



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, May 5, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, Town Hall

Land Acknowledgement

On May 5th, 2025 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship being mindful of generations to come.

Pages

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2. CALL TO ORDER
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Motion:

Moved By J Brennan

Seconded By _____

THAT the May 5th, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Motion:

Moved By C McGuire

Seconded By _____

The Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Council Meetings be approved as circulated.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS/UPDATES & MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS
7. PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Recommended Motion:

Moved By J Miller

Seconded By _____

That items in Consent Report Number 07-2025 received from the Clerk be received and adopted.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 “Reimagine the Reach, A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park”

Recommended Motion:

Moved By P McKenna

Seconded By _____

THAT Council receive the report entitled “Reimagine the Reach, A Renewed Vision for Lower Reach Park”, prepared by FOTENN Planning + Design be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the placement of the primary parking lot and entrance.

9.2 RFQ SCBA Filling Station

This item may/may not be added depending on the outcome of the Special Committee of the Whole.

9.3 Confederation Bridge – Price Escalation - Tariffs

This item may/may not be added depending on the outcome of the Special Committee of the Whole.

10. BY-LAWS

11. ENQUIRIES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

12.1 By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting on the 22nd days of April, 2025 (Bylaw 10615-2025)

Recommended Motion:

Moved By D Quinn

Seconded By _____

THAT a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting on the 22nd day of April, 2025, be received and read a first time and taken as read a second time.

Recommended Motion:

Moved By D Quinn

Seconded By _____

THAT a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting on the 22nd day of April, 2025, be now read a third time and finally passed, signed, sealed and numbered 10615-2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

Moved By S Robinson

Seconded By _____

THAT this Council adjourn its proceedings at XXXX and stand so adjourned until the next duly called meeting of Council.

Consent Report # 07-2025

To: Mayor and Council
From: Kerry Costello, Clerk
Date: April 30, 2025
Council Date: May 5, 2025
Title: Consent Report for the May 5th, 2025 Special Council Meeting

All items listed on the Consent Report shall be the subject of one motion. Any member may ask for any item(s) included in the Consent Report to be separated from that motion, whereupon the Consent Report without the separated item(s) shall be put and the separated item(s) shall be considered thereafter.

That Council consent to the approval of the following items:

THAT the following resolutions be passed:

Resolution: _____

Smiths Falls For All Interim Report, April 2025

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls receive the Smiths Falls For All Interim Report, April 2025 as information.

(Committee of the Whole, April 28, 2025, Report 2025-40)

Resolution: _____

Declare Food Insecurity an Emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls

WHEREAS food insecurity is defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of pervasive material deprivation (poverty), and posing a serious public health problem because of its association with higher rates of numerous diseases and chronic health conditions and a higher risk of early death; and

WHEREAS chronic stressors like disability, inadequate social assistance rates, precarious work, and/or the cost-of-living crisis, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life's basic needs and live free from poverty; and

WHEREAS Public Health Ontario estimates that 1 in 7 households in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark are food insecure; and

WHEREAS the Smiths Falls For All Committee has proclaimed "Food Insecurity" as one of four pillars that the committee believes needs to be addressed to assist in creating an inclusive and equitable community; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls has committed to addressing food insecurity through financial support in the amount of approximately \$200,000 since 2019; and

WHEREAS Ontario nonprofits, including food banks, are collectively experiencing stagnant and declining resources amidst climbing demand, and increased reserve use; and

WHEREAS the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank has reported seeing over 950 clients per month; and

WHEREAS according to the 2021 census, 25.8% of all Smiths Falls households were facing affordability issues; and

WHEREAS the South East Health Unit (formerly Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit), in its “Addressing Food Insecurity in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark, 2024 Report”, indicated that living wage for the region to be \$21.65 per hour, which confirms that half of our employed population is earning a wage below the living wage; and

WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls contends with a significant proportion of low-income residents, marking a staggering 16.4% of our population, including a concerning 22% of children under the age of 5 (far exceeding the provincial average of 5.3%); and

WHEREAS among those considered low income are over 1400 Smiths Falls individuals/families on ODSP and over 700 on Ontario Works whose rates fall short of providing adequate financial support for fundamental needs such as housing, food, and transportation; and

WHEREAS the 2021 census noted that 45.4% of Smiths Falls households are renter households, the highest of all Lanark County municipalities, in which 43.7% faced affordability issues; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls continues to support the concept of a basic income guarantee program for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls declare food insecurity an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls; and

THAT Council request the Provincial Government immediately increase its base funding to existing school food programs and increase its financial commitment to enable the expansion of school food programs to additional schools to build a universal school food program; and

THAT Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life’s basic needs; and

THAT Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments act to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income; and

THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies; and

THAT Council request that all major federal and provincial political parties address food insecurity as a component of their respective party platforms; and

THAT a copy of this motion be shared with The Right Honorable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable M.P.P. Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, M.P. Scott Reid, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, M.P.P. John Jordan, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, M.P. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, M.P. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, M.P. Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois, M.P. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, M.P.P. Marit Stiles, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, M.P.P. Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and the Canadian School Boards Association.

(Committee of the Whole, April 28, 2025, Report 2025-41)

Bylaw #: 10614-2025

Amend Terms of Reference for the Smiths Falls For All Committee

- *Change of Name: Smiths Falls Equity For All Committee*
- *Amend Priorities*

Bylaw to Amend Bylaw 10457-2023 being a Bylaw to Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Smiths Falls For All Committee

(Committee of the Whole, April 14, 2025, Report 2025-40)

Respectfully submitted by:
Original Copy Signed
Kerry Costello, Clerk