



**Adam A. Donaldson** @adamadonaldson

Nov 26, 2024 · 61 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1861534954422690125](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1861534954422690125)

Coming up at 6 pm, it's this month's regular council meeting. There will be a closed session before hand though. Here's the preview:



**City Council Preview – What's on the Agenda for the November 26, 202...**

Like last month's regular meeting, this one takes place the day before a budget meeting, and like last month's meeting it might be deceptively straightforward. There's only one it...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/11/15/city-council-preview-whats-on-the-agenda-for-the-...>

Reminder: The normal live-stream isn't working, so you can click on the link here to participate:



**Meet virtually with Cisco Webex. Anytime, anywhere, on any device.**

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<https://guelph.webex.com/guelph/j.php?MTID=m3e09e0772daddc8757f29d6a7bbaa08d>

Mayor Guthrie has called the meeting to order!

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof (closed items)?

Caron and Downer both have family members in one of the locals being discussed.

**\*3.4 Bargaining Mandate Report Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 241 and 973, 2024-506**

Section 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, regarding labour relations or employee negotiations.

**3.5 November 2024 Public Appointments – The Elliott Community Board of Trustees**

Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Council moving in...



Looks like the closed session is wrapping up on time.

Mayor Guthrie opens things up again.

Closed meeting results...

-Bargaining mandate: Council received info and gave direction.

-Elliott appointments:

**November 2024 Public Appointments – The Elliott Community Board of Trustees**



1. That Joanne Hohenadel and Lisa Woolley be appointed to The Elliott Community Board of Trustees for a 3-year term ending November 26, 2027, or until such time as a successor is appointed.

First item, a Community Presentation for Nathan Skoufis who got a gold medal, the only Canadian to place in the world championships in Las Vegas this year, his 25th career world title.

webApp

World Champion | World League Finals

Nathan Skoufis

- 25<sup>th</sup> world title
- Member of Team Canada
- 6<sup>th</sup> degree black belt
- Owner and founder of Guelph Family Martial Arts and Guelph Fitness Kickboxing



Here's Mayor Guthrie giving Skoufis the City's medal.



Minutes of the open Council Meetings held October 8, 29, 30, 2024, and the Committee of the Whole Meeting held October 1, 2024 are approved.

Next, Report to Council re Code of Conduct: Gifts and Benefits. John Mascarin, Integrity Commissioner, will present.

Guthrie says he was going to give a preamble but will leave it to Mascarin, who notes there's a provision in the Guelph Code of Conduct that if there's a contravention of the Code discovered in the process of a request for advice, they must present a report. Hence this.

Guthrie asked about a incident where the mayor of New Westminster accepted travel, accommodation and meals from the Global Covenant of Mayors in travelling to a summit in 2023. If that sounds familiar, it's because Guthrie is a member of the GCOM.

Mascarin got back to Guthrie on November 9 after reviewing materials and the mayor provided additional information. He was asked if council was aware of his appointment, if council appointed him to be a rep for GCOM, etc. (tl;dr - they did not).

In the New Westminster case, the integrity commissioner found that the mayor had contravened the Code, and it was Mascarin that it was the same here (though the rules are different for ON.)

After reaching that conclusion, a complaint was received from a member of the public on this matter. Mascarin says this is not an investigative report, it's based on the advice asked for by Guthrie and his conclusions. The hospitality from GCOM was in excess.

Guthrie was about to attend another GCOM summit in Brazil and Mascarin said that this would probably not be appropriate and he should start making disclosures. He did that on the week of Remembrance Day. Mascarin says Guthrie followed his advice "to the tee."

Mascarin noted that there were options for the mayor, and we will be looking at one of those tonight. In conclusion: Guthrie contravened the Code, but did so inadvertently and while acting in good faith. He accepted the results of the report.

Mascarin says that the mayor has take remedial steps too, so on this basis he's not recommending any punishment. Guthrie came to him for advice, got advice and followed the advice. He's also not recommending corrective actions.

No questions for Mascarin. Guthrie thanks him for the clarity.

Klassen/Gibson move receipt of the report and its approved.

Next, Code of Conduct Amendment in Relation to Integrity Commissioner Report to Council re Code of Conduct Gifts and Benefits. Guthrie says he hopes this will rectify things.

Goller/Richardson move recommendation:

**The following motion has been provided by Mayor Guthrie:**

1. That Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards be amended to include an exception for 'food, lodging, transportation and entertainment provided by third-party organizations for attendance at events which are targeted to a municipal government audience' and, when the total benefit exceeds \$300, require reporting in the City Council and Local Boards Gift Disclosure within 30 days.

