

**The Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford**

Monday, February 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

**Chaired by:** Mayor Michael Cameron  
**Members of Council:** Councillor Margaret Gural  
Councillor Stephen Ireland  
Councillor Ronnie Maitland

**Staff in Attendance:** Doug Robertson, CAO/Clerk  
Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Deputy Clerk  
Kirsten Rahm, Treasurer/ Manager, Finance  
Brad Cole, Manager, Operations/ Fire Chief

**Guests:** Peter Simcisko, Managing Partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.  
Doug Thompson, Manager, Water & Wastewater Operations, Aureus Solutions Inc.  
Jane Graham, Merrickville & District Historical Society  
Ann Martin, Merrickville & District Historical Society

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This meeting was held in person and was open to the public in the Council Chambers. It was recorded and livestreamed electronically on the "Village of Merrickville-Wolford" YouTube Channel accessible by clicking [here](#).

Mayor Cameron thanked Bill Presley for his work on the rinks located in Merrickville and Eastons Corners.

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof:** None.

**Approval of Agenda**

**R-040-23** Moved by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby waive the Procedure By-law Notice of Motion provisions to allow the inclusion of three (3) resolutions to the agenda of the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2023 to:

- Request a UCLG Traffic Study;
- Approve recording Closed Session Meetings; and
- Authorize the Mayor to proclaim February 22, 2023 as World Thinking Day and to direct staff to illuminate Village facilities in blue light.

**And be it hereby also resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby approve the agenda of the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2023, as amended.

Carried.

**NOTE:** The agenda was amended to include an In-Camera session directly following the Public Question Period to Council.

**Minutes**

**R-041-23** Moved by Councillor Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby approve the Minutes of the special Council meeting of January 30, 2023, as circulated.

Carried.

**Delegations**

**R-042-23** Moved by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby receive the delegation of Jane Graham and Ann Martin, Merrickville and District

Historical Society, regarding the Blockhouse Museum for information purposes.

Carried.

CAO  
R-043-23

Moved by Councillor Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Gural

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby receive the Water and Wastewater Service Delivery Review presentation and report, submitted by Aureus Solutions Inc., for information purposes; and

**That** Council hereby directs staff to conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP) process as recommended in the report in 2023/2024 with consideration to the expiry date of the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) contract.

Carried.

R-044-23

Moved by Councillor Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Gural

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby receive the Development Charges and Impost Fee presentation, provided by Peter Simcisko from Watson and Associates, for information purposes.

Carried.

R-045-23

Moved by Councillor Gural, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

**WHEREAS** residents and business owners in Merrickville have long expressed concerns regarding speeding on County roads through the community, about the increase in traffic volume, and the resulting increased threat to the safety of pedestrians and the peaceful enjoyment of the commercial core;

**AND WHEREAS** residents and business owners are concerned about the adequacy of existing traffic control measures in place:

1. On Mill Street between Broadway Street and Main Street, in particular as vehicles travel south over the swing bridge across the Rideau Canal;
2. At the intersection of Mill Street and Main Street;
3. On St. Lawrence Street between Main Street and County Road 16; and
4. On Main Street East between Mill Street and the CN rail crossing;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council for the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford shares these concerns;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council requests that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) conduct the necessary traffic control and road cross section/design studies, including a review of speed limits in these areas, to ensure the safety of our citizens.

Carried.

R-046-23

Moved by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

**WHEREAS** the Ombudsman of Ontario is on record recommending in reports related to other municipalities that all municipalities make audio or video recordings of all meetings, both open and closed, to ensure a thorough record, and to assist in ensuring that officials do not stray from the legal requirements during closed meetings;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ombudsman of Ontario recommends to municipal officials in its Open Meetings Guide for Municipalities to record closed session meetings, including all decisions, by taking minutes and preferably also by recording audio or video;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does not currently record closed session meetings;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council does hereby direct staff to record all closed session meetings.

Carried.

**Finance  
R-047-23**

Moved by Councillor Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford received the 2023 Budget Timetable at the special meeting of Council on December 20, 2022;

**AND WHEREAS** at the special meeting of Council on January 30, 2023, Council directed staff to provide a revised budget timetable with a proposed schedule of dates for the purpose of special working meetings to review the budget line-by-line in a transparent manner with year over year comparisons that will be open to the public;

**NOW THEREFORE** Council does hereby receive the revised 2023 Budget Timetable;

**AND NOW THEREFORE** Council does hereby approve the proposed 2023 Budget Timetable for the budget review and approval process.

Carried.

