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Coming up at 12:30 pm, it's a special meeting of city council about housing. This is the Politico preview:



Chew asks how they can turn human rights approach into tangible action. Shayani says there's an opportunity to connect stakeholders across jurisdictions and silos, and they can help I.D. resources and groups and make introductions.

Busuttil asks about lobbying upper levels of government. Shayani says she sympathises with the burden, and agrees that the next budget represents an "impossible task". They will continue working through Ontario Chamber and collective advocacy requires co-ordinated approach.

Busuttil asks about working with developers around affordability. Shayani says economics of growth is a factor, what she does is try to bring experts to the table to solve for the problem at hand. She adds it's a challenging economic landscape but there are new ideas.

Next, Dominica McPherson from the Poverty Task Force. She agrees with the recommendations and says that there must be a clear understanding of housing need and how best to respond with evidence based solutions.

McPherson adds that part of this fight must also be an increase to wages, and that includes increases to ODSP or OW and working towards a guaranteed basic income. Stigma comes with income, housing and health pressures too.

O'Rourke asks about what a human rights approach to housing looks like. McPherson says that it means keeping that in mind as the City and council works within the systems they have, it's a learning process.

O'Rourke says she's concerned about the people one paycheque away from homelessness as well as people already homeless. How should council approach that? McPherson says she knows people who were middle income and now under pressure, it's critical to meet emergency needs, but...

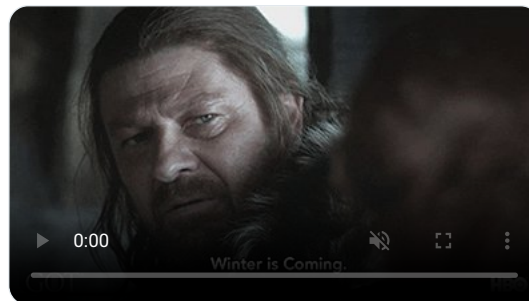
...it's also important to be aware of the root causes. It's important to prioritise the deeps cause of need to have the broadest impact to save lives and have a positive impact on the community.

Next, James Smith... but there seems to be technical difficulties. We move on to Mark Walton, president and CEO of Guelph General Hospital.

Walton thanks everyone for the recommendations, and he notes that hospitals don't typically take part in these issues, but it's part of a human crisis. Got that from Dr. Karima Velji · Chief of Nursing & Professional Practice; Assistant Deputy Minister of Health.

Walton showed Dr. Velji the hospital and the need downtown and she was moved by the desperation, but she was also moved by the dedication of frontline workers. He adds that there needs to be an immediate tactical response, but there's a lack of "ruthless focus."

He says the things that worked during the pandemic had a "ruthless conviction that there's a right to human health". We need to embrace that housing is health, and a universal right. Need to organize effectively to make decisions quickly.



Klassen asks for broader look at crisis. Walton says many towns are facing the same issues. It's multifactorial, the things that created the crisis big and have been in-progress for a while, but on the back end, the hospital is seeing for emergency visits, more malnutrition.

Goller asks if there needs to be more housing before winter. Walton says that they need to begin with shoring up the system now. He saw how having too many cooks in the kitchen can slow down the response with no single directed effort.

O'Rourke notes that Walton had the ability and support to take action while working for the Ministry of Health during the pandemic. It's not the same thing here. Walton notes that in the absence of action, someone needs to step up and take charge. Be "ruthless" as it were.

Walton adds that he and his colleagues are putting pressure on the Ministry of Health and are leveraging all possible supports, including the Federal. They're trying every leader, but there also needs to be a collective unified voice.

O'Rourke asks if there's a housing component in the new hospital. Walton says it's early days for that discussion, but it is on their radar and they're looking at the best ways to take action.

There's an opportunity to learn from what Portland has done:

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2189653059891>

Allt asks about definition of "tactical" and "ruthless." Walton says they're in danger of losing lives, which is why he uses those terms. As for tactical plans, he previously used an incident management structure with regular reports to quickly redirect resources where needed.

