



**City of Barrie**  
**Report of the Executive Committee**

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Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
6:00 pm or immediately following Community Safety Committee  
Council Chambers

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**Present:**

Mayor, A. Nuttall  
Deputy Mayor R. Thomson  
Councillor, C. Nixon  
Councillor, G. Harvey  
Councillor, J. Harris  
Councillor, S. Morales  
Councillor, B. Hamilton

**Absent:**

**Other Members Present and Staff:**

Councillor, C. Riepma  
Councillor, A. Courser  
Councillor, AM. Kungl  
Councillor, N. Nigussie  
Acting General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, S. Diemert  
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke  
Director of Corporate Facilities, R. Pews  
Director of Economic Development, S. Schlichter  
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters  
Director of Operations, D. Friary  
Executive Director of Development Services, M. Banfield  
Fire Chief, K. White  
General Manager of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid  
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, J. Schmidt  
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne  
Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Coordinator, E. Chappell  
Service Desk Specialist, M. Burry

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor, A. Nuttall at 6:23 p.m.

## 2. ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION

### 2.1 Parking Restrictions - Huronia Road and Lockhart Road

That staff in the Development Services Department investigate the feasibility of the following and report back to General Committee:

- Implementing parking restrictions on both sides of Huronia Road from the intersection of Lockhart Road to a point 150 m north; and
- Implementing parking restrictions on the northeast side of Lockhart Road from the intersection of Huronia Road to a point of 100 m east. (Item for Discussion 1.1, February 25, 2026) (Sponsor: Councillor, S. Morales)

**Approved on consent for consideration by General Committee**

### 2.2 No Parking - One Side of Alexander Avenue from Johnson Street to Steel Street

That staff in the Development Services Department investigate the feasibility of no parking on one side of Alexander Avenue from Johnson Street to Steel Street and report back to General Committee. (Item for Discussion 1.2, February 25, 2026) (Sponsor: Councillor, C. Riepma)

**Approved on consent for consideration by General Committee**

### 2.3 Confidential trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization – Economic Development Opportunity

The Executive Committee reports that upon adoption of the required procedural motion it met in closed session in the Sir Robert Barrie Room at 6:32 p.m. to discuss a confidential item for discussion concerning a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization – Economic Development Opportunity.

Members of Executive Committee, members of Council, Councillor, C. Riepma, Councillor, AM. Kungl, Councillor, A. Courser, Councillor, N. Nigussie, the Acting

General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, Director of Economic Development, Director of Legal Services, Executive Director of Development Services, General Manager of Access Barrie, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, and Senior Policy Advisory and Legislative Coordinator were in attendance for the portion of the meeting closed to the public. Members of the media and public were not present for this portion of the meeting.

Upon adoption of the required procedural motion, General Committee moved back into open session at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Nuttall advised for those in attendance, the Committee received and discussed an item for discussion concerning a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization – Economic Development Opportunity.

He advised that there were no votes taken during the closed portion of the meeting with the exception of the procedural motion to move into open session and direction to staff.

That staff undertake the confidential direction provided concerning a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization – Economic Development Opportunity at the confidential meeting of February 25, 2026.

**Approved for consideration by General Committee**

### **3. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**

#### **3.1 Performing Arts Centre**

Rick Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that Recreation and Culture staff have met with various stakeholders to develop programming options for the additional space being incorporated into the design. He noted that he design team is now reviewing how the added space integrates with the overall building and site, as well as the related costing impacts for the options being considered. He advised that a pre-consultation meeting with Development Services and designated authorities is

scheduled for next month. R. Pews advised staff will continue to work with the Environmental Risk Management team and related consultants and will complete further investigations as required.

### **3.2 Sports Field**

There was no update concerning the sports fields.

### **3.3 Lakehead University**

Rick Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, informed Members of Committee that construction work continues at 24 Maple Avenue and staff have begun planning work related to the installation of furniture, fitments and equipment alongside the Lakehead team. He noted that major construction work is expected to be complete by the end of June. R. Pews also advised that back-of-house construction work at 5 Ross Street has also begun and will continue for the remainder of the winter and early spring. Construction work within the current Georgian College space won't begin until May.

### **3.4 Recreation Centre**

Councillor Hamilton inquired about the status of the Recreation Centre.

Rick Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, responded that there is no current active construction on the centre, but there is surrounding infrastructure construction taking place. He further noted that staff are undertaking early investigative work, but significant efforts won't begin until 2027.

Councillor Hamilton asked for clarification whether planning exercises for the centre wouldn't commence until 2027.

Rick Pews responded that high-level planning has already commenced, but more detailed planning and design work will begin late 2026, early 2027.

### **3.5 Cadets/Southshore**

Rick Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that the project team is currently following up on comments received through the Site Plan Application process. He noted that final design revisions are being made to incorporate comments received, and the team expects to submit the formal building permit package next month.

### **3.6 Encampments**

Jeff Schmidt, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, advised that since the last update to the Executive Committee on January 28th, 2026, the City of Barrie has continued to make progress while under the Emergency Order in

addressing encampments throughout the city.

Jeff Schmidt informed the Committee that currently, there are no known encampments on City-owned property, but Enforcement Services continues to monitor multiple locations with recent reported activity. He advised that the outcome is a direct result of the strong collaboration between the City, the County of Simcoe, and the Barrie Police Service. He further noted that through the joint efforts, the City has successfully addressed 99 sites on City-owned property. He advised that based on reports provided by the County, there are currently 643 individuals experiencing homelessness in Barrie as of February 17th.

Jeff Schmidt advised that the County is in final preparations to open its 40-unit Bridge Housing facility at 113 Tiffin Street. He noted that the project is designed to provide supportive housing and on-site services for individuals experiencing homelessness with complex or high-acuity needs. Individuals will begin to transition into available units in the coming months. He discussed that the project promises to offer individuals experiencing homelessness a supportive environment where they can safely stabilize, access health care, and connect to mental health or addiction services with the goal of successfully transitioning to permanent housing. He further noted that the County has not yet finalized which service providers will be involved in the Bridge Housing program, and it is anticipated that several different service operators will be in place to support the initiative.

Jeff Schmidt also informed Members of Committee that over the past several weeks, shelter spaces and warming centres throughout the region, including Barrie, have consistently reached full capacity, and in some cases, have been operating beyond capacity to ensure no one is turned away.

Mayor Nuttall commented that the City's progress in addressing encampments and homelessness had been widely commended during his recent trip to Alberta.

Mayor Nuttall inquired about the number of people experiencing homelessness in Barrie compared to the rest of the County of Simcoe and how the figure is determined.

#### **4. FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Nil.

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

CHAIRMAN