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Jan 14, 2025 · 61 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1879211216838774978](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1879211216838774978)

The council year begins at noon with a special closed meeting of city council. This is the background on what's being discussed:



Mayor Guthrie has called the meeting to order.

Motion go into closed under Section 239(2)(e) and (f) of the Act, "regarding litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege..."

No one on council expressed any Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof.

Council has gone in-camera.



After nearly an hour, council and staff are emerging from closed session. Stand by...

Guthrie calls the meeting back to order.

Recap: The mayor says they received information from staff, and they gave direction in-camera, which will now be approved in the open...

The motion asks for the GM of Planning to execute an agreement on 384 Crawley.

384 Crawley Road - Ontario Land Tribunal Update



That Council authorizes and directs the General Manager of Planning and Building Services, in consultation with the General Manager of Engineering and Transportation Services and the City Solicitor, to approve a conditional site plan for Phase 0 of a commercial development at 384 Crawley Road, and to authorize tree removal on the site as part of conditional approval.

Guthrie says he's very excited about the opportunity, and they've been working on this for some time. He's very excited about what's to come, and is a sign to show that the city is open for business.

Motion approved 9-2 with Allt and Caton voting against.

That's a wrap for this meeting.

Committee of the Whole starts in a bit!



It's time for Committee of the Whole!

Mayor Guthrie calls the meeting to order.

We begin with... a closed meeting! ☐

The topic:

Chief Administrative Officer 2025 Performance Objectives Review. In-camera is taking place under Section 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, regarding labour relations or employee negotiations.

There will be a full report on this item in the open session so...



And we're back!

Mayor Guthrie notes that they had a discussion with the CAO and there's a motion:

**Chief Administrative Officer 2025
Performance Objectives Review**



1. That the Chief Administrative Officer 2025 Performance Objectives as included in Attachment-1 to report 2025-05, dated January 14, 2025, be approved.
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer present the Chief Administrative Officer 2025 Performance Objectives in the open portion of the January 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion is approved, and that presentation will be coming shortly...

No Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof.

Regrets from Cllr Downer and Cllr Klassen who's now on mat. leave.

Staff recognition this month: Economic Development Officer Allison Nap is recognised for getting her Certificate in Municipal Administration.



Completed a Certificate in Municipal Administration
issued through the Association of Municipal Managers,
Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.



Allison Nap
**Economic Development
Officer**

05:13

Next, Baker's presentation of the Chief Administrative Officer 2025 Performance Objectives which were just approved.

Baker says this is an important moment that demonstrates an alignment of expectations between council and senior staff: One team and one vision.

Priorities (and where they sit in the Strategic Plan):



Link to the CAO Presentation: <https://pub-guelph.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=56703>

Affordability will be driving decisions, and these are the key outcomes:

- Council input towards 2026-2027 Mayoral Budget Direction
- Enterprise Risk Management framework and risk register
- Complete specific Service Rationalization Review actions
- Community Benefit Agreement review

Housing "NOW":

-A culture of 'Housing Now' - remove barriers, implement creative solutions to increase units, optimize organizational structure, and improve customer experience
(cont'd)

-Bi-annual corporate housing report to Council Meet project obligations of housing
-enabling grants and pursue all funding options
-Advance at least 2 properties for purpose of creating housing (directly or indirectly)
(cont'd)

-Implement high-priority Housing Affordability Strategy actions
– clarify the role of the City

Culture and Relationships:

Key outcomes:

- Share Employee Engagement results and actions
- Build leadership capacity
 - Customer-centric process improvements and innovation
 - Remove barriers, engage with people where they are
- Elevated recognition of teamwork, customer service and collaboration

Key outcomes:

- Deliberately foster relationships to advance community needs beyond core City business.
- Convene the community towards community climate action and report on Race to Zero progress.
- Listen, problem solve and partner with organizations to advance Housing Now.
- Improve business relationships in construction by reducing negative impacts, involving stakeholders, and managing risks before they become problems.

6

Cllr Gibson says he wants to affirm the importance of the relationships. It takes a lot of partners to make the city go around from the hospital to advanced manufacturing. The City is a part but not the only part.

Guthrie thanks Baker for her leadership over the last couple of months and thinks she's been doing a good job. Wishes her the best in the year to come in achieving these goals.

One IDE Item: Solid Waste Management By-law Update.

On January 1, the City of Guelph – like all municipalities in Ontario – is no longer responsible for the collection of blue bins and the recyclables there in...

...This requires some changes to Guelph's Waste Management Bylaw like new and revised definitions for recyclables and clarification of the City's responsibilities now when it comes to the recycling system.

Recommendation:

That City Council approve the proposed amendments to the Waste Management By-law to

align with the Blue Box Regulation.

Is Approved.

Next, City Council Expense Policy.

This policy has been tweaked to allow for new types of eligible expenses for councillors, specifically town halls, public meetings, public consultations and general communications.

On that last point, there are some criteria that comms need to comply with like no violence or hatred, nothing offensive, no inappropriate language, and nothing misleading or false. There's no increase to the \$12,000 council communications budget because of these changes either.

Cllr Caton asks why no logo used on town hall comms and promos. Clerk McMahon says that it's to keep political communications separate from corporate comms. Caton says she will take the discussion offline.

Cllr Billings asks about facility rentals for town halls, that doesn't include city owned facility. McMahon says that's right, City properties are gratis.

Recommendation:

That the updated City Council Expense Policy, included as Attachment-1 to report 2025-06, be approved.

