



Minutes of Guelph City Council

November 26, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers

Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street

Council:

Mayor C. Guthrie
Councillor P. Allt
Councillor C. Billings
Councillor L. Busuttil
Councillor L. Caron
Councillor E. Caton
Councillor K. Chew
Councillor C. Downer
Councillor D. Gibson
Councillor R. Goller
Councillor K. Hauser
Councillor C. Klassen
Councillor M. Richardson

Staff:

T. Baker, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Clack-Bush, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Public Services
T. Gayman, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure, Development and Environment
S. O'Brien, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
S. O'Dwyer, General Manager, Finance/City Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
J. Sales, General Manager, Strategy, Innovation and Intergovernmental Services
C. Matthews, Manager, Community and Affordable Housing
K. Newland, Manager, Budget Services
J. Wei, Deputy Treasurer/Manager, Financial Strategy and Reporting

D. McMahon, General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk
G. Brennan, Council and Committee Coordinator
G. Meades, Council and Committee Coordinator
S. Osborn, Administrative Coordinator
A. Sandor, Council and Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order (9:00 a.m.).

1.4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

2. Mayor's 2026 Budget Confirmation, 2025-501

Moved By Councillor Caton

Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That Council amend Guelph's 2026 budget update by increasing the 2026 operating budget by \$74,570 for the half year cost of the addition of a Data Architect position to be annualized in 2027, funded by the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (3): Councillor Allt, Councillor Caron, and Councillor Caton

Voting Against: (10): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Defeated (3 to 10)

Moved By Councillor Caron

Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the bi-centennial funding by \$47,000 funded through the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Caron
Seconded By Councillor Goller

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the transfer to the 100RE reserve fund by \$500,000, funded through the property tax levy and increase the 2026 to 2035 capital budget by \$500,000 in each year for capital project GG0261 100RE Initiatives funded by the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Voting in Favour: (8): Councillor Allt, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (5): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (8 to 5)

Moved By Councillor Klassen
Seconded By Councillor Goller

1. That Council amend the 2026 budget update by increasing the operating budget by \$43,000 to restore Mayor and Council training funds to the previously approved amount, funded by the property tax levy.

Amendment

Moved By Councillor Downer
Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That Council amend the 2026 budget update by increasing the operating budget for Mayor and Council training funds by **\$20,000**, funded by the property tax levy.

Councillor Allt called a Point of Privilege noting that they did not intend to offend with their comments.

Mayor Guthrie noted that Councillor's should not interrupt each other or the Chair during discussion and asked for discussion to continue.

Voting in Favour: (7): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (6): Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (7 to 6)

Moved By Councillor Klassen

Seconded By Councillor Goller

1. That Council amend the 2026 budget update by increasing the operating budget for Mayor and Council training funds by \$20,000, funded by the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (6): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Caron, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (7): Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Richardson

Defeated (6 to 7)

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by \$650,000 to restore funding for snow removal services for on-street bike lanes funded by the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (6): Councillor Allt, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (7): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Richardson

Defeated (6 to 7)

Moved By Councillor Caton
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That design and community engagement works, as previously approved, for PK0198 Sloan Hill Park continue as led by Parks staff.
2. That Council respectfully requests that the Mayor considers increasing the 2027 operating budget by \$815,000 for capital financing transfers to the growth reserve funded by the tax levy through the 2027 budget update and advancing capital project PK0198 Beaumont Park from 2028 to 2027 in the amount of \$815,000 (including rubber surfacing), with operating impacts of \$14,700 moving from 2029 to 2028 funded by the tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Caron
Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That staff are directed to allocate any unspent portion of the \$103,000 in bicentennial funding approved for 2025 to the Tax Operating Contingency reserve (180) through the year-end operating budget monitoring report recommendations, to be available for bicentennial activities in 2026 or 2027.
2. That Council respectfully requests that the Mayor considers increasing the 2027 operating budget by \$303,000 for Guelph's bi-centennial, funded by the property tax levy, through the 2027 budget update.
3. That Council respectfully requests that the Mayor decreases the tax levy in 2028 by \$500,000.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by reducing the hospital levy by half, to \$375,000.
2. That staff be directed to update the 2027 operating forecast to remove the reversal of the hospital levy in 2027.
3. That Council respectfully requests that the Mayor decreases the hospital levy in 2028 by \$375,000.

