



## Quality of Life Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

**S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium**

Present:

Mayor Ken Boshcoff  
Councillor Shelby Ch'ng  
Councillor Andrew Foulds  
Councillor Greg Johnsen  
Councillor Kristen Oliver

Officials:

Jeff Walters, Deputy City Clerk  
John Collin, City Manager  
Brendan Hardick, Solicitor II  
Kayla Dixon, Commissioner - Infrastructure & Operations  
Keri Greaves, Commissioner - Corporate Services & City  
Treasurer  
Kerri Marshall, Commissioner – Growth  
Kelly Robertson, Commissioner - Community Services  
Cynthia Olsen, Director - Strategy & Engagement  
Ian Spoljarich, Manager- Roads – Infrastructure & Operations  
Rilee Willianen, Supervisor- Encampment Response- Growth  
Brad Loroff, Manager, Transit Services- Community Services  
Matthew Furioso, Supervisor- Operations and Standards-  
Community Services  
Danielle Slongo, Climate Action Specialist- Growth  
Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator – Infrastructure &  
Operations  
Louisa Constanzo, Manager- Community Safety & Wellbeing-  
Growth  
Matthew Miedema, Director- Engineering – Infrastructure &  
Operations  
Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System  
Coordinator

Yvonne Opoku, Council & Committee Clerk

**1. Quality of Life Standing Committee in the S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium (Council Chambers) at 7:00 p.m.**

Chair: Councillor Kristen Oliver

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Councillor Shelby Ch'ng provided a land acknowledgement.

**3. Disclosures of Interest**

**4. Confirmation of Agenda**

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to the Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Quality of Life Standing Committee meeting, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

**5. Presentations**

**5.1 Poverty Reduction Strategy**

The Deputy City Clerk advised that the presentation has been withdrawn from the agenda and re-scheduled to the March 10, 2026 Quality of Life Standing Committee meeting.

**5.2 Snowplow Status Map**

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

**6. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Minutes of Quality of Life Standing Committee, held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, for information.

**7. Reports of Administration**

**7.1 Guiding Criteria for Designated Encampment Sites**

Report 47-2026 - Growth-Strategy & Engagement seeking feedback from the Quality of Life 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.

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

**Referral - Guiding Criteria for Designation Encampment Sites**

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

WITH RESPECT to Report 47-2026 - Growth - Strategy & Engagement, we recommend that the Report be referred back to Administration to include the feedback provided by the Quality of Life Standing Committee and to bring the Guiding Criteria for Designation Encampments directly to City Council for approval.

CARRIED

**7.2 Declaring a Humanitarian Crisis on Homelessness – Quality of Life Standing Committee**

Report 98-2026 - Growth- Strategy & Engagement requesting endorsement of Standing Committee to recommend that City Council declare homelessness a humanitarian crisis in the City of Thunder Bay was distributed separately on Friday, February 6, 2026.

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to Report 98-2026, we request endorsement of Standing Committee to forward the following recommendation to City Council:

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 yearly, 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.

CARRIED

### **7.3 Transit Service Adjustments**

Report 78-2026 - Community Services - Transit Services seeking endorsement from the Quality of Life Standing Committee to temporarily reduce transit service levels given staffing challenges to better manage passenger expectations, help provide a more consistent and predictable service, and achieve improved system reliability.

Correspondence received from Fred Caputo, President - ATU Local 966 Transit Workers on February 6, 2026 requesting to appear before Standing Committee was distributed separately on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Fred Caputo and Charlene Klassen, Executive Board Member – ATU Local 966 appeared before Committee and responded to questions.

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

WITH RESPECT to Report 78-2026-Community Services-Transit Services, we request endorsement of the Quality of Life Standing Committee to forward the following recommendations to City Council:

WE RECOMMEND THAT Administration move forward with implementing temporary schedule changes across various conventional transit routes starting May 10, 2026;

AND THAT Administration monitor staffing levels and incrementally increase

conventional and specialized transit service levels over the summer and fall when and where feasible;

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

### **Referral - Transit Service Adjustments**

MOVED BY: Councillor Greg Johnsen

SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

WITH RESPECT to Report 78-2026 - Community Services - Transit Services, we recommend that the Report be referred back to Administration to meet with ATU Local 966 officials to determine additional options to address route cancellations and staffing issues.

CARRIED

#### **7.4 Net Zero Strategy Update 2023-2024**

Report 32-2026- Growth- Strategy & Engagement providing an update on the third and fourth years of implementation of Climate-Forward City: Thunder Bay Net-Zero Strategy, for information only.

Danielle Slongo, Climate Action Specialist provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

#### **7.5 Climate Adaptation Update 2025**

Report 43-2026 - Infrastructure & Operations - Engineering summarizing progress to date and identifies future focus areas to inform the renewal of the Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2026–2027, for information only was distributed Separately on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

### **9:30 P.M. Resolution**

During discussion of the above noted item, the following resolution was passed:

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

THAT the hour being 9:30 p.m. we continue with the business at hand.

CARRIED

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 P.M.