Allt asks about financial resources. Walton says he will have to defer to his colleagues, but 100 units of permanent supportive units is about \$2-\$3 million in operating funds to make that happen. Advocacy is underway.

James Smith is here! By phone. He's the chair of Committee of Adjustment, but he's here as a citizen. Supports the recommendations, but like to see further changes like affordable unit requirements and the caveat that there can be no demo permit w/o building permit.

Looks like the last delegate has bowed out, so that's the end of delegations.

Mayor Guthrie calls for a 10 minute break and then it's motions time!



We're back and Guthrie announces that he would like to go down the list of motions methodically. But first.. Questions!

Goller asks about the review of governance with the County, especially about asking questions of the County. CAO Stewart says the political and administrative sides will align in looking at the lanes, rules and responsibilities. No general social services discussion.

Stewart says they need to look at what the structure could look like, could councillors take part, bring motions, and vote. (Currently, they can attend as guests.) Guthrie adds that there are things that council can do too to social services up front.

Guthrie says that he wants to encourage council to come forward with ways that governance can be changed and strengthened, and motion #2 is a good first step.

Goller says there's a disconnect between the fact that the City gives tax money to the county and then there's no further input. Getting governance right will present more options on how to respond to homelessness.

Guthrie says that the County is aware of the motion and that they're good with how it's presented. This solidifies the direction and makes it formal, but the County is ready for the conversation.

On new daytime shelter space, Goller asks about the level of feedback from DGBA and others. Clack-Bush says it's tough to answer that until they hear the feedback. Also, again,

staff has no housing expertise, so they will have to interface with that too.

Clack-Bush says that they will come back to council for further engagement after the feedback. Goller asks about the potential hesitance for more facilities downtown and Clack-Bush says if that's the direction the staff could have a more open RFP for the whole of Guelph

Goller says that he intends to bring forward a motion to take downtown out of recommendation #8.

8. That staff are directed to seek feedback from the DGBA, local downtown social service agencies and the County of Wellington to consider the best location(s) and delivery method for the provision of 12-hour service, 7 days a week daytime shelter space in the downtown secondary plan area, reporting back to Council on recommended next steps no later than November 2023. Options presented should consider issuing a Request for Proposals to identify interested service partners, and identification of possible funding sources. Staff are also directed to work with Royal City Mission to consider a month-to-month extension of the current Community Benefit Agreement, to ensure consistent service provision until Council has time to consider next steps.

Allt asks about a needs assessment, does the City know what it's need to get more affordable housing? GM of Planning Krista Walkey says that the affordable housing strategy will have some of that info in December.

Baker says a \$3 million investment represents a 1% levy impact in response to a question from Allt about financial resources.

Stewart says that the City can't afford these things, not this way, which is why 14 and 15 are so critical. Cities are fighting 21st century problems with 19th century rules. The feds and ONgov need to step up, or the City has to stop doing things.

Stewart suspects that this same discussion is probably happening at different types of tables, including healthcare (as we heard earlier). Can't afford not to do it, but also might not be able to afford it either.

Allt asks about why we're proceeding with a South End Community Centre when there's a housing crisis. Clack-Bush says its about providing a complete community. Guelph has more demand than pool space.

Downer asks about priorities. Clack-Bush says these recommendations are not in a priority order and it will be hard to put in them in a priority order. they's all equally important.

Downer asks if the symposium can be held in December instead of January. Clack-Bush says that the County thinks January is better because it will be easier to get that participation.

Downer asks about fourplexes. Isn't it possible that the City can do all that work and then it gets wrapped up in the appeal of threeplexes in the new zoning bylaw. Staff says that can happen.

Klaseen asks about winter homelessness plan, is there one or can we get one? Clack-Bush says that she doesn't recall a specific winter plan, but they have heard a meeting about encampments and County said shelter space isn't an issue right now with the new beds coming online.

