



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 26, 2024

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| PRESENT: | Pauline Rochefort, Mayor | Rick Champagne, Councillor |
| | Terry Kelly, Councillor | Lauren Rooyakkers, Deputy Mayor |
| | Steven Trahan, Councillor | |

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| STAFF | Jason Trottier, CAO/Treasurer | Kari Hanselman, Clerk |
| PRESENT: | | |

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rochefort called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2024-249

Moved by Councillor Champagne

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT the draft agenda presented to Council and dated the 26th day of November, 2024 be adopted as amended by adding the Notice of Motion from the previous meeting regarding reclassifying Highway 94 from a Secondary to a Primary Cycling Route under Action Items.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

3. Accepting the Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s):

a. Approval of Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of November 12th, 2024

2024-250

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 12th, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Trahan advised he attended a webinar hosted by Enbridge earlier in the day. They appear to be reducing their construction mandate.

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest- Pecuniary Interest Thereof

None for this session.

6. Announcements and Updates from Council Members

Council members were pleased with the success of the Light up the Park event last week.

7. Delegations to Council

None for this session.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
 - 1. Minutes of November 20th, 2024
- b. Emergency Management Program Committee

None for this session.
- c. Fire and Emergency Services Committee

None for this session.
- d. Planning Advisory Committee

None for this session.
- e. Committee of Adjustment

None for this session.
- f. Recreation, Parks and Culture Committee

None for this session.
- g. Striking Committee

None for this session.

9. Board Reports:

- a. Library Board

None for this session.
- b. OPP Detachment Board

None for this session.
- c. Cassellholme, DNSSAB, Health Unit and NBMCA

10. Departmental Reports & Resolutions

None for this session.

11. Notice of Motions

None for this session.

12. By-laws:

- a. By-law No. 2024-43: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading(s)

2024-251

Moved by Councillor Champagne

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of East Ferris deems it expedient to pass three readings of the following by-law at this session;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT a By-law to authorize an agreement between the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris and Bell Canada for Next Generation 9-1-1 Service, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2024-43;

AND THAT said by-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

13. Correspondence and Information Items:

- a. Municipality of Leamington
- b. Township of Nairn and Hyman and Township of Baldwin
- c. Township of Papineau-Cameron

2024-252

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Trahan

THAT the Council of the Municipality of East Ferris supports Resolution No. 2024-328 received from the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding amendments to the Ontario Building Code to include provisions for pre-approved affordable housing plans specifically aimed at supporting low income and homeless individuals;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; Hon. Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing-Temiskaming; AMO and the Ontario Building Officials Association.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

- d. Township of Puslinch
- e. Township of Terrace Bay
- f. AMO Communications
- g. North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority
- h. North Bay-Parry Sound District Health Unit

2024-253

Moved by Councillor Champagne

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the resolution received from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit regarding recommending that the Ministry of Health develop a provincial oral health strategy that includes a remuneration model for dentists designed to promote equitable access to basic preventive and treatment dental services throughout the province (whether delivered privately or in concert with public organizations) and that the Ministry of Health undertake an evaluation of the current funding model for Oral Health services to inform the above-recommended provincial oral health strategy;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Ontario Minister of Health), Dr. Kieran Moore (Chief Medical Officer of Health), Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), Michael Sherar (President and CEO of Public Health Ontario), Ontario Boards of Health and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

- i. Near North District School Board

14. Action Items:

- a. Approval of Correspondence and Information Circulated with the Agenda

2024-254

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT Council approve the Correspondence and Information as circulated with the agenda of November 26th, 2024.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

- b. Resolution: 2025 ROMA Conference Delegation Request (Deadline November 27th)

2024-255

Moved by Councillor Champagne

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris directs staff to submit the following requests for delegations at the 2025 ROMA Conference:

Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma – Permanent, non-application-based funding for municipal road infrastructure

Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner – Significant cost increases to OPP services

Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones - Unaffordability of 1% increase from the Province.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

- c. Resolution: Skills Development Fund Capital Stream

2024-256

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris authorizes staff to submit a funding application to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development's Skills Development Fund: Capital Stream for the construction of a new East Ferris Fire & Emergency Services Fire Hall and Firefighter Training Facility.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

