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Mar 25, 2025 · 74 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1904531476810551477](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1904531476810551477)

Coming up at 10 am, it's this month's regular meeting of council. This is what's on the agenda:



City Council Preview – What's on the Agenda for the March 25, 2025 M...

The last meeting for March is a recital of the past. Yes, as usual, we will revisit the (almost whole) agenda from this month's Committee of the Whole meeting, but there's also new/old ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2025/03/14/city-council-preview-whats-on-the-agenda-for-the-...>

Chair Busuttil has called the meeting to order.

Closed meeting recap on Municipal Franchise Agreement with Enbridge – Legal Update.
Busuttil says that they received info and gave direction.

Regrets today from Cllr O'Rourke, who's applying for a new job this next month.

Busuttil announces that we'll pause for 15 min. at 10:30 to address an IT issue in the chambers.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope!

The minutes of the open Council Meetings held February 11, 19, and 25, 2025, and the open minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held February 4, 2025 are confirmed.

Consent agenda. Caron asks to separate 7.2.

7.1 2025 Property Tax Policy, 2025-89

Recommendation:

1. That the 2025 City of Guelph property tax ratios and corresponding tax rates, as set out in Attachment-1 to the report 2025-89 titled 2025 Property Tax Policy dated March 4, 2025, be approved.

7.2 Redesigning Advisory Committees of Council – Final Report, 2025-50



Correspondence:

*Steven Petric

Recommendation:

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-1 to report 2025-50, be approved.
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-2 to report 2025-50, be approved.
3. That the Planning, Environment and Water Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-3 to report 2025-50, be approved.
4. That the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-4 to report 2025-50, be approved.
5. That the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-5 to report 2025-50, be approved.
6. That the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-6 to report 2025-50, be approved, as amended.
7. That the Committee of Adjustment and Property Standards Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-7 to report 2025-50, be approved, as amended.
8. That the Advisory Committee of Council - Administration Policy be repealed, as described in report 2025-50.
9. That the Advisory Committees of Council – Meeting Procedures, included as Attachment-8 to report 2025-50, be approved.
10. That the Advisory Committees of Council – Public Appointment Policy, included as Attachment-9 to report 2025-50, be approved.

11. That the following Advisory Committees of Council be dissolved, following the appointment of members to, and the first meeting of, the newly created Advisory Committees of Council:
 - a. Committee of Adjustment
 - b. Guelph Economic Development Advisory Committee
 - c. Guelph Museums Advisory Committee
 - d. Natural Heritage Advisory Committee
 - e. Planning Advisory Committee
 - f. Property Standards Committee
 - g. Public Art Advisory Committee
 - h. Tourism Advisory Committee
 - i. Transit Advisory Committee
 - j. Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee
12. That the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Committee be dissolved, following the appointment of members to, and the first meeting of, the newly created Planning, Environment and Water Advisory Committee and the approval of the updated Public Liaison Committee Terms of Reference by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
13. That the Municipal Property and Commemorative Naming Committee be dissolved, following its transition to an alternative form of community engagement.

7.3 2025 Governance Review, 2025-44



Recommendation:

1. That the Procedure By-law, included as Attachment-1 to report 2025-44, be approved.
2. That the Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy, included as Attachment-4 to report 2025-44, be approved.
3. That the Public Notice Provisions Policy be updated as outlined in report 2025-44, to amend the definition of newspaper to include electronic publications.
4. That the Delegation of Authority By-law amendments, included in Attachment-5 to report 2025-44, be approved.

Attachment-5 to report 2025-44, be approved.

7.4 Single Use Items Strategy Phase 2 Reusable Containers, 2025-84



Recommendation:

1. That the additional phase 2 recommendation for the Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy, as included in report 2025-84, dated March 4, 2025, be approved.
2. That the Single-Use Items By-law (2025) - 21033, as amended, be approved.

All but 7.2 approved unanimously.

Caron says that she's had convos with Heritage planning staff about her failed amendment at CoW, and has a revised version based on their feedback, Downer seconds.