Klassen asks about 4 and 5 asks if the language can be changed to include prevention. Clack-Bush says that there's specific language about what the County is legislatively meant to

provide by the ONgov.

- should consider the community needs for housing on the left-hand side of the continuum including shelter services and permanent supportive housing, as well as the integration of health services in the housing sector.
4. That Council call on the County of Wellington to develop and lead a coordinated, joint community advocacy effort as articulated in Appendix A of the County of Wellington's preliminary Homelessness Plan presented to Council on September 12, 2023.
 5. That the Mayor be directed to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, copied to the County of Wellington, the Premier of Ontario and area MPPs, requesting that that the Government of Ontario develop and adopt a provincial housing strategy that considers the donation of provincial lands for affordable and supportive housing and incorporates measurable targets and sufficient funds for ending homelessness and ensuring access of all Ontarians, including those of limited income, to housing of an adequate standard without discrimination.
 6. That staff be directed to work with the County of Wellington, GW Ontario Health Team and local supportive housing service providers to provide letters of support to the Ministry of Health expressing the urgent need for accessible base funding to support wraparound health supports on the left-hand side of the housing continuum; and that staff work with CMHA Waterloo Wellington to provide any necessary letter of support for the application to the Ministry of Health to establish an alternate care destination clinic.
 7. That given the recent success with donated land for the Kindle Supportive

Busuttill asks about a definition of affordable housing as used in the recommendations.

Walkey says the planning act and prov. policy statement used 30% of income. Right now there's consultation about what that should be. They threw out 80% of market and brought back income.

So what's the new definition going to be? 🤖

Busuttill asks if staff were to work more closely with the county, do we have that capacity?

Stewart says he's not sure if there's a yes or no to that. It will be clear after that first meeting and the working relationship has been positive but there's more to be done.

Busuttill asks about #12, is it about units or floors? Walkey says they're looking at four units, and everything associate with that like parking and servicing.

O'Rourke about advocacy on ODSP and OW as well as non-market units. Clack-Bush says that would come through the county.

O'Rourke asks if the old OPP station on Wellington that seems vacant is an opportunity.

Stewart says the recommendation is broadly worded so that they would look at all opportunities.

O'Rourke asks about brownfield remediation, any benefit to reiterate that request for funding with the housing pledge? Stewart says they can look at that after approving the motion, but there are also some "court-related" issues.

O'Rourke asks about support for supportive housing. Clack-Bush says the focus has been on capital funds, not the ongoing operating so that's why #6 is about advocacy and that's where the City feels comfortable offering support for ongoing operating needs.

O'Rourke asks what fourplexes might mean in their neighbourhood. Walkey says that may have wait till January when that report comes back. they're not looking at changing the ADRU regs though.

Gibson asks about the financial impact of a human rights approach to housing. Is this a philosophical approach? Clack-Bush says this comes out of the CR report and it's about

looking at principles like non-discrimination and inclusion and entrenched at all levels of gov't.

Clack-Bush adds that the intent of the motion is that the City isn't saying that they can solve the housing problem on our own.

Caron asks about 4 units vs fourplexes. Council isn't approving language today, right? Staff need to find out what "four" means. Walkey says that's right. It will come back through the normal zoning review process.

Guthrie says in reviewing the endeavours laid out in July it seems like everything mentioned is in progress. We want to make sure that the community understands that progress is being made.

Guthrie asks about a deadline for a Guelph Community Improvement Plan (CIP). Walkey says that should be coming back by the end of 2024.

Guthrie asks if staff is looking at a community permitting system. Walkey says they are looking at that. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-planning-permit-system>

Guthrie says that a lot of infill developers who are finding it difficult to get triplex's going when one unit is 60%. Walkey says the as of right is under appeal, but an ARDU has to be subordinate, so developers are trying to get set up with the appeal is resolved.

Guthrie asks if the city can play a role in curbing renovations? Stewart says that staff will have to get back to council about that.

