



**THE COUNCIL OF  
THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**

**March 26, 2020**

Members Present:	P. Brown	M. Mahoney
	G. Carlson	S. McFadden
	B. Crombie	M. Medeiros
	D. Damerla	M. Palleschi
	S. Dasko	C. Parrish
	G.S. Dhillon	K. Ras
	J. Downey	P. Saito
	C. Fonseca	R. Santos
	P. Fortini	I. Sinclair
	A. Groves	R. Starr
	J. Innis	A. Thompson
	J. Kovac	P. Vicente
Staff Present	N. Iannicca	J. Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services
	N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer	C. Granger, Acting Commissioner of Health Services
	S. Baird, Commissioner of Digital and Information Services	Dr. L. Loh, Acting Medical Officer of Health
	K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services	C. Thomson, Legislative Specialist
	S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer	H. Gill, Legislative Specialist
	P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor	R. Khan, Legislative Technical Coordinator
	A. Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works	

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Regional Chair Iannicca called the Special meeting of Regional Council to order at 9:52 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members of Council and staff participated electronically in the Special Regional Council meeting held on March 26, 2020 in response to a declared state of emergency by the Province of Ontario and the Region of Peel. The Regional Chair and four members attended in-person. The audio of all members and staff participating either electronically or in person was included on the Region of Peel live streaming webpage to ensure an open and transparent public meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA****Resolution Number SRC-2020-234****Moved by** Councillor Saito**Seconded by** Councillor Parrish

*That the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a communication from the City of Brampton regarding Property Tax Assistance – City Response to COVID-19, to be dealt with under Communications – Item 8.2;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a communication from the Town of Caledon providing a copy of a report titled “COVID-19 Pandemic – Property Tax Assistance” to be dealt with under Communications – Item 8.3;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Regional Council meeting include a communication from the City of Mississauga providing a copy of a report regarding “COVID-19 Pandemic Property Tax Assistance” to be dealt with under Communications Item 8.4;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a Resolution from the City of Mississauga regarding COVID-19 Pandemic-Property Tax Assistance, to be dealt with under Communications – Item 8.5;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a Resolution from the City of Mississauga regarding Deferral of Stormwater Payments, to be dealt with under Communications – Item 8.6;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a motion from Councillor Santos regarding the Region’s response to COVID-19, to be dealt with under Notice of Motion/Motion – Item 10.2;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a by-law to amend the water fees by-law;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting include a by-law to amend the wastewater fees by-law;*

*And further, that the agenda for the March 26, 2020 Special Regional Council meeting be approved, as amended.*

**Carried****5. DELEGATIONS****6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS****6.1 The Region of Peel Response to the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

(Oral)

Presentation by Nancy Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-235****Received**

Nancy Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), provided an update on the Region of Peel response to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including: activation of the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC); impacts on Regional programs and initiatives, including a Human Resources/employee update; and, a review of the Federal and Provincial response.

In response to a question from Councillor Santos regarding coordination, collaboration and potential duplication of emergency response from local municipalities and the Region, Janice Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services advised that the Terms of Reference for the Community Response Table would be updated once each local municipality has provided the name of their staff representative. The Commissioner stated that the best way to ensure open collaboration and communication between the Region of Peel and its local municipalities is to include a local municipal representative at the Community Response Table and that the assignment of staff to other task forces would negatively affect the Region's ability to respond to the urgent needs of the community.

Nancy Polsinelli stated that information is being shared through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) and through regular meetings with local municipal Mayor's and CAO's. She noted that Councillors may send email inquiries to the Office of the Regional Clerk. She stated that filtering questions through the Region's webpage and having a dedicated email allows staff to triage, and respond or give action where required, in an efficient and effective manner.

Councillor Santos withdrew the motion listed as item 10.2 on the March 26, 2020 Regional Council agenda.

