



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

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Wednesday, April 01, 2026  
06:00 PM  
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, AM. Kungl  
Councillor, A. Courser  
Councillor, N. Nigussie  
Acting General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, K. Oakley  
Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse  
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke  
Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, T. McArthur  
Director of Corporate Facilities, R. Pews  
Director of Human Resources, C. Gianino  
Director of Information Technology, R. Nolan  
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters  
Director of Operations, D. Friary  
Executive Director of Development Services, M. Banfield  
General Manager of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid  
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne  
Public Art Coordinator, L. Mishko  
Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Coordinator, E. Chappell  
Service Desk Specialist, M. Haupt

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, A. Nuttall at 6:05 p.m.

**2. ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION**

**2.1 Graffiti - Queen's Park Skatepark**

1. That a letter of support be provided to the group/individual(s) for their community public art and park revitalization proposal to construct a legal graffiti wall, install a ground surface mural and host a community opening celebration event in the City of Barrie's Queen's Park Skatepark as per the presentation provided to the Arts Advisory Committee on March 24, 2026.
2. That staff be directed to continue to support the planning, community engagement and implementation of the Queen's Park Skatepark revitalization and community public art project and to prepare any required legal agreements to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services.
3. The approval be granted to spend up to \$20,000 from the Public Art Reserve account and to allocate \$25,000 of the \$60,408.76 approved operating budget for public art as per Council motion 25-G-133 to a maximum City contribution of \$45,000 to implement the project in part, or in full, pending receipt of matching grant funding and sponsorships. (Item for Discussion 2.1, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Councillor, A. Courser

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

**2.2 Parking Restrictions - Rawson to Corner of Lockhart Road**

That staff in Development Services investigate the feasibility of implementing on-road parking restriction for Rawson Avenue from the corner of Lockhart Road to approximately 81 Rawson Avenue and report back to General Committee. (Item for Discussion 2.2, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Councillor, J. Harris

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

**2.3 No Parking - Loon Avenue near Huronia Road**

That staff in the Development Services Department investigate installing no parking signs on the south side of Loon Avenue from Huronia Road to Big Bay Point Road and report back to General Committee. (Item for Discussion 2.3, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Councillor, S. Morales

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

**2.4 Parking in front of Canada Post Super Mailboxes**

That staff in the Development Services install no parking signage at the super mailbox locations as a pilot project in Ward 5 and staff in Development Services work with the ward councillor to identify the areas of concerns to where the signage should be installed. (Item for Discussion 2.4, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson

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

**2.5 Wellington Street and Owen Street Study**

That Development Services investigate traffic control options at the intersection of Wellington Street East and Owen Street and report back to General Committee. (Item for Discussion 2.5, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Councillor, C. Nixon

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

**2.6 No Stopping - Dunlop Street East**

That Development Services staff investigate the implementation of a “No Stopping” restriction at the easterly limit of 185 Dunlop Street East and report back to General Committee. (Item for Discussion 2.6, April 1, 2026)

Sponsor: Councillor, C. Nixon

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

**3. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**

**3.1 Performing Arts Centre**

R. Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that pre-consultation meetings with Development Services and Designated Authorities were completed in March. He informed Members of Committee that staff and the design team are advancing

the required site studies and updating the site plan to incorporate the up-to 5,000 square feet of additional space as approved by Council.

Councillor, C. Riepma inquired what the next step in the process is.

R. Pews advised that staff need to finalize the sizing and details of the expansion piece of the Performing Arts Centre. He advised a significant amount of previous work completed was based on the original building and any additions would need to be taken into account. Mr. Pews advised that the design team has been reminded that there is a set budget, and once staff have those details, they can move forward.

### **3.2 Sports Field**

There was no update regarding the Sports Field.

### **3.3 Lakehead University**

R. Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that work at both 24 Maple Avenue and 5 Ross Street continues. He informed Members that drywall work at 24 Maple is now complete as is the installation of the primary mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Mr. Pews advised that ceiling construction is underway and painting has commenced. He noted that the project team is currently coordinating final space construction details around Lakehead's selected furniture, fixtures and equipment. Mr. Pews informed the Committee that demolition work at 5 Ross Street in a formerly vacant section of the building is complete and the team is making way for the upcoming modifications to this space.

R. Pews advised that the Lakehead University project has a public web page that can be accessed through the Planning, Building & Infrastructure section of the city's [website](#). He advised that the page includes a few progress photos of the work underway that are taken from the same viewpoint as the renderings. Mr. Pews noted that staff are updating them periodically so the public can follow along with the City's progress.

### **3.4 Recreation Centre**

R. Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that staff are currently developing scope details for site due diligence work. He noted that some of the required environmental site assessment work is expected to take multiple seasons based on the nature of the site. Mr. Pews advised that staff will continue to provide updates as they become available.