Guthrie asks about the trusted partner program, is staff looking at that? Walkey says that they will take a look at it but Nova Scotia has is not bound by some of the same planning restrictions.



Goller/Busuttil put all 17 motions on the floor.

Nothing about rec #1

Nothing about rec #2

Nothing about rec #3

Or #4

Or #5.

Recommendation:

1. That the City of Guelph adopts a human rights-based approach to housing, including a Housing First philosophy, to align with the National Housing Strategy.
2. That the Mayor and CAO be directed to work with the County of Wellington Warden and CAO to conduct a review of the governance model of the County of Wellington's Social Services Committee, to establish clarity and accountability regarding the City and the County's role in the approval of priorities and spending related to Social Services, and report back to Council no later than Q1 2024.
3. That Council supports the County of Wellington's plan to host a Housing and Homelessness Symposium, no later than Q1 2024, including key community stakeholders to address the urgent needs facing the community. The planning committee should include representatives from the City of Guelph, the GW Ontario Health Team, WDG Public Health, the WG Drug Strategy and the Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. The Symposium should consider the community needs for housing on the left-hand side of the continuum including shelter services and permanent supportive housing, as well as the integration of health services in the housing sector.
4. That Council call on the County of Wellington to develop and lead a coordinated, joint community advocacy effort as articulated in Appendix A of the County of Wellington's preliminary Homelessness Plan presented to Council on September 12, 2023.
5. That the Mayor be directed to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, copied to the County of Wellington, the Premier of Ontario and area MPPs, requesting that the Government of Ontario develop and adopt a provincial housing strategy that considers the donation of provincial lands for affordable and supportive housing and incorporates measurable targets and sufficient funds for ending homelessness and ensuring access of all Ontarians, including those of limited income, to housing of an adequate standard without discrimination.

No issue with rec #6.

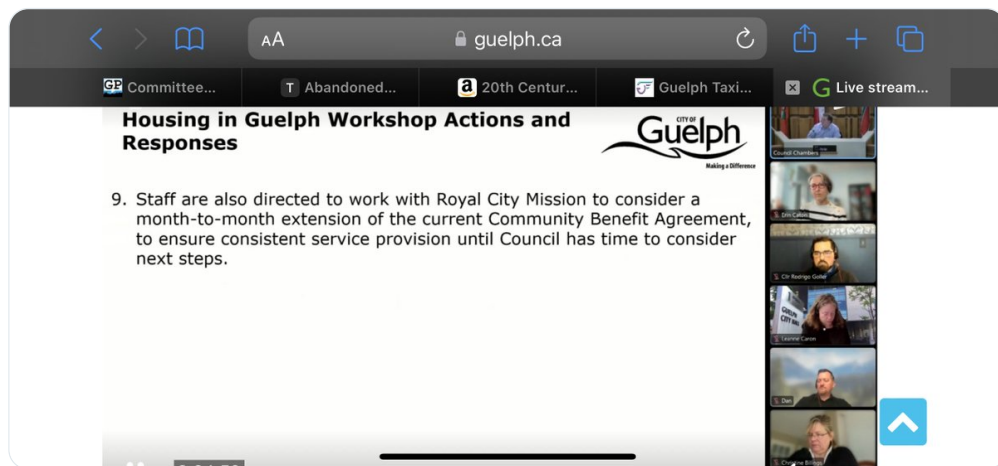
#7.

