



CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 11/10/2025

Special Meeting of Council

Date: Monday, November 10, 2025

Time: 8:00 o'clock a.m.

Location: Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West

Members Present:

Mayor

Mayor Drew Dilkens

Councillors

Ward 1 - Councillor Fred Francis

Ward 2 – Councillor Frazier Fathers

Ward 3 – Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 5 – Councillor Ed Sleiman

Ward 6 – Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Ward 7 – Councillor Angelo Marignani

Ward 8 – Councillor Gary Kaschak

Ward 9 – Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Ward 10 - Councillor Jim Morrison

Councillor Regrets

Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie

Guests

Mr. Harb Gill, Member of Parliament, Windsor West

Ms. Kathy Borrelli, Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh-Lakeshore

Mr. Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh

Ms. Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor West

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN PERSON ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Ray Mensour, Chief Administrative Officer

Jelena Payne, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner, Economic Development

Dana Paladino, Acting Commissioner, Human & Health Services

Janice Guthrie, Commissioner, Finance & City Treasurer

David Simpson, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer

Michael Chantler, Commissioner, Community Services

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council Monday, November 10, 2025

Page 2 of 6

Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Corporate Services
Kirk Whittal, Executive Director Housing & Children Services
Wira Vendrasco, City Solicitor
Steve Vlachodimos, City Clerk
Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor calls the meeting to order at 8:11 o'clock a.m.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

4. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Seconded by: Councillor Fred Francis

That Council do now rise and move into Committee of the Whole with the Mayor presiding for the purpose of dealing with:

- (a) requests for deferrals, referrals and/or withdrawals of any items of business; and,
- (b) consideration of business items.

Carried.

9. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

11. REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

11.1 Mayor – Opening Remarks

Mayor Drew Dilkens provides opening remarks and welcomes the members of Parliament and members of Provincial Parliament.

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council Monday, November 10, 2025

Page 3 of 6

Mr. Harb Gill, Member of Parliament, Windsor West

Mr. Harb Gill, Member of Parliament, Windsor West appears before Council and provides opening remarks.

Ms. Kathy Borrelli, Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh-Lakeshore

Ms. Kathy Borrelli, Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh-Lakeshore appears before Council and provides opening remarks.

Ms. Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor West

Ms. Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor West appears before Council and provides opening remarks.

Mr. Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh

Mr. Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh appears before Council and provides opening remarks.

11.3 Topics of discussion/Roundtable:

Councillor Fred Francis requests that the City endeavour to undertake an annual MP and MPP meeting on the Monday before remembrance day.

Councillor Fred Francis inquires about communications with the respective offices regarding matters that are outside of the mandate of City Councillors, specifically, what they can do to ensure that the proper policy updates and information is communicated to members of the community. MPP Andrew Dowie responds indicating that when provincial policies are changing or being proposed, that information is being shared actively on social media. Residents are encouraged to contact him directly with specific questions or feedback so that that information can be shared with the appropriate contacts. If there is specific wording in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) that is keeping members of Council from making decisions, that should be communicated so that alternate language can be brought forward to the Minister for consideration. The PPS is a regulatory document that enables us to assess good planning practices.

MPP Lisa Gretzky adds that legislation is being pushed through at record speeds with little to no consultation, skipping committee meetings where members of the public have an opportunity to express their thoughts in favour or against the legislation. It limits the ability for all MPPs to provide insight or possible amendments. It is incumbent on any level of government to ensure that there is enough time given for people to receive, review and provide feedback. There is a need for a model where everyone impacted by a proposal has an opportunity to file an appeal.

Councillor Fred Francis requests that the MPs and MPPs provide information to Council as a communication item. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that when Administration identifies gaps in information, they need to reach out to him to ask for the information.

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council Monday, November 10, 2025

Page 4 of 6

MPP Lisa Gretzky adds that if there is a pattern or an influx of a specific concern from constituents, share it with the MP & MPP offices either by phone or email, otherwise the issues may go unaddressed.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie lists a number of provincial policies that he views as overstepping within the framework of municipal decision-making powers and not consulting with municipalities appropriately and moving forward with things that are making it more challenging, such as strong mayor powers; fiscal framework challenges; speed cameras; increased policing costs; and insufficient funding where gaps are created. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that stagnation and delay, combined with identified challenges, prompted the style of elected provincial government. Decisions must be made at the provincial level in order to move forward and course correct if needed. There is no plan for change in the near future, the people have chosen this for the people of Ontario.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks if there is any plan for review of the stripping of municipal authorities while the expectation for municipal funding remains the same. MPP Lisa Gretzky responds that during elections, the provincial government's authority over municipal government was not a known issue. She believes that Provincial and Federal legislation should be leaning more on municipalities to provide a deeply connected community voice when looking at provincial or federal legislation.

Councillor Gary Kaschak asks for additional funding and support for homelessness and housing from the federal and provincial governments and if there is a timeline available for those supports and action. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that in April of 2023 there was a recognition of need for additional provincial funding which resulted in a 3.4% increase that has been sustained annually. There have been a number of investments in local primary care agencies. MPP Lisa Gretzky adds that municipalities need sustainable, consistent funding in order to put forward proposals for specific projects and to plan accordingly. We are seeing an erosion of funding from higher levels of government to municipalities. The downloading of responsibility without adequate funding to follow is a big barrier to getting housing of any type.

