



March 26th, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renfrew Town Council Calls for the Resignation of the Mayor

(Renfrew, Ontario) – Renfrew Town Council has passed a motion requesting that Mayor Tom Sidney resign from office. The motion from Councillor Kyle Cybulski presented on March 26th, 2024, stems from the third-party review into the Ma-te-Way Expansion Project and calls on Mayor Tom Sidney to resign immediately. Council previously removed Mayor Sidney as Ex-Officio member on committees through By-Law 75-2023. Council also passed a vote of non-confidence in Mayor Sidney on January 25th, 2024.

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Tremblay explained how the process works noting, “Under the Municipal Act, Council does not have the authority to remove another sitting member.” Tremblay adds, “Similar to the non-confidence motion that was passed in January, this is a way for members of Council to express their position.”

Councillor Kyle Cybulski moved the motion calling for the mayor’s resignation on March 26th, 2024. Councillor John McDonald also moved two separate motions calling for the removal of the Mayor and Reeve from external committees, working groups and boards effective immediately. All three motions passed in a recorded vote. As Council has no authority to remove the mayor from office, Mayor Sidney will retain his statutory duties under Section 225 of the Municipal Act including representing the Town at official functions and presiding over council meetings. Reeve Peter Emon will remain on all County of Renfrew associated bodies. Both the Mayor and Reeve served on the 2014-2018 and 2018-2022 terms of Council.

After the findings of the interim third-party review were released on March 21st, 2024, Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer to seek legal advice pertaining to the findings and potential recourse to address matters therein, including the potential undertaking of a forensic audit. The March 26th, 2024, Council meeting can be viewed online [here](#). The third-party report can be read [here](#).

Motion #1

MOVED BY: Councillor Cybulski
SECONDED BY: Councillor Legris

Whereas, Council moved forward with a third party review of the Ma-te-Way Expansion Project after major cost overruns and delays; and

Whereas, Council received the interim and final findings in December 2023 and March 2024; and

Whereas, WCSC Consulting Inc. has found serious incompetence and other wrongdoing; and

Whereas, Mayor Tom Sidney chaired the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Committee from 2014-2022 and was a member of the project's ad hoc committee; and

Whereas, Council passed a motion of non-confidence in Mayor Sidney, but he has decided to remain in his role;

Therefore be it resolved that Renfrew Town Council call on Mayor Tom Sidney to resign immediately as a way for the Town to move forward and for accountability for the lack of oversight and leadership.

Motion #2

MOVED BY: Councillor McDonald
SECONDED BY: Councillor Dick

Whereas, Renfrew Town Council moved forward with a third party review of the Ma-te-Way Expansion Project and received interim and final findings from WCSC Consulting Inc.; and

Whereas, results of the information received in closed and open sessions on Thursday March 21, 2024 showed significant Council oversight; and

Whereas, Council previously passed By-Law 75-2023, removing the Mayor Tom Sidney as Ex-Officio membership on committees; and



Whereas, Council passed Motion 24-01-25, being a Vote of Non-Confidence in Mayor Sidney, who has remained in his role;

Therefore be it resolved that Renfrew Town Council remove Mayor Tom Sidney from all remaining committees, working groups, and external boards, effective immediately.

Motion #3

MOVED BY: Councillor McDonald
SECONDED BY: Councillor McWhirter

Whereas, Renfrew Town Council moved forward with a third party review of the Ma-te-Way Expansion Project and received interim and final findings from WCSC Consulting Inc.; and

Whereas, results of the information received in closed and open sessions on Thursday March 21, 2024 showed significant Council oversight; and

Whereas, Reeve Peter Emon has chaired the Human Resources committee since 2014 and was a member of the Ma-te-Way Expansion Project's ad hoc committee;

Therefore be it resolved that Renfrew Town Council remove Reeve Peter Emon from all committees, working groups, and external boards, effective immediately, excluding County of Renfrew associated bodies.

For more information please contact:

Rudy Kadlec
Communications & Engagement Coordinator
Town of Renfrew
613-432-4848 ext. 117
rkadlec@renfrew.ca