Redesigning Advisory Committees of Council – Final Report, 2025-50

Councillor Caron



1. That the Membership and Composition Section of the Heritage Advisory Committee terms of reference, included as Attachment-2 to report 2025-50, be amended to:

Committee members will bring a mix of lived and professional expertise, knowledge and interest related to:

And that the following areas of expertise/skill be added to the membership and composition:

- a. libraries, archives, heritage/history education
- b. Indigenous ecological/ancestral knowledge
- c. landscape architecture and/or natural heritage

0:33



DCAO Holmes says they have no issues with the amendment.

Amendment approved unanimously.

Amended 7.2 approved.

Next, Vision Zero Action Plan. No new info, but we do have a delegation from Morgan Dandie. She thanks staff for putting this together and notes that a number of councillors have said that they don't want to cut transit any further, since it's not an acceptable option for some.

Dandie: Working thru Vision Zero we have to keep in mind two things: Cars create congestion, and transit is not an option for some people with timing and direction are factors.

Allt/Goller move recommendation:

Recommendation:

1. That Vision Zero Guelph – Action Plan for Safe Streets, included as Attachment- 1, to the Infrastructure, Development & Environment Report 2025-12, dated March 4, 2025, be approved.
2. That the Community Safety Zone Policy, included as Attachment-3, to the Infrastructure, Development and Environment Services Report 2025-12, dated March 4, 2025, be approved and in effect as of July 1, 2025.
3. That staff be directed to bring forward a revised Traffic By-law, including Community Safety Zones and speed limits in preparation for future automated enforcement programs, as outlined in report Infrastructure, Development and Environment 2025-12 dated March 4, 2025.

Guthrie has amendments. The first has to do with #4, to amend it to have city council approval for transit only lanes. Billings seconds.

4

Design safe streets. All road users need to be safe on our streets. We will apply new design standards to roads we add or change, especially at intersections, to address known safety issues.

Vision Zero Action Plan - 2025-12

Mayor Guthrie



1. That Action 4 of the Vision Zero Guelph - Action Plan for Safe Streets (Implement the Quality Transit Network, including the conversion of general traffic lanes to dedicated transit lanes), be amended to require City Council approval prior to implementation.

Allt wonders about the implementation. City Engineer Gayman says this is direction from the Transportation Master Plan, but any potential change of use to lanes will be study thru process. They don't mind coming back, but they feel like they already got the go ahead.

Gibson says it's tough for residents to see decisions made, and then get angry with councillors for approving policy but not specific changes. Council needs to be more proactive. Chew says big changes coming to Gordon and there will be some "radical transparency".

Amendment approved.

Next concerns #57:

Action no.	Action	Focus area	Deliverable / Activities	Timeline	Departments / Divisions
57	Review and support enhanced driver education and training initiatives with the Ministry of Transportation.	Work together	Meetings	Annual	Transportation Engineering
58	Advocate to the Ministry of Transportation	Work	Meetings	Annual	Transportation

Vision Zero Action Plan - 2025-12

Mayor Guthrie



1. That Action 57 of the Vision Zero Guelph - Action Plan for Safe Streets, be amended to add the words "and testing" as follows: "Review and support enhanced driver education, training initiatives and testing with the Ministry of Transportation".

That amendment's approved.

Goller asks about #58, getting a minimum standard for winter maintenance from ONgov. Can City do it on our own for active transport? Gayman says they're always looking to improve, and can look at doing more.

Goller says a lot of residents feel like speed cameras are "gotcha" can we add more signing? Staff say they do the signage required, post locales on website, which is picked up by media,

and have a set schedule for moving them. Signage is prescribed.

Guthrie asks about the process time for tix, ppl get them 30 days later and if this is about safety, why not sooner? Staff says the vender is working to get images to processing centre day-of. Hopes it's in place for Aug 1 expansion.