It was requested that clause one and two, and clause three, be voted on separately.

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by reducing the hospital levy by half, to \$375,000.
2. That staff be directed to update the 2027 operating forecast to remove the reversal of the hospital levy in 2027.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Goller

3. That Council respectfully requests that the Mayor decreases the hospital levy in 2028 by \$375,000.

Voting in Favour: (9): Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (4): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (9 to 4)

Moved By Councillor Chew
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That Council amends Guelph's 2026 operating budget by removing Budget Request 001574 - Community Energy CBA totalling \$75,000, reducing the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (4): Councillor Billings, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Richardson

Voting Against: (9): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Klassen

Defeated (4 to 9)

Moved By Councillor Chew
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That Council amends the 2026 capital budget by deferring PO0056 – Downtown & Non-standard New/Replacement Tree Planting costs of \$158,000 to the 2027 capital forecast and deferring the 2027 operating impact of \$600 to 2028.

This motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder.

Council recessed (10:27 a.m.) Council reconvened (10:39 a.m.).

Moved By Councillor Caton
Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That Council amend Guelph's 2026 operating budget by implementing the Route 98 expansion effective November 1, 2026, with an impact of \$642,235 and that the 2027 operating forecast be updated to include \$1,385,813 for the annualized impact, funded by the property tax levy.

Voting in Favour: (7): Councillor Allt, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (6): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (7 to 6)

Moved By Councillor Goller
Seconded By Councillor Busuttil

1. That the Council of the City of Guelph now hold a meeting that is closed to the public, pursuant to the Municipal Act, to consider:

Daytime Drop-in Space - 2026 Budget Implications

Section 239(2)(k) of the Municipal Act, regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Closed Meeting Summary

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order (1:02 p.m.). Mayor Guthrie noted the following:

Daytime Drop-in Space - 2026 Budget Implications

Moved By Councillor Goller
Seconded By Councillor Klassen

1. That City Council amend Guelph's 2026 budget update by increasing the 2026 operating budget by \$850,000 for the provision of daytime space, funded by the property tax levy, focusing on the weighted criteria included in the request for proposal.
2. That City Council respectfully request the County of Wellington contribute 10% of the costs of daytime space provision as a share of the discretionary service.

Voting in Favour: (12): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Voting Against: (1): Councillor Allt

Carried (12 to 1)

Moved By Councillor Allt
Seconded By Councillor Busuttil

1. That Guelph City Council expresses continued urgency and concerns that municipalities across Ontario are negatively impacted by provincial legislative changes resulting in further downloading and underfunding that is not revenue neutral and places a disproportionate burden on property taxes and property taxpayers to fund services such as, but not limited to, court administration, social services, mental health and addictions, and deeply affordable social housing, costing Ontario's municipalities nearly \$4 billion per year, and urgently requests that the province reassume full financial responsibility for such services, as well as acknowledge and provide municipal taxpayer relief on any future policy or legislative changes.
2. That a copy of this motion be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack; Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy; Minister of Children, Communities and Social Services Michael Parsa, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy; Attorney General Doug Downey; Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Vijay Thanigasalam; Member of Provincial Parliament Mike Schreiner; Leader of the Opposition Marit Styles; Leader of the Third Party John Fraser; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

3. 2026 Draft Budget Update Companion Report (Council Budget Decisions), 2025-500

Moved By Councillor K. Hauser
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That the 2026-2027 rates fees and charges be readopted, subject to any amendments in the 2027 budget confirmation year.
2. That in accordance with the General Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy, total transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds for 2026 are approved.