Council decided that the second special working meeting to discuss the budget scheduled for February 23, 2023 will be held in Eastons Corners.

Kirsten Rahm left the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

**Public Works  
R-048-23**

Moved by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby receive the 2023 Brush Amnesty Schedule for information purposes.

Carried.

**Proclamations  
R-049-23**

Moved by Councillor Gural, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

**WHEREAS** every year on February 22 since 1926, World Thinking Day celebrates the global Guiding movement of Girl Guides, international friendship, and is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect girls and young women;

**AND WHEREAS** in celebration of World Thinking Day in Canada, bridges, buildings, homes and more will be lit up in Girl Guide blue on the evening of February 22;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford has the opportunity to participate in the #ShineYourGuidingLight event to show support for the Girl Guides initiative by displaying blue flood lights on World Thinking Day on the evening of February 22 at the Blockhouse and the Municipal Office;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby authorize the Mayor to proclaim February 22, 2023 as "World Thinking Day" in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council directs staff to light up the Village Municipal Office and Blockhouse Museum in blue floodlights on February 22, 2023 to highlight the occasion.

Carried.

Mayor Cameron proclaimed February 22, 2023 as 'World Thinking Day' in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

**Notices of Motion  
R-050-23**

Moved by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

**WHEREAS** the Procedural By-law currently states that meeting agendas are to be issued 3 days before Council meetings;

**AND WHEREAS** Council meeting agendas are currently issued at the end of the business day on Fridays before Monday meetings, giving Council and the public only the weekend and one business day to review and prepare for meetings;

**AND WHEREAS** when a closed meeting is part of a regular Council meeting, the practice has been to provide the closed meeting agenda to Council members during the meeting. This does not allow sufficient time for due consideration of important decisions;

**AND WHEREAS** regular Council meetings are currently scheduled twice monthly and often have short meeting agendas made up of important but usually non-urgent items. Twice monthly meetings could be combined to one monthly meeting without jeopardizing the timing of Council approvals;

**AND WHEREAS** a move to monthly Council meetings would be more time efficient and respectful of everyone's time, allowing staff to focus more on operational matters between meetings rather than being in a continuous cycle of preparing for Council meetings;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED** Council directs staff to edit section 3.2 b) of the Procedure By-law to clarify that meeting agendas, including any closed meeting items and background materials, are to be issued a full 5 days before Council meetings by replacing the word "three" with the word "five" and adding a new sentence: "Closed meeting agenda items and background materials are to be provided to Council members only on this same time schedule";

**AND ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council directs staff to edit section 3.6 a) of the Procedure By-law to change regular Council meeting frequency from twice monthly to one per month by deleting the words "and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>)";

**AND ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council directs staff to bring the updated version of the Procedure By-law for approval at the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council meeting.

Carried.

**Deferred Items**

None.

**Public Question Period to Council**

None.

**In-Camera**

**R-051-23**

Moved by Councillor Ireland Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby move to an "In-Camera" session at 8:58 p.m. under Section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to address matters pertaining to:

1. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried.

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman and Brad Cole left the meeting prior to the In-Camera session at approximately 9:00 p.m.

**Rise and Report**

**R-052-23**

Moved by Councillor Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby rise and report from the "In-Camera" session of the regular Council meeting, with staff being given direction, at 9:21 p.m.

Carried.

**Confirming By-Law**  
**R-053-23**

Moved by Councillor Gural, Seconded by Councillor Maitland

**Be it hereby resolved that:**

By-law 10-2023, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2023, be read a first and second time, and that By-law 10-2023 be read a third and final time and passed.

Carried.

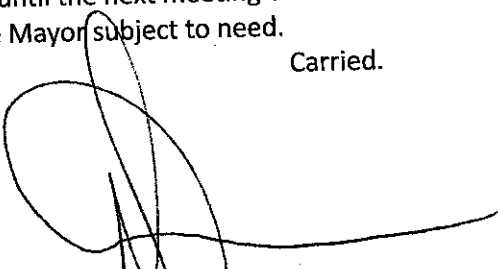
**Adjournment**  
**R-054-23**

Moved by Councillor Gural, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

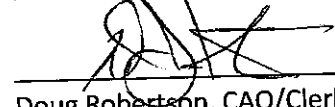
**Be it hereby resolved that:**

This regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does now adjourn at 9:23 p.m. until the next meeting of Council on Monday, February 27, 2023 or until the call of the Mayor subject to need.

Carried.



Michael Cameron, Mayor



Doug Robertson, CAO/Clerk