Councillor Gary Kaschak asks if the government can work towards converting federally owned properties that have been sitting vacant. MP Kathy Borrelli responds that they can advocate for those properties to be converted or transitioned to housing units. The Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, as she understands, will be allocated over a 10-year period once approved. Mayor Drew Dilkens provides details regarding the HMCS Hunter building being for sale at one point with no bidders, then was taken off the market. The government has refused to put it back on the market since. It was identified as an opportunity for redevelopment but has not materialized. MP Kathy Borrelli responds that with a new leader, there is another layer of negotiations. MP Harb Gill adds that the government is severely lagging in divesting properties across the country. More bureaucracy is being created causing long delays for approval. These issues need to be addressed to reduce red tape in order to create housing.

MPP Andrew Dowie adds that they have the National Housing Strategy which is a 10-year commitment. The federal government sets the direction and funding envelope, then one by one the provincial governments sign an implementation agreement. The province sets the targets and rules for what is envisioned for the strategy, in accordance with the federal government's direction. Once the agreements are entered into, that sets the policy for that decade. The hiccups have been identified in the follow-through. MPP Lisa Gretzky adds that every election cycle presents barriers as

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council Monday, November 10, 2025

Page 5 of 6

projects and progress stop. All levels of government need to bake in protections for projects that were initiated or announced prior to an election in order to continue that work to move them forward.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac highlights a number of issues that the municipality faces such as unemployment, the economic reality for services that our community has come to expect have gotten more costly and funding reduced, policing costs and responsibilities, health, and housing. Municipalities are coming to a tipping point. The City of Windsor drives the economy of this country. Trading with our next closest neighbours impacts everything that we do and has increased cost of our projects that far exceeds the funding received which results in contributions through municipal funding.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks how and when the provincial and federal governments are going to step up to help seniors to address homelessness, drug addiction & mental health aside from financial support. Mayor Drew Dilkens adds that mental health and addiction used to be isolated to the downtown, now it is widespread throughout the city. The recent announcements from the federal government to increase funding for hospitals is atypical. Hopefully that funding is for facilities for people who cannot make sound decisions for themselves who need state intervention to get on the track to stability and wellness. This results in businesses not wanting to operate, people not wanting to live there. Even if it is perceived crime, the perception has the same impact as if it were real. It is going to take federal level leadership in order to effect change, because the municipality does not have the money to do it alone. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that in the municipal sector, nobody wants to be clear about the action needed for a solution. Involuntary treatment, as suggested by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, is the clarity that the provincial government needs to hear from municipal governments. Any such resolutions that Windsor City Council wishes to put forward asking to be included as a pilot project sends a message. MPP Lisa Gretzky adds that data shows that mandatory treatment works for some, but does not work for all. A data analysis from all levels of government is needed in order to provide a wraparound supportive system to alleviate the costs associated with education, healthcare, policing, firefighters, etc. The problem is how the available funding is being spent as well as the amount of funding.

Councillor Fred Francis inquires as to how they get the Ojibway National Urban Park added to the Parks Canada portfolio to mirror the model of Point Pelee National Park. MP Harb Gill responds that a petition from Mr. Fisher was submitted a couple of weeks ago and it will be presented in parliament at the next upcoming meeting. MPP Andrew Dowie adds that the model being pursued at the federal level is the same as that of Point Pelee National Park. He is unsure as to why it takes so long for the federal government to organize land.

Mayor Drew Dilkens adds that Parks Canada's preference is to not have a full transfer of the land. They are interested in pursuing a framework where everyone will agree to continue to own their land, while putting the Parks Canada logo on the sign and co-manage the park. There is \$36 million in funding identified, but the details in continuing to own our land, such as easements, hydro lines, sewer lines, etc. are being worked out. There is not enough clarity at this point. The City will continue to reach out, and the City has sent a letter requesting details.

Councillor Fred Francis asks what the municipality can do to assist MPPs to advance this objective. MP Harb Gill responds that the information must be provided. Share the letters to Parks Canada with MPPs so they can also reach out. MPP Andrew Dowie adds that Parks Canada is the barrier. They

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council Monday, November 10, 2025

Page 6 of 6

are waiting for them to act. He encourages residents to reach out to the federal government to express support for the project to move forward.

Councillor Angelo Marignani asks if the City can get Circular Materials containers or systems changed as it relates to the size, storage and maneuverability. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that there was no specificity with respect to cart size provided to Circular Materials prior to implementation. They will not offer a smaller bin at their cost, but they are open to the idea of offering a smaller bin for purchase if the technology is compatible.

Councillor Angelo Marignani asks if there is a timeline for communication regarding purchasing smaller bins. MPP Andrew Dowie responds that they are currently working on getting to know their routes, and automated system, then they will look into adjusting for efficiencies and convenience. Mayor Drew Dilkins adds that in a recent conversation with Circular Materials related to the lack of communication, the CEO did commit to finding an accessibility path for those who are physically unable to manage those large bins.

14. MOVE BACK INTO FORMAL SESSION

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Ed Sleiman

That the Committee of the Whole does now rise and report to Council respecting the business items considered by the Committee:

- 1) Items Deferred Items Referred
 - 2) Consideration of the Balance of Business Items (as presented)
- Carried.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Fred Francis

That this Special Council meeting stand adjourned until the next regular meeting of Council or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried.

Accordingly, the meeting is adjourned at 9:44 o'clock a.m.

Mayor

City Clerk