Busttil has asked to split #8

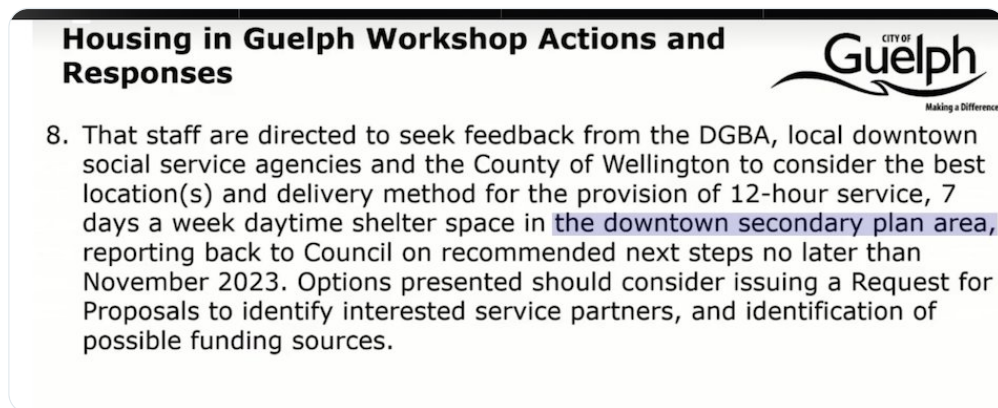
The rest of the slate there's no further comments.

Here's how Busuttil proposes the split, and Goller seconds.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'guelph.ca'. The browser has several tabs open: 'Committee...', 'Abandoned...', '20th Centur...', 'Guelph Taxi...', and 'Live stream...'. The main content area displays a document titled 'Housing in Guelph Workshop Actions and Responses' with the City of Guelph logo. The document contains a list of recommendations, with item 8 visible: '8. That staff are directed to seek feedback from the DGBA, local downtown social service agencies and the County of Wellington to consider the best location(s) and delivery method for the provision of 12-hour service, 7 days a week daytime shelter space in the downtown secondary plan area, reporting back to Council on recommended next steps no later than November 2023. Options presented should consider issuing a Request for Proposals to identify interested service partners, and identification of possible funding sources.' A video call interface is visible on the right side of the screen, showing several participants in a grid view.



Goller asks to amend the works "downtown secondary plan area" and Klass seconds. Goller says he wants to widen the scope.



Clack-Bush says the best option is to make any RFP as broad as possible because she's sure that when this goes out to the community there will absolutely be people who'll say it has to be downtown.

Council votes in favour of the amendment.

8a as amended is approved.

8b, which is specifically in reference to the extension of the agreement on Royal City Mission.

Guthrie asks if staff will have an answer next month about going month-to-month with RCM. Clack-Bush says that the idea is to have something in place for January 1 when the present funding runs out.

Clack-Bush says that they could be negotiating an amount that can go month-to-month until there's a firm answer about going permanent funding. Guthrie asks where the temp funds are going to come from. Stewart in Nov there will be firmer info, and it depends on the need.

Guthrie notes that the word "consider" is in the motion, it seems open ended. Should there not be a deadline? Stewart says they're all struggling with this and it might depend on how quickly someone might be able to come up with new facilities.

It may also depend on whether RCM can continue with this work at this pace, but putting parameters on it today might undermine things.

Guthrie says he's going to vote for it because if not the RCM, then who? He adds that they need to make sure though that it's not ongoing forever. Clack-Bush notes that this is also outside the normal process, the request came from Wellington County.

8b is approved unanimously.

There are some additional motions. The first from Downer is about bringing back funding for more support for Welcoming Street in the budget. Caron seconds.

Downer says that she appreciates that there's no report, or KPIs, and the DGBA is looking at generating their own report, so there's a hope about having from more info in November.

Downer motion passes unanimously.

Motion from Klassen about how the County is tackling winter programming. Busuttill seconds.

Housing in Guelph Workshop Actions and Responses
Motion- Klassen



1. That the County informs Guelph City Council, where this information can be shared through an upcoming information report, the plans and oversight for homelessness during the winter months, including highlighting warming centres or the need for further shelter opportunities.

Motion is approved unanimously.

Goller motion. Caron seconds.

Housing in Guelph Workshop Actions and Responses
Motion- Goller



1. That staff budget \$1.5M towards the Affordable Housing Reserve for consideration as part of the upcoming multiyear budget process.

