the signature of a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Infrastructure for the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream

15.2 2026-21 being a By-law to assume part of Sterling Avenue, Amber Street, part of Cobalt Street, part of Turquoise Street and part of Larimar Street (plan 50M-336)

15.3 2026-22 being a By-law for the lifting of part-lot control for Block 56 – Shale Street

15.4 2026-23 being a By-law for the lifting of part-lot control for Block 44 – Shale Street

15.5 2026-24 being a By-Law to dedicate public part of St-Jean Street

15.6 2026-25 being a By-law to dedicate public part of Labonte Street

15.7 2026-26 being a By-law to authorize the signature of an Interim Agreement with the Clarence-Rockland Public Library Board for the governance and management of the Clarence-Rockland Museum

15.8 2026-27 being a By-Law to adopt the revised Municipal Grants Program Policy and the revised Municipal Grant Program Committee terms of reference

CARRIED

16. Confirmatory By-law

RESOLUTION 2026-22

Moved by Stephane Fournier
Seconded by Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 2026-28, being a confirmatory by-law for the regular meeting of March 12, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

Mayor Mario Zanth adjourns the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Mario Zanth, Mayor

Karine McCulloch, Deputy Clerk