



**Township of South Frontenac
Council Meeting Minutes**



Meeting #2025-22

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers/Virtual Via Zoom

Present: Ray Leonard, Doug Morey, Steve Pegrum, Norm Roberts, Randy Ruttan, Ron Sleeth, Scott Trueman, Adam Turcotte, Mayor Ron Vandewal

Staff: Louise Fragnito - Chief Administrative Officer, James Thompson - Clerk, Heather Woodland - Deputy Clerk, Kyle Bolton - Director of Public Services, Stephanie Kuca - Director of Finance and Treasurer, Troy Dunlop - Manager of Engineer and Capital Projects, Melia Edgar - Deputy Treasurer

1 Meeting to Order

a) Resolution

Resolution No. [2025-22]-01

Moved by Councillor Pegrum

Seconded by Councillor Turcotte

That the Council meeting of December 2, 2025 be called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Carried

2 Roll Call

3 Approval of Agenda (and Addendum)

a) Resolution

Resolution No. [2025-22]-02

Moved by Councillor Roberts

Seconded by Councillor Leonard

That the agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried

4 Deputy Mayor - Oath of Office

a) Resolution

Councillor Pegrum undertook the Declaration of Office regarding the position of Deputy Mayor as outlined in Section 232 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Resolution No. [2025-22]-03

Moved by Councillor Morey

Seconded by Councillor Sleeth

That Councillor Pegrum be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the current term of Council.

Carried

5 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

a)

There were none.

6 Committee of the Whole "Closed Session"

7 Recess (If Required)

8 Ceremonial Presentations

9 Public Meeting

10 Delegations

a) Representatives from Ontario for Alto's Hight Speed Rail were present to speak to Council regarding a project overview for a proposed electrified passenger rail services proposed between Toronto and Quebec City.

11 Briefings

12 Reports from Administration

a) Close Out Report – 2025 Private Lane Upgrade Assistance Program

Resolution No. [2025-22]-04

Moved by Councillor Trueman

Seconded by Councillor Turcotte

That Council receive the close out summary report for the 2025 Private Lane Upgrade Assistance Program for information.

Carried

b) Pavement Condition Rating Updates 2025

Resolution No. [2025-22]-05

Moved by Councillor Roberts

Seconded by Councillor Leonard

That Council receive staff report 2025-161 Pavement Condition Rating Updates 2025 for information; and

That Council direct staff to prepare an update to the 5-year plan for hard surfaced roads covering the period of 2026 to 2030 for review and consideration.

Carried

13 Reports from Advisory Committees

14 Information Reports

a) 2026 Budget Direction

b) 2026 Budget Survey Results

15 Committee of the Whole

16 Communications

17 Tabling of Documents

18 New Business

19 Notice of Motion

a) Moved by Councillor Turcotte

Seconded by

That Council direct staff to prepare and submit a formal letter of objection to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, expressing our profound concern that the "Strong Mayor" model, the proposed

consolidation of Conservation Authorities, and the municipal planning implications of Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, represent a systematic erosion of municipal democratic agency and local environmental oversight, and further, that this letter be shared with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), our local Conservation Authorities and all neighbouring municipalities.

- b) Moved by Councillor Ruttan
Seconded by

Whereas the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) established Conservation Authorities (CAs) as local, watershed-based bodies to manage natural resources in partnership with municipalities;

Whereas Conservation Authorities are governed by Boards of Directors comprised of municipally elected officials or appointees, ensuring direct accountability to the local tax base;

Whereas the current funding model relies heavily on municipal levies and self-generated revenue, with the Province of Ontario contributing approximately 5% or less to operating budgets (e.g., Cataraqui Conservation receives ~48% from municipalities and only ~5% from the Province);

Whereas the Province of Ontario has introduced **Schedule 3 of Bill 68** and **Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting 025-1257**, which proposes to amalgamate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven (7) centralized regional entities governed by a new "Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency";

Whereas this forced amalgamation threatens to dilute local decision-making, sever the critical link between local property taxes and local service delivery, and ignore the unique hydrological and environmental differences between our distinct watersheds;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of South Frontenac Township formally opposes the proposed amalgamation of Conservation Authorities as outlined in ERO 025-1257;

And further that Council calls upon the Province of Ontario to:

1. Pause the implementation of Bill 68, Schedule 3;
2. Maintain the current watershed-based governance model that ensures local accountability; and
3. Engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities to address specific concerns regarding efficiency without dismantling local governance;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MPP John Jordan, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Conservation Authorities within our region.

- c) Moved by Councillor Leonard
Seconded by

That Council request the Bank of Montreal to reconsider the proposed closure of the Verona BMO Branch due to the anticipated growth to occur in Verona in the near future (Verona Housing Project, McMullen Manor); and

Minutes of Council
December, 2, 2025

That a copy of the resolution be provided to MPP John Jordan and the Bank of Montreal.

20 Approval of Minutes

a) Resolution

Resolution No. [2025-22]-06

Moved by Councillor Sleeth

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pegrum

That the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Council meeting be approved.

Carried

21 Approval of By-laws

22 Committee of the Whole "Closed Session"

23 Confirmation By-law

a) Resolution

Resolution No. [2025-22]-07

Moved by Councillor Leonard

Seconded by Councillor Morey

That By-law 2025-76, being a by-law to confirm generally all actions and proceedings of the Council of the Township of South Frontenac, be given first and second reading.

Carried

Resolution No. [2025-22]-08

Moved by Councillor Ruttan

Seconded by Councillor Roberts

That By-law 2025-76, being the confirmatory by-law, be given third reading, signed and sealed.

Carried

24 Date of Next Meeting

a) The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

25 Adjournment

a) Resolution

Resolution No. [2025-22]-09

Moved by Councillor Trueman

Seconded by Councillor Ruttan

That the Council meeting of December 2, 2025 be adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Carried

Ron Vandewal, Mayor

James Thompson, Clerk

South Frontenac is a welcoming and thriving rural community