3. That the funding of FM Woods Station Upgrade (WT0064) for 2025 and prior approved budgets be adjusted to remove debt financing of \$49,207,200 and replace this with funding from the Water Capital reserve fund (152).
4. That Council acknowledges the City's tax-supported contingency reserve balances continue to be below approved targets, and:
 - a. That staff continue to be directed to replenish these reserves as a first priority through the allocation of any year-end surpluses in 2025 and future years until such point that they reach a minimum of 75 per cent of target.
 - b. That Council directs staff to assess whether allocations to rebuild the contingency reserves to their target balances should be included in the next multi-year budget cycle for 2028 to 2031.
5. That Council approves inter-reserve fund borrowing in 2026 to maintain OBC service delivery and that such inter-reserve fund borrowing be approved to maintain balance in the Ontario Building Code Stabilization reserve fund (188), which will see a shortfall as a result of transfers to address the 2025 deficit projection for this service.
6. That Council approves the use of inter-reserve fund borrowing and recognizes some reserve fund balances are below policy targets at times within the capital budget and forecast period based on the 10-year capital budget and forecast included in the 2026 budget update.
7. That Council approves the debt strategy included in the 2026 budget update and acknowledges that the projected debt burden level may impact the City's future credit rating.
8. That Council approves the application of assessment growth revenue above the amount budgeted to reduce the 2026 tax levy impact, contrary to the prescribed treatment under the Revenue Budgeting Policy.
9. That staff be directed to undertake an operating model analysis for downtown parking as part of the City-Wide Parking Study to identify any required adjustments to revenue, expenditures, and tax support provided for this service as part of the 2027 budget update.
10. That staff be directed to undertake an analysis of the capital and operating budgets for corporate building maintenance to ensure

alignment with corporate requirements and identify any adjustments required to be reflected in the 2027 budget update.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

4. Budget Impacts per Ontario Regulation 284-09 and Budget-Public Sector Accounting Standards Reconciliation 2026 - 2025-522

Moved By Councillor Downer
Seconded By Councillor Busuttil

1. That the budget impacts per Ontario Regulation 284-09 and budget – Public Sector Accounting Standards reconciliation for the 2026 budget be approved.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Goller
Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That the following resolution be reconsidered:

That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the transfer to the 100RE reserve fund by \$500,000, funded through the property tax levy and increase the 2026 to 2035 capital budget by \$500,000 in each year for capital project GG0261 100RE Initiatives funded by the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Voting in Favour: (12): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Voting Against: (1): Councillor Caron

Carried (12 to 1)

Moved By Councillor Goller
Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the transfer to the 100RE reserve fund by \$250,000, funded through the property tax levy and increase the 2026 to 2035 capital budget by \$250,000 in each year for capital project GG0261 100RE Initiatives funded by the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Amendment

Moved By Councillor Caron
Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the transfer to the 100RE reserve fund by **\$350,000**, funded through the property tax levy and increase the 2026 to 2035 capital budget by **\$350,000** in each year for capital project GG0261 100RE Initiatives funded by the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Voting in Favour: (3): Councillor Allt, Councillor Caron, and Councillor Caton

Voting Against: (10): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Defeated (3 to 10)

Moved By Councillor Goller
Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That Council amends the 2026 operating budget by increasing the transfer to the 100RE reserve fund by \$250,000, funded through the property tax levy and increase the 2026 to 2035 capital budget by \$250,000 in each year for capital project GG0261 100RE Initiatives funded by the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Voting in Favour: (7): Councillor Allt, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caton, Councillor Downer, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, and Councillor Klassen

Voting Against: (6): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings, Councillor Caron, Councillor Chew, Councillor Gibson, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (7 to 6)

5. Shortening the 30-Day Budget Amendment Period

Moved By Councillor Allt
Seconded By Councillor K. Hauser

1. That the 30-day budget amendment period prescribed in Ontario Regulation 530/22 Section 7 (3) be shortened and the final day for amendments be November 26th, 2025.

Voting in Favour: (13): Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt, Councillor Billings, Councillor Busuttil, Councillor Caron, Councillor Caton, Councillor Chew, Councillor Downer, Councillor Gibson, Councillor Goller, Councillor K. Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Council recessed (1:38 p.m.). Council reconvened (2:00 p.m.).

6. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Caton

1. That the meeting be adjourned (2:10 p.m.).

Carried

Mayor Guthrie

Dylan McMahon - City Clerk