



**The Corporation of the Township of Brock  
Special Council Minutes**

**December 18, 2024**

**Council Chambers - 1 Cameron St. E. Cannington and Electronically**

Members Present: Mayor Walter Schummer  
Regional Councillor Michael Jubb  
Ward 1 Councillor Peter Frank  
Ward 2 Councillor Claire Doble  
Ward 3 Councillor Angela Canavan  
Ward 4 Councillor Cria Pettingill  
Ward 5 Councillor Lynn Campbell

Staff Present: CAO Michelle Willson  
Clerk/Deputy CAO Fernando Lamanna  
Clerk's Assistant Deena Hunt  
Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities R. Wayne Ward  
Fire Chief Rick Harrison

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**1. Meeting Details (only on agenda)**

**2. Call to Order & Moment of Silence - 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Schummer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was present.

**3. Land Acknowledgement**

It is important to begin each public gathering with a Land and Territorial Acknowledgement, to recognize the Indigenous people for being good stewards of the land and environment, here where we are meeting today. The Township of

Brock has traditionally been a hunting and fishing ground for First Nations people. We reside on and benefit from the Williams Treaty Territories, on the land of the Mississaugas and Chippewas. May we share the land as long as the sun rises, the grass grows and river flows.

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature Thereof**

None.

**5. Public Meeting**

The purpose of this Public Meeting was to provide interested parties with the opportunity to make comments on the proposed sale of the Wilfrid Hall. No decisions were made during this public meeting. A future staff report on the matter will be considered by Council.

The public may express their views either in person or in writing, prior to decisions being made by Township Council. Written comments should be submitted to [clerks@brock.ca](mailto:clerks@brock.ca)

Members of Council were in attendance to observe and listen to comments.

**5.1 Wilfrid Hall - Staff Presentation**

The CAO provided a presentation which included:

- staff were directed to commence an extensive review of all user fees and rental revenues
- the Core Services Review in 2023 indicated that the Wilfrid Hall is a discretionary asset benefitting a limited number of residents and operates at a deficit - the recommendation was divestiture of this asset
- the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan in 2023 indicated that Wilfrid Hall is not properly serviced, underused, and should be sold
- Wilfrid Hall Operating deficits:
  - 2022 = \$17,930
  - 2023 = \$11,980
  - 2024 (at Oct 31) = \$10,494
- Reserves:
  - 2022 = \$7,389

- 2023 = \$8,184
- 2024 (at Oct 31) = \$9,742
- Wilfrid Hall Community Association is not in a position to purchase this hall
- Staff recommend selling Wilfrid Hall in 2025

## 5.2 Public Comments / Submissions

### 5.2.1 Jane Shier, Wilfrid resident

- operates a quilting business monthly at the hall and offers quilting lessons and retreat days
- booked the hall 14 days in 2024
- the hall was built by the community and hosts various types of events
- the hall bookings are full
- the hall is wheelchair accessible, drop off at the door and then park the vehicle
- it's an easy commute for my customers
- other halls are not as suitable for my business

### 5.2.2 Gerri Lynn O'Connor, Uxbridge resident

- expressed concern for Council resolution COW-2024-199, endorsing the divestiture of Wilfrid Hall
- attends quilting classes at the hall
- reviewed the Asset Management (AMP) Report 2019, Core Services Review 2023, and the Parks, Recreation Master Plan 2023 noting that the reports speak little of the Wilfrid Hall but do address the challenges of the arenas, town halls, roads and bridges
- noted that the Core Services Review states that Brock's Mission is to provide services to support quality of life, and promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing

- expressed concern for the proposed sale of the 135 year old hall which has been the foundation of the hamlet of Wilfrid since 1888
- the municipality invested in a kitchen upgrade for Wilfrid Hall in 2020
- the operating deficit of the hall represents only 0.12% of the total tax levy in 2024
- understands the need to address AMP, but selling the hall will not have any effect on the bottom line of the budget
- start a reserve fund for future deficiencies and retain the community hall for future generations

#### 5.2.3 Dianne Pannett, Wilfrid resident

- will forward written comments to the Township
- the hall is historical, and appreciated by the community with great attendance there on Canada Day
- create a go-fund me page, apply for grants