## **6.2 Update on COVID-19**

(Oral)

Presentation by Dr. Lawrence Loh, Acting Medical Officer of Health

### **Resolution Number SRC-2020-236**

**Received**

Dr. Lawrence Loh, Acting Medical Officer of Health, stated that historically, human to human spread of viruses were eliminated by stopping human to human interactions because viruses cannot infect new hosts if the hosts are not meeting. He confirmed that, like many other jurisdictions in the Greater Toronto Area, community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring in the Region of Peel, which means that there are chains of transmission that are not linked to travel but are linked to residents here who have fallen ill. Dr. Loh highlighted that this was expected, and should not cause alarm as proper measures can be adopted. Specifically highlighted was the importance of slowing the spread through stringent physical distancing once community transmission is established.

Dr. Loh noted that there will be more cases and more disease severity in the coming days, but highlighted measures that can be taken by members of the community to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Self-isolating if one has travelled outside of Canada. Returning residents should not stop anywhere between the airport and home, and should rely on a family or friend to get supplies and groceries while they stay home for fourteen days.
- Self-isolating if one is unwell.
- Staying at home as much as possible, and only leaving for essential excursions and solo exercise.
- Working from home as one's work permits.
- Cancelling all group gatherings regardless of purpose.
- Not venturing out unless it is absolutely necessary for groceries, medicine or emergencies.
- Avoiding groups while out, continually walking, and maintaining a physical distance of two metres from others in lines or on public transit.
- Washing one's hands frequently and avoiding touching one's face.
- Not attending healthcare facilities or assessment centres unless critically necessary, to ensure that healthcare services are provided to those who need it most.

On behalf of staff in Public Health, Dr. Loh expressed gratitude to healthcare partners and first responders for bravely stepping forward to care for those who are sick and he also recognized the workers – cashiers, clerks, transit operators, who are maintaining essential community services. Dr. Loh commended those who have done their duty to close businesses and the community for coming together during this time. Dr. Loh closed by highlighting that the impact of these actions will not be not reflected immediately, but are vitally important to plank the curve of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Region of Peel.

In response to a question from Councillor Vicente, the Acting Medical Officer of Health advised that police have started to enforce the provincial order with respect to essential workplaces. He undertook to ensure the Region of Peel website remains updated with resources related to workers' rights to a safe work environment and guidance for businesses to reduce exposure

In response to a question from Councillor Vicente, Andrew Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works advised that TransHelp services have been limited to essential trips; passengers are being screened and the number of passengers on each trip is limited to two; and, buses are disinfected daily. TransHelp ridership has been reduced by approximately 70 per cent. Cleaning supplies and sanitizers have been issued to all staff who work with the public.

In response to a question from Councillor Groves, the Interim Chief Administrative Officer undertook to request that staff in Communications Services provide information to Councillors that could be shared with residents on how to protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19.

In response to questions from Councillor Damerla, Dr. Loh undertook to consult with other public health units regarding how enforcement of physical distancing

guidelines in workplaces is happening, and he confirmed that staff in Communications Services are working to ensure public communications are available in different languages.

In response to a question from Councillor Crombie, the Interim Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Region of Peel Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) would be establishing an email address to receive offers to donate medical supplies. REOC staff are working with staff from the local hospitals to develop an inventory of supplies.

Councillor Downey raised the question of the provincial or Region of Peel's responsibility to ensure that Region of Peel contractors are providing safe conditions for workers at Region of Peel project sites, and the Acting of Medical Officer of Health undertook to explore options as part of the broader question of approaches to business operations.

Councillor Brown noted that the City of Brampton is home to one of the largest food processing sectors in the province whose work is classified by the province as essential. He requested that staff ensure guidance is provided to those workplaces with respect to protection against the spread of COVID-19.

Members of Regional Council recognized the great efforts of Dr. Loh and staff during these challenging times.

### **6.3 Region of Peel Measures to Provide Financial Relief for Taxpayers and Ratepayers and to Support Local Municipal Measures (COVID-19 Pandemic)**

Presentation by Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer (Related to 8.1, 11.1, 11.2)

#### **Resolution Number SRC-2020-237**

**Received**

#### **Resolution Number SRC-2020-238**

**Moved by** Councillor Saito

**Seconded by** Councillor Downey

*That changes to the collection of Regional interim and final levies from the local municipalities presented in the report of the Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and the Commissioner of Public Works, titled "Regional Measures to Provide Financial Relief for Taxpayers and Ratepayers and to Support Local Municipal*

*Measures (Covid-19 Pandemic)" be authorized;*

*And further, that there be:*

1. i) a deferral for a period of 91 days of the imposition of the late payment fee applicable to late payments of utility bills for those payments due on and after April 1, 2020 to and including June 30, 2020, and relief from the imposition of the late payment fee altogether where invoice payment is made in full on or before the conclusion of the 91 day deferral period;

2. ii) a deferral on the water and wastewater rate increase, scheduled for April 1, 2020, with the increase as deferred to take effective July 1, 2020;

*iii) a revision of the fees applicable to Transhelp services to nil with retroactive effect to March 21, 2020 until such time as MiWay (Mississauga Transit) and Brampton Transit, or one of them, resumes charging fares for their services;*

1. iv) a variation of the Regional Corporation's accounts receivable terms so as not to charge a monthly penalty on outstanding accounts receivable for the period from and including April 1, 2020 to and including June 30, 2020;

*And further, that the by-laws necessary to give effect to Regional Council's directions be presented for enactment at the first Council meeting at which such by-laws can be presented for enactment.*

In Favour (24): Councillor Brown, Councillor Carlson, Councillor Crombie, Councillor Damerla, Councillor Dasko, Councillor Dhillon, Councillor Downey, Councillor Fonseca, Councillor Fortini, Councillor Groves, Councillor Innis, Councillor Kovac, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor McFadden, Councillor Medeiros, Councillor Palleschi, Councillor Parrish, Councillor Ras, Councillor Saito, Councillor Santos, Councillor Sinclair, Councillor Starr, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Vicente

**Carried**

Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, provided an update resulting from the March 25, 2020 Provincial Economic announcement. He highlighted that the Property Tax Reassessment scheduled for 2020, to be used for the 2021 taxation year, will be postponed. The Province will work with municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to determine when the next reassessment will take place. The Province will also defer the June and September education property tax installments by 90 days. He noted that the Province also announced additional funding to public health units and service managers and that further updates will be provided as the details are confirmed.

Stephen VanOfwegen provided an overview of property tax relief implemented by the local municipalities to defer payment of property taxes and the request for the Region of Peel to amend its tax levy payment schedule. He stated that Region of Peel staff estimate the financial impact of aiding municipal cash flows to be in the range of \$2.8 million to \$3.4 million and that the Region of Peel's tax stabilization reserves will be utilized to cover the cost of the proposed measures.

Stephen VanOfwegen outlined two proposed solutions regarding Peel's Utility Rate bills for Council's consideration, noting that the cost of Utility Rate relief measures will be funded from available Rate Stabilization reserves. He further outlined different measures for consideration regarding Mississauga stormwater charges; TransHelp fees; and, the suspension of interest charges for overdue invoices, for a period of 90 days, effective April 1, 2020.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Fortini regarding different relief periods offered by local municipalities, Stephen VanOfwegen confirmed that deferment of Regional Utility Bills is for a period of 3 months, separate from what the local municipalities have implemented for municipal tax relief.

Councillor Saito asked how the deferment of Utility rate increases and suspension of late charges will be communicated. Steve Fantin, Director, Operations Support, responded that the due dates on the invoice is not changing and those that can pay, should continue to pay. He stated that there will be a notice regarding the deferment on the applicability of the late- payment charge via social media.

Councillor Saito requested that the Region of Peel website include information on the relief measures, including a question and answer section.

Councillor Ras suggested that consideration be given to including an insert with the bills and electronic notification.

Councillor Saito requested that Region of Peel staff consult with local municipal staff regarding implementation of the utility and storm water relief measures.