Guthrie asks when the bulk of the tickets are being given out. Holmes says they're looking at places based on times when the most vulnerable users are at risk. Doesn't have a %, but the bulk is during those times.

Gibson says the most effective speed enforcement is the centre bollard, can we use them with the cameras? Staff says that's a takeaway, can't think of why they can't but there may be regs that prevent it.

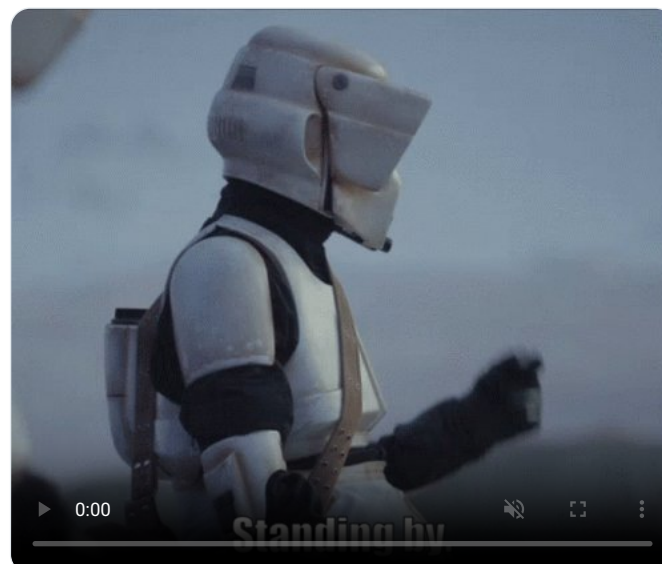
Gibson says he wants the message that this is not a revenue stream. Ideally, Guelph should get no money from this effort b/c everyone is driving safe.

Amended recommendations for Vision Zero approved.

We're now taking a 15-minute I.T. break!



We're still working on I.T. issues so please keep standing by.



So Cllr Caton has now joined us in chambers. Not sure if this is related to the I.T. issues.

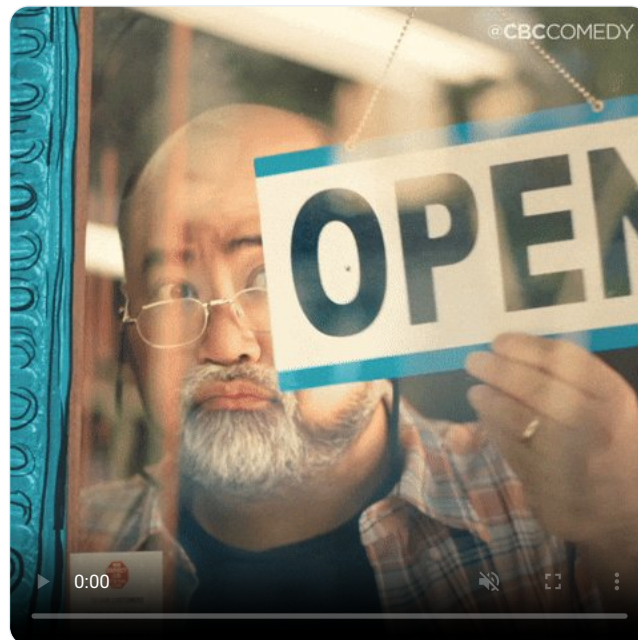


Next. Public Space Use Bylaw – Proposed Amendment.

The amendment: That the definition of “Sensitive Public Space” in section 3.5(1) add after the words "includes but is not limited to," the words "any Public Space that shares a property line with a school or childcare centre".

Dandie is back as the one delegate. She says she hoped to hear from Guthrie, the mover, before speaking b/c she's not sure what this is for and speaks to how quickly this was pushed thru last year that we're amending it 8 months later.

Back to Guthrie who says that he has nothing to add and asks to move into closed session for legal advise first. Goller seconds. And council is now in closed...



Council and staff are emerging from closed.

And we're back! Busuttil says that info was received by council for Public Space Use Bylaw – Proposed Amendment.

