



Minutes of Guelph City Council

**March 31, 2026, 5:30 p.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
J. Goodram, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure, Development and Environment
S. O'Brien, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
D. McMahon, General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk
G. Brennan, Council and Committee Coordinator
J. T McDonald, Board and Committee Coordinator
P. Power, Council and Committee Coordinator
A. Sandor, Council and Committee Coordinator

Also Present:

John Mascarin, Integrity Commissioner
Suzanne Craig, Lobbyist Registrar

1. Call to Order

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order (5:32 p.m.).

1.1 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

2. Authority to move into closed meeting

Moved By Councillor Allt

Seconded By Councillor Klassen

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:

Bargaining Mandate Report Ontario Public Service Employees Local 231 - 2026-135

As per section 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, regarding labour relations or employee negotiations.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

The following items were considered:

2.1 Call to Order (closed meeting)

2.2 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof (closed items)

2.3 Confirmation of Closed Minutes

2.4 Bargaining Mandate Report Ontario Public Service Employees Local 231 - 2026-135

3. Closed Meeting Summary

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order (6:12 p.m.) and noted the following:

Bargaining Mandate Report Ontario Public Service Employees Local 231 - 2026-135

Council gave direction to staff.

4. Open Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

4.4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

5. Confirmation of Open Minutes

Moved By Councillor Klassen

Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That the minutes of the open Council meetings held February 4, 10 and 24, 2026, be confirmed as recorded and without being read.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

6. Committee of the Whole Consent Report

Moved By Councillor Billings

Seconded By Councillor Goller

1. That the March 31, 2026 Committee of the Whole Consent Report, identified below, be adopted:

6.1 Lobbyist Registry One Year Review - 2026-54

1. That the Lobbyist Registry One Year Review report, dated March 4, 2026, be received.

6.2 2026 Administrative Development Charge By-law Update - 2026-76

1. That the 2026 Development Charges Update Study dated January 30, 2026, included as Attachment-1 to report 2026-76 - 2026 Administrative Development Charge By-law Update, be approved.
2. That the Administrative By-law revisions set out in Chapter 3 of the 2026 Development Charges Update Study dated January 30, 2026, be approved.
3. That, in accordance with the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, Council determine that no further public meeting is required in respect of the proposed 2026 Amending Development Charges By-law.

4. That By-law Number (2026) – 21203 included as Attachment-2 to report 2026-76 – 2026 Administrative Development Charge By-law Update dated March 31, 2026, be approved.
5. That the updated Development Charge Interest Policy included as Attachment-3 of report 2026-76 - 2026 Administrative Development Charge By-law Update, be approved.
6. That Council direct staff to update the City’s Local Service Policy by May 27, 2027, as described in report 2026-76 – 2026 Administrative Development Charge By-law Update.

6.3 2026 Property Tax Policy - 2026-93

1. That, with the continued extension by the province of the 2017-2020 assessment cycle, tax ratios for all tax classes including the Multi-Residential ratio will remain consistent until a province wide reassessment occurs or provincial legislation forces such change.
2. That the 2026 City of Guelph property tax ratios and corresponding tax rates, as set out in Attachment-1 to the report titled 2026 Property Tax Policy dated March 4, 2026, be approved.

6.4 Recreation Facilities Allocation Process Update - 2026-28

1. That the Recreation Facilities Allocation Process 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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 2025 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner

John Mascarin, Integrity Commissioner, presented on the 2025 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner.

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Caron

1. That the 2025 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner, dated February 24, 2026, be received.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

7.2 2025 Annual Report of the Lobbyist Registrar

Suzanne Craig, Lobbyist Registrar presented on the 2025 Annual Report of the Lobbyist Registrar.