- d. Notice of Motion - Mayor Rochefort

2024-257

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Champagne

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris has been involved in the regional effort led by Discovery Routes to develop safe cycling infrastructure while establishing the region as a cycling tourism destination;

AND WHEREAS Discovery Routes has developed a series of self-guided cycling routes around the Voyageur Cycling Route and the Trans Canada Trail that are attracting more and more cyclists north and to Highway 94 and other rural roads in East Ferris, including the Red Toque Tour Bike Ride, Spirit of the Bay Cycling Route, and Corbeil-Callander Cycling Loop;

AND WHEREAS these cycling routes and itineraries are promoted with tourism partners Tourism North Bay, Northeastern Ontario Tourism, Destination Nord Ontario, and Destination Ontario through various media;

AND WHEREAS Discovery Routes reports that Highway 94 is a favourite with cyclists as it provides looping opportunities around Lake Nipissing, Trout Lake, Lake Nosbonsing and their surrounding communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris has been an active and supportive partner as demonstrated by the following list of actions.

Investments:

- paving of shoulders on Lake Nosbonsing Road and parts of Village Road
- paving of shoulders on MacPherson Drive and parts of Centennial Crescent
- maintenance of outdoor bicycle repair stations at several parks
- installation and maintenance of bicycle route signs, racks, and benches

Actions:

- attracting the Ontario Cycling Championships to East Ferris for its annual races, which draws hundreds of competitive cyclists
- hosting the Voyageur 200, a charity gravel road race
- hosting the 2023 Ontario Cycling Tour, which included pedaling along Highway 94
- supporting the annual Fat Bike Ride for Jack events, hosted by the North Bay Mountain Bike Association on its local trails

Advocacy:

- developing an Active Transportation Master Plan
- participating in consultations in 2013 on the feasibility of a long-distance cycling route through northern Ontario

AND WHEREAS ensuring safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists in East Ferris is a priority for the Municipality of East Ferris, as outlined in its Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan;

AND WHEREAS this priority has led to the development of the Municipality's Active Transportation Plan, which sets goals and objectives, proposes the development of active transportation facilities over a 20-year period, recommends amendments to related municipal plans and policies and establishes an annual reserve for active transportation;

AND WHEREAS since 2022, the Municipality of East Ferris has widened 15 kilometers of road shoulders, including Lake Nosbonsing Road, parts of Village Road, MacPherson Drive and parts of Centennial Crescent;

AND WHEREAS the reclassification of Highway 94 from a secondary to a primary cycle route would provide opportunities for the MTO to invest in widening the highway's shoulders in keeping with the direction taken by the Municipality of East Ferris;

AND WHEREAS it would enable cyclists to safely connect to the Trans Canada Trail by travelling to the Municipality of Callander's Main Street or via the section of Highway 94 that already has widened shoulders and that extends south from Lansdowne Street, in Callander, to the junction with Highway 654;

AND WHEREAS both sections of Callander's Main Street and Highway 654 form part of the Trans Canada Trail;

AND WHEREAS connecting cyclists travelling through East Ferris heading to the City of North Bay is much safer via Highway 94 versus Highway 17;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of East Ferris is requesting the Ministry of Transportation reclassify Highway 94 from a secondary to a primary cycling route;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; Herb Villneff, Director - North Operations, Ministry of Transportation; Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing; and the Municipality of Callander.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

15. Approval of Accounts Payable

2024-258

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

Seconded by Councillor Trahan

THAT Council approve the general accounts for the Municipality of East Ferris as indicated in the cheque register(s) dated November 26, 2024 in the amount of \$217,689.47.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

16. Other Business

None for this session.

17. In Camera (if required)

None for this session.

18. Confirmatory By-Law

a. By-Law No. 2024-44: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading(s)

2024-259

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Champagne

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of East Ferris deems it expedient to pass three readings of the following by-law at this session;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council from November 12th to November 26th, 2024, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2024-44;

AND THAT said by-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

19. Adjournment

2024-260

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT we do now adjourn at 6:36 p.m. and meet again on December 10th, 2024.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

Mayor

Pauline Rochefort

Clerk

Kari Hanselman