## 7. REPORTS

### 7.1 Supporting the Region of Peel's Community Agencies During the COVID-19 Pandemic

#### **Resolution Number SRC-2020-239**

**Moved by** Councillor Medeiros

**Seconded by** Councillor Dasko

*That the Commissioner of Human Services, Commissioner of Health Services, Director of Community Partnerships and/or Director of Seniors Services Development be granted authority to award emergency funding to Community Agencies from the Community Investment Program, as outlined in the report from the Commissioner of Human Services and Acting Commissioner of Health Services, titled "Supporting the Region of Peel's Community Agencies During the COVID-19 Pandemic";*

*And further, that the Community Investment Program be increased by \$1,000,000 from existing working fund reserves to support emergency grant payments.*

In Favour (23): Councillor Brown, Councillor Carlson, Councillor Crombie, Councillor Dasko, Councillor Dhillon, Councillor Downey, Councillor Fonseca, Councillor Fortini, Councillor Groves, Councillor Innis, Councillor Kovac, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor McFadden, Councillor Medeiros, Councillor Palleschi, Councillor Parrish, Councillor Ras, Councillor Saito, Councillor Santos, Councillor Sinclair, Councillor Starr, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Vicente

Absent (1): Councillor Damerla

**Carried**

Janice Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services, advised that Region of Peel staff convened a community response team with over 60 participating agencies to lead the coordination of information, sharing and problem solving. A survey was sent to community partners and networks and 200 responses have been received, to date. Once compiled, the financial and non-financial needs of the agencies will have been determined. Requests are triaged based on urgent need to those agencies that provide the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, safety

and protection. Each application will be reviewed by staff in conjunction with the agency itself, as the “ask” can be quite different from the actual “need”. Community agencies in difficulty may be referred to the community response email. This has created an expediated process that balances urgent need with ensuring decisions are made using fair and equitable criteria

In response to a question from Councillor Medeiros, the Commissioner of Human Services advised that controls would be put in place to require that agencies that receive emergency assistance must report on how funds were spent and that contracts would be in place that set out the Region of Peel’s expectations.

Councillor Brown requested that staff monitor to ensure that the Region of Peel receives its fair share of provincial funding for food security.

In response to a question from Councillor Fortini, the Commissioner of Human Services advised that the Region of Peel does not have the legislated authority to control whether child care centres continue to charge fees if parents are not utilizing the service.

## **7.2 Waste Management Response to COVID-19**

### **Resolution Number SRC-2020-240**

**Moved by** Councillor Saito

**Seconded by** Councillor Parrish

*That the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to adjust waste management services, as required, in response to COVID-19 to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of waste management services, support physical distancing and protect the health and safety of workers and residents;*

*And further, that prior to any major decision being implemented or communicated to the public, Members of Regional Council be advised that a decision is imminent, the rationale and the implementation timeline and consult with each Councillor by phone;*

*And further, that staff be directed to consider having an exemption period for garbage limits and/or bag tag fees should doing so be deemed prudent;*

*And further, that the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to amend existing contracts related to waste management services, and enter into new contracts related to waste management services, on a directly negotiated basis as may be required, as deemed necessary by the Commissioner in response to COVID-19 to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of waste management services on business terms acceptable to the Commissioner of Public Works and on legal terms acceptable to the Regional Solicitor.*

In Favour (23): Councillor Brown, Councillor Carlson, Councillor Crombie, Councillor Damerla, Councillor Dasko, Councillor Dhillon, Councillor Downey, Councillor Fonseca, Councillor Fortini, Councillor Groves, Councillor Innis, Councillor Kovac, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor McFadden, Councillor Medeiros, Councillor Palleschi, Councillor Parrish, Councillor Ras, Councillor Saito, Councillor Santos, Councillor Sinclair, Councillor Starr, and Councillor Vicente



Absent (1): Councillor Thompson

**Carried**

Councillor Saito requested that staff notify Regional Council prior to making major decisions or communicating to the public with respect to significant changes to the waste collection in the Region of Peel during the COVID-19 pandemic, including rationale, timeline and implementation plans.

