



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:36 p.m.

S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium

Present:

- Mayor Ken Boshcoff
- Councillor Rajni Agarwal
- Councillor Albert Aiello
- Councillor Mark Bentz
- Councillor Shelby Ch'ng
- Councillor Andrew Foulds
- Councillor Trevor Giertuga
- Councillor Brian Hamilton
- Councillor Greg Johnsen
- Councillor Kristen Oliver
- Councillor Dominic Pasqualino
- Councillor Michael Zussino

Officials:

- Krista Power, Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk
- John Collin, City Manager
- Dawne Latta, Deputy City Solicitor
- Kayla Dixon, Commissioner - Infrastructure & Operations
- Keri Greaves, Commissioner - Corporate Services & City Treasurer
- Kerri Marshall, Commissioner - Growth
- Kelly Robertson, Commissioner - Community Services
- Louisa Constanzo, Acting Director - Strategy & Engagement
- Rilee Willianen, Supervisor- Encampment Response
- Katie Piché, Council & Committee Clerk

1. **City Council**

Speaker: Councillor Andrew Foulds

2. Opening Ceremonies

2.1 Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Greg Johnsen provided a land acknowledgement.

2.2 Moment of Silent Reflection

2.3 National Anthem

Madie Boyd, youth soloist from All the Daze Productions performed the national anthem.

A Moment of Silence was held in honour of the victims in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Brian Hamilton declared a conflict relative to Report 099-2026- Declaring a Homelessness Humanitarian Crisis as he is employed by Norwest Community Health Centre.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmation of Agenda - February 17, 2026 - City Council

4.2 Minutes of Previous City Council Meetings

The Minutes of the following Meeting of the Thunder Bay City Council, to be confirmed

1. The Thunder Bay City Council held on February 3, 2026 was distributed separately on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

4.3 Minutes of Previous Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes of Special Committee of the Whole-Closed Session held on February 3, 2026, to be confirmed was distributed separately on Friday, February 13, 2026.

4.4 Finance & Administration Standing Committee Minutes

Minutes of Finance and Administration Standing Committee, held on February 10, 2026, for information was distributed separately on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

4.5 Quality of Life Standing Committee Minutes

Minutes of Quality of Life Standing Committee, held on February 10, 2026, for information was distributed separately on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

4.6 McIntyre Ward Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting 03-2025 of the McIntyre Ward, held on October 1, 2025, to be confirmed.

4.7 Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Minutes

Minutes of Meeting 09-2025 and 10-2025 of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, held on November 26, 2025 and December 16, 2025, respectively, for information.

4.8 Thunder Bay Police Service Board Minutes

Minutes of Meetings 21-2025, 24-2025 and 29-2025 of the Thunder Bay Police Service Board, held on September 16, 2025, October 21, 2025 and November 18, 2025, respectively, for information.

4.9 Delegated Authority - Superior North EMS

Memorandum from Chief of EMS Shane Muir, dated February 6, 2026 recommending that the Commissioner - Community Services be provided the authority to execute the agreements, compliance declarations and other required documents as required to support the delivery of Paramedic

Services by Superior North EMS.

4.10 Community Efficiency Financing Design Study

At the January 27, 2026 Quality of Life Standing Committee meeting, a resolution was passed endorsing that Administration pursue funding to support the creation of a Home Energy Improvement Loan Program in the City of Thunder Bay.

Report 096-2026-Growth-Strategy & Engagement recommending that Administration be directed to pursue funding to support the creation of a Home Energy Improvement Loan Program in the City of Thunder Bay.

4.11 Consent Agenda Resolution

MOVED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to the Consent Agenda for the February 17, 2026 City Council meeting, we recommend that the following items be confirmed:

- Confirmation of Agenda
- Minutes of Previous City Council Meetings - February 3, 2026
- Minutes of Previous Special Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 3, 2026
- Finance & Administration Standing Committee Minutes - February 10, 2026
- Quality of Life Standing Committee - February 10, 2026
- McIntyre Ward Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2025
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Minutes
- Thunder Bay Police Service Board Minutes
- Memorandum - Delegated Authority - Superior North EMS
- Report 96-2026 Community Efficiency Financing Design Study

It was requested that Report 96-2026 be voted on separately.