Goller notes that the County puts 1% in a similar reserve and they didn't send the Guelph amount out for tender because \$500k isn't very much. Goller says we should let this pass and make it part of the budget process.

Busuttill suggests deferring this to Nov 7 because this is part of the bigger budget convo. Allt seconds.

Motion is deferred unanimously.

Motion from Guthrie, but Goller and Klassen are moving it. It's an exploration for a temporary encampment site with wrap around service.

Housing in Guelph Workshop Actions and Responses

Motion - Guthrie



1. That Guelph City Council respectfully request the County of Wellington to explore the provision of a temporary structured encampment site within the city of Guelph, and that the County facilitate a report including potential financial costs for both capital and operating with potential locations of such a service, with input from other stakeholders and agencies that provide services to individuals that would use such an encampment, and after engagement with people with lived experience. And that any initiative be contingent upon wrap-around services being provided to the residents within the encampment. And that Council call on the upper levels of government (specifically the Provincial Government) to provide emergency funding for such housing supports immediately.

O'Rourke says she has no objection to the motion, but she's not sure its reasonable to expect there to be wrap around service when they're looking for funding for services at Kindle. Also has issues around bylaw and fire.

Busuttill asks about community engagement and planning processes. Guthrie says that he thinks that would happen once the report comes back. He just wants to know if its feasible first.

Busuttill says she's concerned about any land use planning, especially under the planning act, that might impact. Guthrie says those questions are not irrelevant but thinks that can come later *if* a location is identified.

Stewart notes this is not talking about tents, so that means building permits. They're asking the County to take a lead role, and they may have different ideas. Who deals with the neighbourhood? How do you provide water? Washrooms? A lot of considerations

Downer says there's some logic to refer this to the housing symposium and there some data needs to be looked at to see if there's a need/desire, which might be at the County anyway. Downer/Gibson move to amend by referring to the symposium.

Gibson says that there's a question about how to ensure it's temporary, and that's a question that should be asked at the symposium.

O'Rourke says that this may be counter to the County's agenda, plus a lot of assumptions in the motion. Could we withdraw the motion & refer?

Downer/Gibson amendment removed.

Goller/Klassen motion removed.

Downer motion: That the issue of temp. structured encampments be referred to the housing symposium for consideration. Gibson seconds.

It's approved.

Richardson and Allt didn't vote in favour.

Next Goller/Klassen (Guthrie) motion. It's about wellness checks on encampments with regular reporting.

Housing in Guelph Workshop Actions and Responses
Motion - Guthrie



1. Given the City's human rights-based approach to housing, City of Guelph Council respectfully asks that the County of Wellington form and lead an integrated team approach to undertake regular wellness checks on any existing or new unstructured encampments within the City of Guelph. City Council respectfully asks that WDG Public Health and Guelph Police Services both commit to providing resources to the County of Wellington for participation in the integrated team, in addition to the City's commitment to providing Bylaw team leads, along with staff as required from Paramedic and Fire Services. Council requests quarterly reporting from the County of Wellington on the number of encampments being supported through the integrated team, and the services being provided.

Guthrie notes that the number of encampments has doubled in the city, last year there were 10 and now there's 20.

Allt asks for a definition of encampments, how many people are we talking about? Clack-Bush says bylaw oversees tracking, there maybe 2, 10 or 15 people, and anytime bylaw finds an encampment they're connected to a social worker.

Allt asks if council can be provided with locations. Clack-Bush says they keep a map for emergency services, but they don't think it's something that can be shared publicly.

Busuttil asks about provincially-owned land, would there still be wellness checks? Clack-Bush says that there are a number of camps on provincial property and they will be included in the check unless the property owner objects.

Richardson asks if County has the staff to manage wellness checks. Clack-Bush says the intention of the motion is to have the County co-ordinate, they already work through Stepping Stone on these things.

Motion approved unanimously.

Guthrie says that the next meeting, the planning meeting, will start at 6:10 pm. So stay tuned for that. For now....



@threadreaderapp unroll please.

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