Guthrie tables his motion. Goller seconds. Guthrie says he's received a lot of concerns from parents and educators and others that this should have been added to sensitive areas from the jump. These areas are used for Easter egg hunts and other things, and friction could result.

Guthrie says he sent this out to the school boards, and there might not have been alignment with all the meeting days of the board, but he did hear from the WCDSB and they endorse the motion. The impact is 27 out of 119 areas, or 22% Guthrie says.

Guthrie says he doesn't mean this to be controversial, he's just responding to the feedback he's hearing, and he's trying to bring this clarity and transparency out in the open. Notes that council took a vote an hour ago on safety around schools (speeding that is).

Caton says she's concerned about the speed and lack of public engagement. Cars are a known risk, but people in tents are not a proven risk. Why no engagement to the AAC? Asks to refer this to that committee and wait and see what impacts to the disabled community? Allt 2nds.

Guthrie asks staff if it's a requirement and if there was any feedback from council on this motion? DCAO Clack-Bush said she had an inquiry from the Poverty Task Force. And no, no requirement to consult with the AAC.

Clerks say there was no correspondence on this.

Guthrie asks Caton if she had talked to anyone about this. Caton said she made the chair aware, but she was unable to access her email due to tech issue.

Guthrie is asking why Caton hasn't said anything since the agenda was posted. Caton says they only thought of this today. Guthrie says this feels like a gotcha and that Caton isn't being transparent.

Allt calls urgent point of order and notes that this kind of referral has come up at the spur of the moment before and that this questioning is out of order. Guthrie says the time has come to make a decision and that the AAC has been engaged. (Note: They haven't.)

Caron says she's found this line of questioning uncomfortable, and notes that Guthrie talked directly to the school boards and that a pause for the AAC will allow the boards to respond. When did Guthrie engage with them?

Guthrie tells Caron she should know since he transparently tagged the council in the board in an email that the motion was coming. Caron says she means the board's specifically. Guthrie says it was the day before the agenda was posted.

Caron says it may be valuable to give the boards time to respond as an org.

Allt says he will support the referral as he's concerned about Charter challenges. There may be people whose lives are being put in an "uncomfortable situation".

Goller says he received a lot of concerns last summer about people concerned about tents near schools, so they've heard from both sides. However this is a sensitive issue, so why not hear from others and take more time.

Richardson asks if this is a clarification not a change. Clack-Bush says there's a provision for defining what is a public space, so this is not a "fundamental" change, but it is amending the definition of sensitive public space.

Gibson says that he believes that this amendment has been brought forward in a transparent way, and while this referral is a "bit of a surprise", but if it's a Charter concern why focus on the AAC, why not hear from all groups? Busuttil says he's welcome to broaden the amendment.

Downer says she doesn't think it needs a referral, this is only a clarification. Doesn't see it as different from what was previously done and it seems like it's helped people get into shelters. Knows AAC that didn't support original, but this is not fundamentally different.

Caton says the change is not significant, but the amount of property is. Several schools border on very large greenspaces. Gibson says this sounds like a justification for voting against the amendment. Caton says this about justifying the referral, the extent of the impact.

Caton says the AAC isn't meeting this month, and can't organise within 2 weeks, so asking for time to get their feedback.

Chew says in other circumstances he'd be happy to give the AAC time, but this was presented transparently and not a substantive change. It's council's duty to continue to dialogue, but this is not a 2-week process, it's been longer than that.

Guthrie asks if the bylaw went to the AAC. Clack-Bush says it went to the Oct 17 meeting, which was after it was approved, and they delayed implementation until after that meeting.

Guthrie asks if they expect any different commentary from the AAC. Clack-Bush says that she doesn't want to speak for them, but they can consult the minutes, and they (staff) were at the meeting to talk implementation.

Motion fails with only Allt, Goller, Caton, and Caron voting in favour.

Gibson notes that council is within its brief to protect sensitive populations and notes again the earlier discussion about traffic. The public wants this clarity.