Is approved.

Next, and last, Future in Focus: Guelph's Advocacy Plan.

Presenting are:

- Kimberly Krawczyk, Manager, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations
- Ilya Spivak, Intergovernmental Advisor

The challenges:

- Increasing number of complex issues requiring intergovernmental collaboration
- Limited opportunities to engage directly with decision makers
- Diverse voices and perspectives within the City

There are issues being faced by all municipalities in Ontario, so meeting time with stakeholders and upper levels of gov. is a premium, which is why they need this co-ordinated efforts.

The goals:

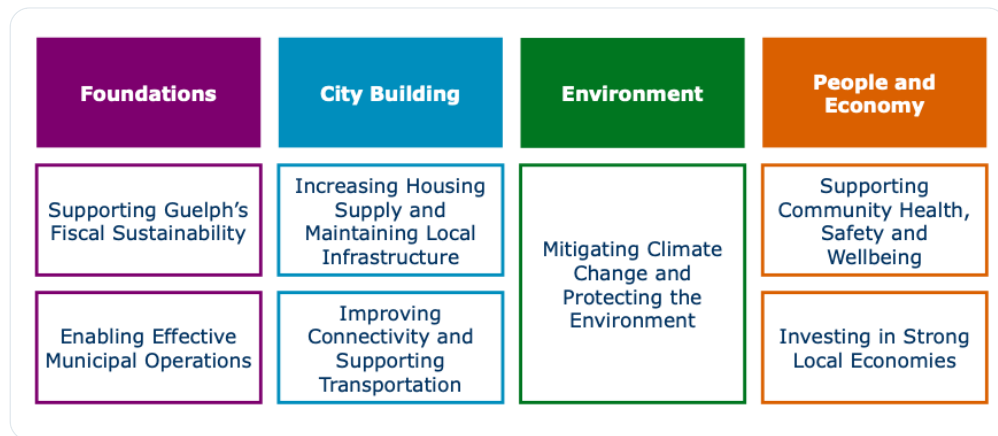
- 1.Maximize impacts of advocacy
- 2.Create a united Guelph voice on advocacy issues
- 3.Provide increased transparency on advocacy activities
- 4.Facilitate proactive and prioritized advocacy work planning

Putting this together began with internal engagement. Priority areas were refined through engagement and they formalised with the identification of advocacy needs.

The process:

- Identifying scope of City's advocacy and outlining process for defining advocacy issues
- Identifying types of stakeholders and their role in advocacy

- Developing prioritization criteria and framework
 - Developing approach for tactic selection
- The key directions (organised by Strategic Plan areas):



Next steps: Implementation...

- Advocacy planning
- Issue profile development
- Stakeholder outreach
- Execution of tactics

Next steps: Evaluation...

- Enhanced intergovernmental performance tracking and reporting
- Integration of outcome-based metrics and qualitative data

Krawczyk says a good example in the coming months is that the City will be developing materials to promote issues important to Guelph in the event of an ON or Fed election, and thus being able to promote issues with candidates and parties.

Guthrie praise intergovernmental team, notes that the politicians due the talking but staff do the prep and the City has been very good at taking advantage of opportunities due to those efforts.

Cllr Busuttil asks about city building around water, how do you balance demand and conservation? Krawczyk says there are a number of issues where they're trying to collect info to inform advocacy. This is one of those. There are a number of pathways to consultation.

Busuttil asks about wording about increased funding from the County, should that not be funding from ONgov through the County? Krawczyk says there's items that are not under City's control, but does have impact on Guelph. Funding for the County does impact Guelph as service mngr.

Cllr O'Rourke asks is there's a timeline. Krawczyk says the intention with attachment #2 () is a snapshot of current and emerging issues. It's meant to be living document and will develop with the issues. <https://pub-guelph.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=56699>

O'Rourke asks about capacity for new issues. Manager Sales says her team is operating at "full capacity" due to rate of change, and then responded to 26 consultations in 2024, 27 intergovernmental meetings, \$200 mn in funding. They're small but mighty.

O'Rourke asks about Guelph/Cambridge GO Train, which is a "C-List" effort, where's 2WADGO? Krawczyk says Cambridge train is still early days, don't know what advocacy they'll need, as for 2WADGO they've done a lot in past years and they've exhausted channels at the moment.

O'Rourke asks about Central Station, getting it open. Operations can appeal to Metrolinx even if it's not on the list. DCAO Holmes says they're *always* talking to Metrolinx and are having those discussions. It's top of agenda on regular meets.

Cllr Allt asks about measuring success with deadlines, and being fluid with changing gov'ts. Krawczyk says they intergov. index they publish offers hints, but they are look at more concrete methods, and they're seeking ways to tell stories thru data collected. Look to July.

Cllr Caton asks about having some more public reporting on the website and not just a quarterly reports. Krawczyk says there are a number of ways they can provide awareness in addition to the ones they already use.

Busuttil asks about advocacy for LTC beds, where does that lie? DCAO Clack-Bush says Ministry of LTC does bed allocation and is at their discretion, and City has not taken an active role outside of role as owner of The Elliott.

Busuttil asks about loss of LTC beds. Clack-Bush says they do engage with the Ministry from time to time about needs, but there's been nothing recent following closure of Lapointe-Fisher.

Recommendation:

That the updated City Council Expense Policy, included as Attachment-1 to report 2025-06, be approved.

And it is approved.

That's a wrap for the Committee of the Whole meeting.



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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