Consent Agenda Resolution – Items 1 – 9

MOVED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to the Consent Agenda for the February 17, 2026 City Council meeting, we recommend that the following items be confirmed:

- Confirmation of Agenda
- Minutes of Previous City Council Meetings - February 3, 2026
- Minutes of Previous Special Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 3, 2026
- Finance & Administration Standing Committee Minutes - February 10, 2026
- Quality of Life Standing Committee - February 10, 2026
- McIntyre Ward Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2025
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Minutes
- Thunder Bay Police Service Board Minutes
- Memorandum - Delegated Authority - Superior North EMS

For (12): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (12 to 0)

Consent Agenda – Item 10 - Report 96-2026 Community Efficiency Financing Design Study

MOVED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to Report 096-2026-Growth-Strategy & Engagement, we recommend that Administration be directed to pursue funding to support the creation of a Home Energy Improvement Loan Program in the City of Thunder Bay;

AND THAT the City continue to explore opportunities to collaborate on a regional third-party financing program with other municipalities in Northern Ontario;

AND THAT any necessary By-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

For (12): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (12 to 0)

5. Item Arising from Closed Session

5.1 Board Appointments - Synergy North

MOVED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to the Confidential Memorandum from Councillor Albert Aiello, Chair of the Thunder Bay Recruitment Committee, dated January 23, 2026 we recommend that the following people be appointed to the Synergy North Board of Directors:

- Murray Walberg be appointed for a 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2029, or until such time as a replacement has been appointed;
- Gary Armstrong be appointed for a 1 year term, expiring April 30, 2027, or until such time as a replacement has been appointed;
- Barb Eccles be appointed for a 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2029.

For (12): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (12 to 0)

6. Reports of Administration

6.1 Declaring a Homelessness Humanitarian Crisis – City Council

At the February 10, 2026 Quality of Life Standing Committee, Report 98-2026-Growth- Strategy & Engagement was presented, a resolution was

passed endorsing that City Council declare homelessness a humanitarian crisis in the City of Thunder Bay.

Report 099-2026-Growth-Strategy & Engagement was distributed separately on Friday, February 13, 2026.

Councillor Brian Hamilton declared a conflict and refrained from discussing or voting on the following resolution.

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to Report 099-2026, we recommend that City Council declare homelessness a humanitarian crisis in the City of Thunder Bay, recognizing the urgent risks to life, health, safety, and dignity for people experiencing homelessness; the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous peoples; and the broader implications for community safety and well-being;

AND THAT Administration be authorized to finalize and issue a joint declaration of humanitarian crisis related to homelessness with Anemki Wajiw (Fort William First Nation) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation;

AND THAT Administration report back twice a year to the Quality of Life Standing Committee on progress, impacts on community safety and well-being, and outcomes of intergovernmental and partner advocacy;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

For (10): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Against (1): Councillor Albert Aiello

Conflict (1): Councillor Brian Hamilton

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (10 to 1)

6.2 Guiding Criteria for Designated Encampment Sites – City Council

At the February 10, 2026 Quality of Life Standing Committee, Report 47-2026-Growth-Strategy & Engagement was presented seeking feedback from the Standing Committee on guiding criteria for identifying designated encampment sites, and to request support for proceeding with site identification and the next phase of consultation. The report was referred to Administration to be re-presented at a future City Council meeting.

Report 110-2026-Growth-Strategy & Engagement was distributed separately on Friday, February 3, 2026.

Supervisor-Encampment Response Rilee Willianen provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

MOVED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

WITH RESPECT to Report 110-2026, we recommend that the Guiding Criteria as outlined in this report be approved;

AND THAT Administration identify options for designated encampment sites in alignment with Distance Guidelines and Guiding Criteria, recognizing not all criteria may be achievable;

AND THAT Administration report back to the Quality of Life Standing Committee with consultation results and three recommended sites prior to presentation to City Council;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

Amendment – Guiding Criteria for Designated Encampment Sites – City Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Rajni Agarwal

SECONDED BY: Councillor Michael Zussino

WITH RESPECT to Report 110-2026 we recommend that in paragraph 3, the Quality of Life Standing Committee be replaced with Special Committee of the Whole;

AND THAT the following paragraph be added as Paragraph 4:

“AND THAT the date of the Special Committee of Whole meeting be established by the Office of the City Clerk.”

