



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

**February 27, 2024**

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

ABSENT: Steven Trahan, Councillor

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

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Rochefort called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**2024-27**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT the draft agenda presented to Council and dated the 27th day of February, 2024 be adopted as prepared.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

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

a. Approval of Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 13th, 2024

**2024-28**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 13th, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers wished to acknowledge the response received from Bell Canada from the resolution passed at the Council meeting of February 13th. Mayor Rochefort advised Bell Canada and the federal and provincial governments have committed to providing fiber optic service in East Ferris.

Related to the delegation from the Trout Lake Conservation Association at the last Council meeting, Mayor Rochefort advised that the City of North Bay has entered into an agreement with the federal government related to PFAS. CAO Trottier advised that the agreement is with the Department of National Defense to cover studies, removal and remediation of PFAS at the airport.

**5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest- Pecuniary Interest Thereof**

None for this session

**6. Chair's Comments:**

Mayor Rochefort thanked the Carnival Committee for the great event they put on.

**7. Delegations to Council:**

- a. Inspector William McMullen, Ontario Provincial Police

Inspector William McMullen with the OPP made a presentation to Council regarding the Five Year Motor Vehicle Collision Report.

- b. Kevin Morphet, Nosbonsing Curling Club

Kevin Morphet from the Nosbonsing Curling Club made a presentation to Council regarding the Curling Club's Capital Investment Plans.

- c. James Bissonnette, East Ferris Horticultural Club

James Bissonnette from the East Ferris Horticultural Club made a presentation to Council regarding the Club's 2024 Program and Budget.

**8. Committee Reports:**

- a. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

Councillor Champagne advised a report will be coming to the next meeting regarding the Active Transportation RFQ.

- b. Emergency Management Program Committee

CAO Trottier advised that the Municipality's funding application for the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant was not successful.

- c. Fire and Emergency Services Committee

None for this session.

- d. Planning Advisory Committee

None for this session.

- e. Committee of Adjustment

1. Minutes from February 21st, 2024

- f. Recreation, Parks and Culture Committee

None for this session.

- g. Economic Development Committee

1. John O'Rourke

- h. Striking Committee

A recommendation to fill the vacancy on PAC/COA will be coming to the next Council meeting.

**9. Board Reports:**

- a. Library Board

None for this session.

- b. Police Services Board

None for this session.

- c. Cassellholme, DNSSAB, Health Unit and NBMCA

**10. Departmental Reports & Resolutions:**

- a. Boards and Committees Policy Amendment

**2024-29**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of East Ferris approved the Boards and Committees Policy on November 8th, 2022 by resolution No. 2022-285;

AND WHEREAS an amendment to the Committee Composition within the Terms of Reference for the Striking Committee is required to ensure that a quorum of Council is not present at any meeting of the Striking Committee;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of East Ferris approve an amendment to the Committee Composition within the Terms of Reference for the Striking Committee in the Boards and Committees Policy as follows:

**Committee Composition:**

*When filling positions for new term of Council:*

- Mayor;
- Deputy Mayor;
- Chief Administrative Officer; and
- Director of Community Services

*When filling vacancies within the term of Council:*

- Mayor;
- Chief Administrative Officer;
- Director of Community Services; and
- Chair of the Board or Committee with the vacancy

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

- b. Verbal Report - Update regarding municipal assumption of land (277 Astorville Road)

Director of Community Services gave a verbal report to Council regarding the municipal assumption of private lands that extend onto roadways. Council directed staff to draft a policy to guide staff when dealing with these situations.

**11. Notice of Motions**

- a. Resolution: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

**2024-30**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

AND WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

AND WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

AND WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

AND WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

AND WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, and MPP, Vic Fedeli.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**12. By-laws:**

- a. By-law No. 2024-08: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading

**2024-31**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

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 appoint a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2024-08;

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

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

- b. By-law No. 2024-09: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading

**2024-32**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

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 close and convey a part of the road allowance and shoreline road allowance, adjacent to 23 Durrell Road, described as part of the road allowance between Lots 9 and 10 Concession 15 and part of original shore road allowance in front thereof, being parts 1 & 3 Plan 36R15100, Township of East Ferris, District of Nipissing AND a part of the road allowance and shoreline road allowance, adjacent to 27 Durrell Road, described

as part of the road allowance between Lots 9 and 10 Concession 15 and part of original shore road allowance in front thereof, being Parts 2 & 4 Plan 36R15100, Township of East Ferris, District of Nipissing, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2024-09;

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. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

b. City of Timmins

Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers advised she has completed the survey.

c. AMO Communications

d. Cassellholme

e. Children's Aid Society

Councillor Kelly would like to research this item some more and will report back to Council.

f. East Nipissing Vipers

Council would like to meet with the association prior to the next season to discuss how the Municipality can assist them.

g. FONOM

h. Good Roads

Council discussed delegation requests for the 2024 Good Roads Conference.

i. Northern Ontario School of Medicine

CAO Trottier provided Council with a background of the bursary.

j. Valin Partners LLP

Director of Community Services suggested that this item be deferred as the property owner will be doing a delegation to Council at the March 12th meeting to provide further context. Mr. Kirton will prepare a report for that meeting.

**14. Action Items:**

a. Approval of Correspondence and Information Circulated with the Agenda

**2024-33**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT Council approve the Correspondence and Information as circulated with the agenda of February 27th, 2024.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

b. Referred for support from meeting of February 13th, 2024

1. Resolution: City of Stratford - CEBA Loan Businesses

**2024-34**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the resolution received from the City of Stratford calling upon the Federal Government to Extend the full CEBA program deadline by extending the forgiveness (up to \$20,000 of the maximum \$60,000) deadline for businesses to coincide with the new repayment deadline of December 31, 2026.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

2. Resolution: FONOM - Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

**2024-35**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS many municipalities in Ontario have seen an increase to their insurance rates due to Joint and Several Liability;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor;

AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Vic Fedeli, MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and the Clerk of the City of Greater Sudbury.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

3. Resolution: DNSSAB - Reaching Home Funding Allocations

**2024-36**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the stabilization of the Federal Government's Reaching Home Funding to the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board as the Community Entity;

AND THAT funding be maintained, at minimum, at current levels for future fiscal years;

AND THAT this resolution be shared with local federal representatives.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

4. Resolution: Municipality of Calvin - Provincial and National Fire Fighting Strategy

**2024-37**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the resolution received from the Municipality of Calvin encouraging the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

5. Resolution: Prince Edward County - Expand Life Span of Fire Apparatus

**2024-38**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the resolution received from Prince Edward County regarding support from the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

6. Resolution: Town of Petrolia - Return to Combined ROMA and OGRA Conference

**2024-39**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the resolution received from the Town of Petrolia calling upon both the ROMA and OGRA Boards to re-establish a combined OGRA and ROMA annual conference.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

7. Resolution: Enbridge Gas - OEB's Decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 Rebasing Application

**2024-40**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supports the letter received from Enbridge Gas regarding concerns with the Ontario Energy Board's decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**15. Approval of Accounts Payable**

**2024-41**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT Council approve the general accounts for the Municipality of East Ferris as indicated in the cheque register(s) dated February 27th, 2024 in the amount of \$290,143.26.

**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. 2024-10 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading

**2024-42**

**Moved by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

**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 confirm the proceedings of Council from February 13th, 2024 to February 27th, 2024, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2024-10;

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**

**2024-43**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT we do now adjourn at 8:17 p.m. and meet again on March 12th, 2024.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

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Mayor

Pauline Rochefort

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Clerk

Kari Hanselman