Moved By Councillor Allt

Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That the 2025 Annual Report of the Lobbyist Registrar, dated March 2, 2026, be received.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

7.3 Sleeman Centre Operating Model - 2026-48

The following delegates spoke:

Alan Rickard

Chris Ste-Croix

Jamie Baggio

Michelle Watterson

Main Motion

Moved By Councillor Gibson

Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Public Services, or designate, have the authority to negotiate all Sleeman Centre rates and fees when revenue can be recovered through rental profit share or ticket sales.

2. That Sleeman Centre capital reserve fund ticket service charge increase to between \$2.00 and \$3.00 starting September 1, 2026.
3. That the Youth Facility Discount no longer be applicable for rentals at Sleeman Centre, as of September 1, 2026.

This motion was requested to be voted on separately.

Clause one of Main Motion

Moved By Councillor Gibson

Seconded By Councillor Downer

1. That the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Public Services, or designate, have the authority to negotiate all Sleeman Centre rates and fees when revenue can be recovered through rental profit share or ticket sales.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Clause two of Main Motion

Moved By Councillor Gibson

Seconded By Councillor Downer

2. That Sleeman Centre capital reserve fund ticket service charge increase to between \$2.00 and \$3.00 starting September 1, 2026.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Clause three of Main Motion

Moved By Councillor Gibson

Seconded By Councillor Downer

3. That the Youth Facility Discount no longer be applicable for rentals at Sleeman Centre, as of September 1, 2026.

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

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

Defeated (3 to 10)

Additional Motion

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Hauser

1. That staff report back through the 2027 confirmation budget process on the financial impact of extending the existing youth subsidy to eligible facility rentals at River Run Centre and Guelph Museums, along with information on similar subsidy programs in comparator municipalities.

Amendment to Additional Motion

Moved By Councillor Caron

Seconded By Councillor Allt

1. That staff report back through the 2027 confirmation budget process on the financial impact of extending the existing youth subsidy to eligible facility rentals at, but not limited to, River Run Centre and Guelph Museums, along with information on similar subsidy programs in comparator 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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Additional Motion, as Amended

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Hauser

1. That staff report back through the 2027 confirmation budget process on the financial impact of extending the existing youth subsidy to eligible facility rentals at, but not limited to, River

Run Centre and Guelph Museums, along with information on similar subsidy programs in comparator 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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Secondary Additional Motion

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Caron

1. That staff report back through the 2027 confirmation budget process on the financial impact of implementing Recommendations 55, 62, 78, 79, and 80 from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to implement low-barrier recreation access for homeless youth, low-income residents, newcomers, and other underserved groups through neighbourhood-based programming, equipment lending, "try-it" activities, and drop-in opportunities.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

Council recessed (8:29 p.m.) Council reconvened (8:52 p.m.)

7.4 Council Remuneration Review - 2026-52

The following delegates spoke:

Alec Purves

The following delegates did not speak:

Tanya Gevaert

Moved By Councillor Caron

Seconded By Councillor Hauser

1. That the salary for the position of City Councillor be increased to \$59,137 for the 2026-2030 term of office subject to annual

inflationary increases equal to the Non-Union Municipal Employee (NUME).

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

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

Carried (7 to 6)

7.5 Support for Bill 21, Protect our Food Act, 2025

Councillor Goller provided introductory remarks to this item.

The following delegates spoke:

Morgan Dandie

Moved By Councillor Goller

Seconded By Councillor Caron

1. That Guelph City Council supports Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, MPP Mike Schreiner, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

8. By-laws

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Gibson

1. That by-law (2026) - 21203, by-laws (2026) - 21208 through (2026) - 21210, (2026) - 21229, (2026) - 21232 and (2026) - 21233, be approved subject to Section 284.11 (4) of the Municipal Act.

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 Hauser, Councillor Klassen, and Councillor Richardson

Carried (13 to 0)

9. Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Caton wished the Guelph trans community a happy Trans Day of Visibility.

10. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Billings
Seconded By Councillor Busuttil

That the meeting be adjourned (9:26 p.m.).

Carried

Mayor Guthrie

Dylan McMahon - City Clerk