Guthrie reads from this letter that was included in the agenda: <https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=55952>

tl;dr

- He's gone to several events and spoken on behalf of Guelph
- secured Youth Climate Action Funds as part of that
- staff members have received training
- continues to advocate for more resources
- hopes the important work can continue with this fix.

O'Rourke says she finds this much too broad, and has an amendment.

**Code of Conduct Amendment in Relation to  
Integrity Commissioner Report to Council re  
Code of Conduct Gifts and Benefits**



**Councillor O'Rourke Amendment**

1. That Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards be amended to include an exception for 'food, lodging, transportation and entertainment provided by third-party organizations for attendance at events which are targeted to a municipal government audience **with the prior approval of City Council when the benefit exceeds \$300**' and, when the total benefit exceeds \$300, require reporting in the City Council and Local Boards Gift Disclosure within 30 days.

She also has a second clause that will allow Guthrie to continue on GCoM with council's approval:

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Integrity Commissioner Report to Council re  
Code of Conduct Gifts and Benefits**



**Councillor O'Rourke Amendment**

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2. That, in accordance with Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards, City Council approves an exception for food, lodging, transportation and entertainment provided by the Global Covenant of Mayors to Mayor Guthrie for attendance at events which are targeted to a municipal government audience.

Goller wonders if this is cumbersome. O'Rourke says she's not sure that this comes up with any alarming frequency, mostly the mayor and council just go to FCM and AMO.

Allt says the original motion provides enough security to know that there's oversight. Things O'Rourke's motion #2 is redundant.

Gibson says council approval might require it to be an agenda item, which opens things up to delegation and making a business trip political. O'Rourke says without the clause any member of council could accept any benefit and council would just have to groove on it.

O'Rourke says that they have a vote to support a nomination to the AMO board and says if she's wrong and council is fine with the language as it, she will take the L on this. Gibson says that there may be room to refine this in future.

Caron says this isn't about this situation, it's about good governance. We don't know what come up with future council, there could one day be a Global Covenant of Climate Deniers.

Downer points out that the municipality pays for AMO and FCM travel, but agrees that this might something worth tweaking later on.

Caton says that this is about the potential for inappropriate use. What would be the timeline for Code of Conduct review. Clerk McMahon says governance review coming in March.



Vote on O'Rourke amendments fail with only O'Rourke, Caron, Richardson and Caton voting in favour.

Original motion approved unanimously.

Municipal Franchise Agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc. This is simply the ratification of the motions passed at committee, but there are new delegations.

**Recommendation:**

1. That the report entitled Municipal Franchise Agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc. dated November 5, 2024, be received for information.
2. That Council request the Province of Ontario to amend section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the Municipal Act, 2001, to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces.
3. That Council direct staff, to the satisfaction of the DCAO of IDE, to negotiate a Franchise Agreement with the gas distribution company that:
  - a. will allow the City of Guelph to charge fees for use of public property if and when Ontario Regulation 584/06 is amended to allow such charges,
  - b. will ensure that the City of Guelph is not liable to pay for any gas infrastructure relocations needed due to conflicts with municipal infrastructure, and
  - c. will ensure future charges for use of municipal property is not passed on to Guelph customers of the gas distribution company.
4. That the City of Guelph supports, in principle, the Bill 219, "No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024" tabled November 4, 2024 by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner.
5. That the above referenced motions and a letter of support for Bill 219, be circulated to MPP Mike Schreiner, Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification, the Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and its member municipalities.

First up is Indigo Moran from Youth Climate Anxiety and Action. They note that Enbridge is having a very good year, and have been alleged to be ignoring need maintenance on their pipes.

**EPA fines Enbridge \$6.7 million over failure to fix pipeline safety issues**

The pipeline fixes Enbridge failed to address were in a 2017 consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department, settling the 2010 Marshall oil spill

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/06/19/epa-enbridge-pipeline-sa...>

Patrick McMahon and Murray Costello from Enbridge Gas are next. They say Enbridge was an early adopter to renewables, and notes that they're working with the City to upgrade systems in advance of downtown revitalisation. And hey, they pay property taxes!

Costello says that the agreement's been in place since 2000 and it's meant to create a level playing field so one city isn't funding work in another. He says there are opportunity for OEB changes at 7 and 14 years. They're committee to lower emissions & keep costs low.

Caron asks if they acknowledge that energy landscaped changed in last 20 years, maybe that's out of date? McMahon says the franchise agreement is terms and conditions and doesn't count for changes in techs and frameworks. Meant to be generic.

McMahon says that OEB has been pushing to change the agreement mostly because they're not getting complaints about it.