#### 5.2.4 Dorothy and Keith Shier, Wilfrid residents

- land was donated by the Hart family in 1830 for the cemetery with the first church built on that property
- a new brick church was built in 1888, later moved to the village of Wilfrid and is now the Wilfrid Community Hall
- it took the pioneer farmer's 3 years to move the building by horse
- many events and fundraising efforts over the years at the hall
- local council took over the hall in 1950 due to insurance costs
- rented by locals and outsiders including the Orange Lodge and is the only hall convenient for area residents
- Council removed the hall bookings and caretaking from the community hall association

- hall upgrades include a new well, new steel roof, painted siding, new air conditioning, new dishwasher, accessibility upgrades, water purification systems
- the hall is older than any brick buildings in Brock and has been a meeting place for many important events in history
- expressed concern for losing a hall that has benefited the community for so many years

5.2.5 Karen Wolfe, Pepperlaw resident

- a 20 year member of a neighbouring historical society
- the hall holds cultural value and is an icon in the community offering cultural interaction
- multiple generations have hosted events there
- expressed concern for the possible demolition of the building as it creates a place to share ideas and cheer each other
- is the heart of the Wilfrid community and an important place to meet

5.2.6 Larry Doble, Greenbank resident

- serves as President for the Sunderland and District Historical Society
- many Brock organizations have struggled financially since the pandemic and he has helped acquire over \$350,000 for 7 Brock organizations through various grants
- Brock has a population under 20,000 residents and can apply for specific grants from the government
- in 2025 the Wilfrid Hall could apply for the Legacy Grant from the Federal Government
- encouraged council to work with the Community Hall Association to help them remain in operation and seek funding sources to make the upgrades

5.2.7 Faye Wilkinson, Wilfrid resident

- Township should apply for Provincial and Federal grants

- has served on the Wilfrid Hall Board for 20 years
- request that control of the hall be returned to the Wilfrid Hall Committee as it builds a relationship with renters and allows for last minute rentals on a weekends
- want to rebuild the relationship with the community

5.2.8 Barb Scott, Georgina resident

- involved with Wilfrid Hall for 75 years
- current Chair/Treasurer of Port Bolster Hall
- full bookings at Port Bolster Hall and need another building for rentals
- renters want the person to person connection when renting
- volunteers on the hall boards serve for consecutive terms and have a lot of knowledge
- offering to assist Wilfrid Hall Committee
- Wilfrid Hall has a certified commercial kitchen
- recommend reaching out to the Minister of Rural Affairs
- request that the Wilfrid Hall be operational until at least 2026

5.2.9 Katie Probst, Cannington resident

- avid supporter of halls
- to save a few dollars you propose to tear out the heart of a community
- if the hall had a heritage designation the municipality could not sell it

5.2.10 Jessica Phoenix, Wilfrid resident

- Wilfrid Hall user
- the operating deficit is minimal
- a meeting place is necessary, need more board volunteers
- the committee offers a personal connection to renters

5.2.11 Wilma Bannik, Wilfrid resident

The Clerk/Deputy CAO read the letter which included:

- both my husband and I have enjoyed the use of Wilfrid Hall and oppose the selling of the property
- long history of cultural events, area meetings, political and environmental gatherings as issues arise
- halls in Pefferlaw and Udora are very busy and Wilfrid is a long way from Cannington
- possible petition

5.2.12 Lee Dayton, Wilfrid resident

- grandchildren enjoy hall events
- an organic way for children to meet and interact

5.2.13 Chris Shier, Wilfrid resident

- with the name change (to Wilfrid Hall Community Association), the Committee lost their identity, sense of pride, and it hurt the fundraising initiatives
- request full control of hall again
- 20 years on the hall board, want continued assistance from the Township to operate the hall
- cannot purchase the hall due to high insurance costs

5.2.14 Brian Burr, Keswick resident

- member of Orange Lodge, Sutton
- rent Wilfrid Hall
- their members come from Lindsay through to Keswick

5.3 Public Questions

There were no further public questions.

**6. Confirmation By-law**

By-law Number 3313-2024 - to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Brock at its meeting held on December 18, 2024.

**Resolution: C-2024-283**

**Moved by** Councillor Doble

**Seconded by** Councillor Frank

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law Number 3313-2024, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Brock at its meeting held on December 18, 2024, be taken as read, enacted and signed by the Mayor and Clerk/Deputy CAO.

**CARRIED**

**7. Adjournment**

**Resolution: C-2024-284**

**Moved by** Councillor Frank

**Seconded by** Councillor Pettingill

Be it Resolved That the Special Council meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Mayor

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Clerk