For (8): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Against (4): Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Greg Johnsen, and Councillor Kristen Oliver

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (8 to 4)

Amended Resolution – Guiding Criteria for Designated Encampment Sites – City Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

WITH RESPECT to Report 110-2026, we recommend that the Guiding Criteria as outlined in this report be approved;

AND THAT Administration identify options for designated encampment sites in alignment with Distance Guidelines and Guiding Criteria, recognizing not all criteria may be achievable;

AND THAT Administration report back to Special Committee of the Whole with consultation results and three recommended sites prior to presentation to City Council;

AND THAT the date of the Special Committee of Whole meeting be established by the Office of the City Clerk;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

For (12): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etrene

CARRIED (12 to 0)

7. By-laws and By-law Resolution

7.1 By-law 42-2026 – Amendment to User Fee By-law

A By-law to amend By-law Number 24-2025, being a By-law to set fees and charges imposed for various municipal services, to be known as the “User Fee By-law”.

7.2 By-law 095-2026 – Site Plan Control Designation – 226 and 228 Pearl Street

A By-law to designate areas of Site Plan Control pursuant to Section 41 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended (226 and 228 Pearl Street).

7.3 By-law Resolution

By-law Resolution - February 17, 2026 - City Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Michael Zussino

SECONDED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

THAT the following By-laws be introduced, read, dealt with individually, engrossed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed and numbered:

By-law Number: 42-2026

1. A By-law to amend By-law Number 24-2025, being a By-law to set fees and charges imposed for various municipal services, to be known as the “User Fee By-law”

By-law Number 95-2026

2. A By-law to designate areas of Site Plan Control pursuant to Section 41 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended (226 and 228 Pearl Street).

For (12): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Kristen Oliver, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (1): Councillor Kasey Etreni

CARRIED (12 to 0)

8. New Business

8.1 Establishment of Special Committee of the Whole - Closed Session - March 3, 2026 and Rescheduling of March 2026 Standing Committee Meetings

Memorandum from Director - Legislative Services and City Clerk Krista Power, dated February 17, 2026 relative to rescheduling Standing Committee meetings in March.

MOVED BY: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

SECONDED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

THAT a Special Committee of the Whole –Closed Session meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in order to receive information pursuant to the Municipal Act (Section 239 (2)) relative to:

(3.1) A meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members;
2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 103 (1);

AND THAT with respect to the Memorandum from Krista Power, Director – Legislative Services & City Clerk, dated February 17, 2026, we recommend that the Finance & Administration Standing Committee be rescheduled from March 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to March 10, 2026 at 4:30 p.m;

AND THAT the Quality of Life Standing Committee be rescheduled from March 10, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to March 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

For (11): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

Absent (2): Councillor Kasey Etrene, and Councillor Kristen Oliver

CARRIED (11 to 0)

9. Confirming By-law and Confirming By-law Resolution

9.1 By-law 77-2026 – Confirming By-law – February 17, 2026

A By-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Council, this 17th day of February 2026.

9.2 Confirming By-law Resolution

Confirming By-law Resolution - February 17, 2026 - City Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

THAT the following By-law be introduced, read, dealt with individually, engrossed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed and numbered:

By-law Number: 77-2026

1. A By-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Council, this 17th day of February, 2026.

For (11): Mayor Ken Boshcoff, Councillor Rajni Agarwal, Councillor Albert Aiello, Councillor Mark Bentz, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Councillor Andrew Foulds, Councillor Trevor Giertuga, Councillor Brian Hamilton, Councillor Greg Johnsen, Councillor Dominic Pasqualino, and Councillor Michael Zussino

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Absent (2): Councillor Kasey Etrene, and Councillor Kristen Oliver

CARRIED (11 to 0)

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Speaker

City Clerk