Guthrie asks about how this is done in other provinces. McMahon says in ALBA, for example, the difficulty is the rate impact, Edmonton alone gets \$70mn so the rates go up. It

falls on the gas rate payer to cover those fees.

Billings asks if fees will end up passed on to rate payers if they sign a new agreement along the lines of the motion. McMahon says the OEB would not recognise speculative legislation, they would not recommend change b/c rates follow benefits.

Gibson asks about impact of carbon tax on revenue (not profit). Costello says they're N.America's largest gas infrastructure company, and that has to be taken into account, more than gas distribution. McMahon adds OEB restricts profits on gas bills, any more they have to give back.

Next, Henry Moran and Gyruss Valeriote, also from Youth Climate Anxiety and Action. Valeriote says there's no change without consequence, and Guelph should want to be part of a positive consequence by upholding this motion.

Moran says that there's an overwhelming trend of adolescent depression stemming from concern about the climate crisis. No longer subsidising Enbridge would be a step in the right direction.

Gaby Kalapos from the Clean Air Partnership is next. She says understanding the un-level playing field is key to understanding the fight for climate solutions; all these fossil fuel companies have hidden subsidies, while clean tech struggles. Cities can push to get this on agenda

Next is Gina Lammel from Seniors for Climate Action Now! She says that council took a bold step this motion and has to now take it the rest of the way by ratifying this. She asks council to be a leader on this issue by pushing for change.

Last, but not least, Evan Ferrari from eMERGE Guelph Sustainability. He says taxpayers should not be subsidising fossil fuels, and the fact that they property taxes does not alone make them good corporate citizens. Emissions 📈 + budget cuts + subsidy = not good.

Back to council. Caron/Klassen move the recommendations.

Gibson asks to see the slate, wants to separate them b/c he wants to support some, not all.

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Before the vote Guthrie says he had a good meeting at a GCOM meeting with the former mayor of Vancouver. He says Gregor Robertson's been a big influence, and though he's a "big free market guy" he knows there's a shift happening. There should be more of a level playing field.

Guthrie says that some of these motions have unknown results, but the people not on fossil fuel pipes will not end up paying. The carbon tax is meant to nudge people to understand there are other choices. In other words, this isn't perfect, but it's a statement to level the field

This is a message to proclaim choice, Guthrie says, and choice here is promoted very, very clearly.

Rec #1: Unanimous

Rec #2: 11-2 (Gibson, Billings)

Gibson says there are a lot of platitudes about protecting rate payers, but that won't come to pass. Caron says these clauses are aspiration b/c a change is coming.

Rec #3: 10-3 (Gibson, Billings, Chew)

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Rec #4: 11-2 (Gibson, Billings)

Rec #5: Unanimous.



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O'Rourke asks for point of privilege: Gibson made an assumption that rates are being driven by Carbon Tax and there's no evidence of that. Guthrie says he will leave that for everyone to consider in their own way.

Bylaws of the week approved.

**9. By-laws**

Resolution to adopt the bylaws (Councillor Caton)

**\*9.1 By-law Number (2024) - 21005**

A by-law to amend By-law Number (2015)-19985, as amended, being a by-law respecting Building, Demolition, Conditional, Change of Use and Occupancy Permits, Payment of Fees, Inspections, Appointment of Inspectors and a Code of Conduct.

**\*9.2 By-law Number (2024) - 21012**

A by-law to amend the Traffic and Parking By-law Number (2022) – 20698, as amended, being a By-law to regulate the use of Highways within the City of Guelph and the Traffic and Parking thereon

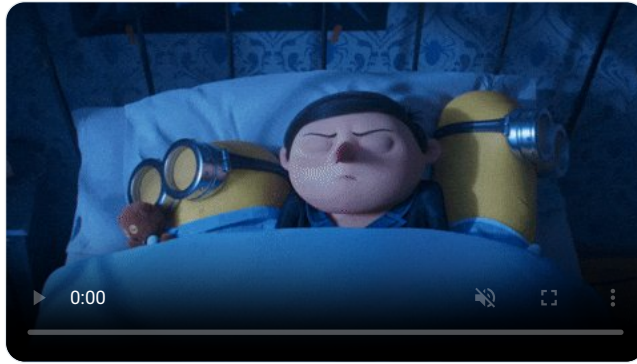
**\*9.3 By-law Number (2024) - 21017**

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council Planning and City Council meetings of Guelph City Council held November 26, 2024, the Special Council meeting of Guelph City Council held November 19, 2024 and a portion of the Council Planning meeting held November 13, 2024 related to Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District - Draft Plan and Guidelines agenda item.

Mayor's Announcement:

Be back here tomorrow at 9 am for the budget meeting!

That's a wrap for tonight!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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