### **3.5 Cadets/Southshore**

R. Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that the project team is formally

scheduled to mobilize at the beginning of May, but will be on-site this month to complete torque testing in advance of construction activities. He informed Members that staff and the design-builder are in the process of seeking approval for site servicing and excavation permits to allow early site works prior to the issuance of building permits.

### **3.6 Library**

R. Pews, Director of Corporate Facilities, advised that City and Library staff completed the interior layout planning in March and have met with the landlord's architect to begin detailed design and permit set development. He advised the Committee that the landlord is working through building permit revisions related to the building expansion and expects their contractor to mobilize this month.

### **3.7 Encampments**

W. Cooke, City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, advised that since the previous update to the Executive Committee on February 25th, 2026, the City of Barrie has continued to make progress under the Emergency Order as they work to address encampments across the city. She informed Members that at present, there are two known encampments located on City-owned property. Ms. Cooke advised that Enforcement Services maintains proactive patrols throughout the city to support these ongoing efforts. She reported that through collaboration with the County of Simcoe and Barrie Police Service, the City's Encampment Response Team has successfully addressed 111 sites on City-owned property. Members of Committee were advised that the City of Barrie and County of Simcoe are currently in the final stages of establishing a shared Coordinated Encampment Response Protocol in anticipation of warmer weather and the closure of the warming centres, which are scheduled to remain open nightly until April 30th, 2026. Ms. Cooke also advised that City staff are working collaboratively with the County to address recent resident concerns regarding the increase in debris and a growing number of items being placed at the side of the Trinity Church property on Collier Street.

W. Cooke informed the Committee that based on recent reports provided by the County, there are currently 701 individuals experiencing homelessness in Barrie, who have been directly linked to a County provided service within the last 90 days as of March 30th, 2026. She advised that the City continues to communicate its efforts with Council and the residents of Barrie through the City's website at [barrie.ca/AddressingEncampments](http://barrie.ca/AddressingEncampments).

#### **Update on 113 Tiffin Street**

W. Cooke informed Members that the County will begin to move in groups of 10 individuals at a time into the Bridge Housing Program at 113 Tiffin Street in the

coming weeks until all 40 beds are fully occupied which will likely be by mid-May. Ms. Cooke advised that it is important to note that 113 Tiffin Street will operate as a supportive housing program, not as an emergency shelter. She advised that as such, it will not be staffed or operated in the same manner as an emergency shelter and advised Members of the following considerations:

- Drop-in services will not be offered,
- There will be no daytime discharges,
- Bed-waiting processes will not be in place,
- There will be no shelter-style flow-through, and
- The facility will operate and be secured 24/7

W. Cooke advised that the City has expressed to the County the importance of providing neighbourhood consultation with residents and businesses in the area, and the County is committed to hosting an informational open house in the coming weeks.

### **Shelter Capacity**

W. Cooke advised that over the past several weeks, shelter spaces and warming centers throughout the region, have reached full capacity most nights, and in Barrie, have been operating beyond capacity to ensure no one is turned away.

### **County Data**

W. Cooke informed Members of Committee that at the request of City staff, the County provided a more detailed breakdown of number of individuals categorized as “unknown” within the “other” category which represent 350 of the 701 individuals who identify as homeless. She advised that the County reports that over 50% of the 350 individuals were last served through overnight shelter use but are not currently staying in shelter. Ms. Cooke advised that approximately 25% were last connected through various goods and services, and about 10% were last recorded through group activities, such as community meals. She advised that city staff continue to work collaboratively with the County to review and analyze HIFIS data to ensure needs are being met in the community.

Mayor, A. Nuttall requested thanks be passed on to staff on the work that has been done.

Mayor, A. Nuttall commented that similarly detailed summaries with accompanying data, statistics, and a complete picture of what is happening on the ground are the types of reports requested for all of the City's service partners when presenting

annual budget requests.

Councillor, J. Harris requested clarification that the Tiffin Street facility will be staffed 24/7.

W. Cooke confirmed that the Bridge Housing Program at 113 Tiffin Street will operate and be secured 24/7.

Councillor, J. Harris inquired whether the program will operate similarly to the Lucy's Place community in Ward 8, and commented on the positive impact of Lucy's Place.

W. Cooke answered that the Tiffin Street program will operate similarly to Lucy's Place. She advised that the facility will also welcome external service providers, such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, to offer services to residents.

Mayor, A. Nuttall reminded Committee that this is a County of Simcoe project and staff are limited in their perspective. He inquired whether the County could be invited to the next Community Safety Committee or Affordability Committee meeting to provide a presentation on what to expect when the 113 Tiffin Street facility opens.

W. Cooke advised that staff will reach out to the County regarding their availability for a presentation at a meeting April 15 or April 22, 2026.

**4. FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Nil.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN