



Westfort Ward Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
West Thunder Community Centre

1. Westfort Ward Meeting 01-2024

Chair: Councillor Kristen Oliver

2. Resource Persons

Werner Schwar, Supervisor - Parks & Open Spaces Planning
Lori Wiitala, Council & Committee Clerk

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair provided introductory comments and welcomed those in attendance.

There were approximately 22 people in attendance.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Westfort Ward meeting held on May 23, 2023, for information.

5. Westfort Ward Infrastructure Projects

A discussion was held relative to the above noted.

The following 2024 capital projects in Westfort Ward were mentioned:

- Pavement rehabilitation on Arthur St. from Mountdale Ave. to James St.
- New sidewalk on Frederica St. W. from Home Ave. to James St.
- Residential street resurfacing on Isabella St. from Grey St. to Ford St.
- Hot-in-place paving on Empire Ave. from Kingsway to Sprague St.

- Intersection improvements on James St. and City Rd. including a new right turn lane
- Pedestrian crossover on Walsh St. E. at Tarbutt St. S.
- Mountdale Ave. boat launch renewal
- Neebing playfield - senior diamond infield replacement
- Darrell Ave. on City Rd. to dead end will be converted to gravel

6. Mountdale Boat Launch

Supervisor - Parks & Open Spaces Planning Werner Schwar provided information relative to the above noted.

The Mountdale Boat Launch project entails enhancing the infrastructure and amenities to better serve the public and improve stormwater quality.

The project will involve the following elements:

1. Roadway Construction: The existing roadway will be reconstructed to provide smooth vehicular access to the boat launch area.
2. Parking Lot Reconstruction: A new parking lot will be constructed, featuring designated spaces to accommodate vehicles of varying sizes, providing efficient traffic flow and ample parking capacity.
3. Sidewalk Installation: A new concrete sidewalk will be installed to provide safe pedestrian access within the boat launch area.
4. Boulevard Reshaping: Existing boulevards will be reshaped to enhance the overall appearance and functionality of the surroundings.
5. Storm Sewer Installation: Construction of a new storm sewer system will be undertaken to efficiently manage runoff and reduce flooding issues in the vicinity.
6. Green Infrastructure Implementation: The project will incorporate green infrastructure elements, including Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, to promote sustainability and environmental conservation efforts. This includes features such as bioretention areas, and rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff in an environmentally friendly manner.
7. Erosion and Sediment Controls: Measures will be implemented to mitigate

erosion and sedimentation to protect surrounding natural habitats and water bodies.

Additionally, the scope of work includes asphalt resurfacing, rehabilitation of catch basins, and the application of topsoil and sod/seed for landscaping purposes.

This project will be part of Contract #12, and will be tendered on March 21, 2024, with a closing date of April 11, 2024. It is expected that the construction will be completed by the end of October 2024.

The Mountdale Boat Launch will be closed to the public during construction to ensure the safety of both workers and visitors.

7. Ward and City Issues

Discussion was held relative to the former Heath Park School - 1115 Yonge St. which is currently owned by Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. In partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Osh-Ki-Niig Mash-Ka-Zii-Win offers a range of community programs and services for Anishinabek children and youth between 5-17 years of age with long standing mental health and behavioural problems and who have been assessed as high risk. Amendments to the Zoning By-law permitted the change in use for the property.

Discussion was held relative to the requirements to rent a basement suite; windows and a fire door are required and to inquire about other requirements.

The upcoming increase in parking fees was discussed; some constituents expressed that parking should remain free, and parkade use should be encouraged.

City Manager recruitment was discussed and the Chair advised that service delivery, efficiency, political acumen, financial sense and significant experience is what they are seeking for in a new City Manager.

The design for the waterfront has been developed and major upgrades to infrastructure are planned including: moving the performance and stage area to the play ground area and moving the playground to beside the Tai Chi park, parking lot construction to begin in late fall 2024, the existing washrooms will remain but new washroom facilities will be added and located more centrally to

the south end.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.