Caton says they're leaning into a stigma: People who live in tents are inherently dangerous. Cars can kill people and we know that, and we're reducing the space where people who are unhoused can be. It's confusing, and we were told the original version was working.

Downer asks about numbers. Clack-Bush says it could change as new schools and daycares open, but as it stands 27 out of 119 parks will be affected. There's 1 encampment they're aware of now that would be affected.

Downer asks if any complaints have been received from schools and daycares. Clack-Bush says no, but they may not have had a "practical case" where there's been an encampment. She adds that may be because they only know of the one.

Downer says she was initially cool to this idea, but sees it as a further refinement. Not concerned about any Charter challenges.

Allt is against and wonders if this will enhance child safety. Not sure it will and they're addressing something with this that people don't like: homelessness. Not solving it, just moving it along.

Busuttil says she won't support and that's overly broad. An encampment could be a click away because of size of park next to school and she's concerned pushing people further out from services and transit. Concerned about consultation w/ school boards too.

Recommendation passes 6-5 (Caton, Goller, Busuttil, Caron, and Allt)

Public Space Use Bylaw – Proposed Amendment



That the definition of "Sensitive Public Space" in section 3.5(1) of By-law (2024)-20990 be amended to add after the words "includes but is not limited to," the words "any Public Space that shares a property line with a school or childcare centre".

Next: Supporting Resolution for Mayor Guthrie's Appointment to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Board of Directors.

Guthrie says he was made aware of a vacancy at the caucus, he applied and thinks it's a great thing for Guelph and it would enable him to work with colleagues across ON and the ONgov.

Recommendation:

That Guelph City Council supports the appointment of Mayor Cam Guthrie to the position of Director, Large Urban Caucus on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.

Guthrie/Richardson move.

Recommendation approved.

Bylaws of the week approved.

***9.1 By-law Number (2025) – 21033**

A by-law to amend By-law Number (2022)-20701, as amended, being a By-law of single-use plastic shopping bags and certain other harmful single-use items within the City of Guelph so as to further the environmental well-being of the City of Guelph.

***9.2 By-law Number (2025) - 21038**

A By-law to set tax ratios and tax rate reductions for prescribed property subclasses for the Corporation of the City of Guelph for the year 2025.

***9.3 By-law Number (2025) - 21039**

A By-law to impose and levy a rate of taxation for the Board of Management for the Downtown Business Improvement Area of the City of Guelph for the 2025 taxation year.

***9.4 By-law Number (2025) - 21040**

A By-law to levy education tax rates for the year 2025.

***9.5 By-law Number (2025) - 21041**

A By-law to set the tax rates for City purposes for the year 2025 and to provide for a final tax levy and the payment of taxes.

***9.6 By-law Number (2025) - 21052**

A By-law to amend by-law number (2024) – 21002 being a by-law to impose user fees or charges for services or activities relating to Public Services, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services, Corporate Services and the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

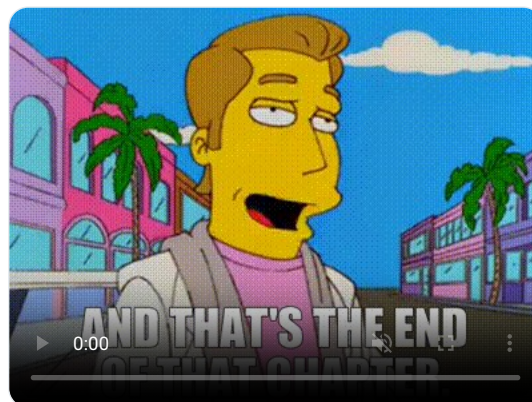
***9.7 By-law Number (2025) - 21067**

A By-law to provide rules for governing the order and procedures of the Council of the City of Guelph and to repeal By-law Number (2024) - 20900.

***9.8 By-law Number (2025) - 21068**

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held March 25, 2025.

This meeting is over.



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