Councillor Santos suggested that Regional staff send text messages as a way to communicate changes on waste collection as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor McFadden noted that illegal dumping puts pressure on local municipal by-law enforcement staff and that reduced waste collection could pose health risks to the community.

Members of Council requested that consideration be given to an exemption period for garbage limits and/or bag tag fees should doing so be deemed prudent.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **8.1 David Wojcik, President and CEO, Mississauga Board of Trade**

Letter dated March 20, 2020 Regarding Region of Peel Utility Bills (Receipt recommended) (Related to 6.3)

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-241**

**Received**

### **8.2 Peter Fay, City Clerk, City of Brampton**

Email dated March 25, 2020, Providing a Copy of the City of Brampton Resolution and Report Regarding Property Tax Assistance – City Response to COVID-19 (Receipt recommended)

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-242**

**Received**

### **8.3 Amanda Fusco, Manager, Legislative Services/Acting Town Clerk**

Letter dated March 25, 2020, Providing a Copy of the Town of Caledon Report 2020-0114: COVID-19 Pandemic – Property Tax Assistance

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-243**

**Received****8.4 Krystal Christopher, Legislative Coordinator, City of Mississauga**

Email dated March 26, 2020, Providing a Copy of the City of Mississauga Report Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic-Property Tax Assistance (Receipt recommended)

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-244**

**Received****8.5 Krystal Christopher, Legislative Coordinator, City of Mississauga**

Email dated March 26, 2020, Providing a Copy of the City of Mississauga Resolution Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic-Property Tax Assistance (Receipt recommended)

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-245**

**Received****8.6 Resolution 54-2020 from the City of Mississauga received March 26, 2020**

Regarding Deferral of Stormwater Payments (Receipt recommended)

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-246**

**Received****9. OTHER BUSINESS/COUNCILLOR ENQUIRIES**

The Acting Commissioner of Health Services confirmed that the Community Safety and Well-Being team includes representatives from the school boards who keep Region of Peel staff up to date on school board issues.

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION/MOTION****10.1 Curbside Waste Collection During the COVID-19 Pandemic (As requested by Councillor McFadden)**

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-247**

**Withdrawn****10.2 Regarding the Region of Peel's Response to COVID-19 (As requested by Councillor Santos)**

**Resolution Number SRC-2020-248**

**Withdrawn****11. BY-LAWS**

*Three Readings***Resolution Number SRC-2020-249****Moved by** Councillor Parrish**Seconded by** Councillor Sinclair

*That the by-laws listed on the March 26, 2020, Special Regional Council agenda, being By-laws 25-2020 to 28-2020 inclusive, be given the required number of readings, taken as read, signed by the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk, and the Corporate Seal be affixed thereto.*

**Carried****11.1 By-law 25-2020**

A by-law to amend the 2020 Regional Interim Levy By-law 75-2019. (Related to 6.3)

**11.2 By-law 26-2020**

A By-law to amend the Fees By-law 67-2019. (Related to 6.3, 8.1)

**11.3 By-law 27-2020**

A by-law to amend By-law 14-2007 titled the "Water Consumption Fees and Charges By-law" as amended by the annual Water Consumption Fees and Charges By-law 71-2019

**11.4 By-law 28-2020**

A by-law to amend By-law 15-2007 titled the "Wastewater System Fees and Charges (Sewer Charge Rates) By-law" as amended by the annual Wastewater System Fees and Charges (Sewer Charge Rates) By-law 70-2019

**12. IN CAMERA MATTERS****13. BY-LAWS RELATING TO IN CAMERA MATTERS****14. BY-LAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL****Resolution Number SRC-2020-250****Moved by** Councillor Sinclair**Seconded by** Councillor Downey

*That By-law 29-2019 to confirm the proceedings of Regional Council at its special meeting held on March 26, 2020, and to authorize the execution of documents in accordance with the Region of Peel by-laws relating thereto, be given the required number of readings, taken as read, signed by the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk, and the corporate seal be affixed thereto*

**Carried**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair