



## **Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 2nd Floor**

**360 Fairview Avenue West**

**Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6**

**519-776-6441, ext. 1335**

Council: Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Tom Bain, Mayor, Town of Lakeshore  
Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington  
Linda McKinlay, Councillor - Town of Lakeshore  
Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Richard Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex  
Nelson Santos, Deputy Warden, Mayor, Town of Kingsville  
Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville  
Larry Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex  
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Absent: Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Town of Lakeshore

Administration: Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk  
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home  
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS  
Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer  
Greg Schlosser, Director Human Resources  
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
Renée Trombley, Manager Corporate Communications and Accessibility  
Katherine Hebert, Council & Community Services Administrative Assistant  
Jeanie Diamond Francis, Community Services Coordinator  
Danielle Dunlop, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of EWEMS  
Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services

### **1. Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for December 18, 2019

**2. Moment of Reflection**

**3. Singing of 'O Canada'**

**4. Recording of Attendance**

All members of Essex County Council were in attendance, with the exception of Tracey Bailey. Linda McKinlay, Councillor for the Town of Lakeshore, was in attendance as the alternate member for Lakeshore.

**5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

**6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

County Council Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2019 - Budget Meeting.

**261-2019**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That the minutes of the December 4, 2019 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**7. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks**

Warden McNamara welcomed the members of County Council, Administration and members of the public. He also welcomed the delegations who were present from the City of Windsor Administration and members of the public.

He further acknowledged the recent news story of Justin Lammers, Deputy Chief of EWEMS who, while on vacation in Florida, saved a person from drowning. Deputy Chief Lammers was recognized by the City and Mayor in Florida and Warden McNamara expressed pride and gratitude for his heroics.

**8. Delegations and Presentations**

## **8.1 The Corporation of the City of Windsor**

Cassandra Vink, Vink Consulting, Debbie Cercone, Executive Director, Housing and Children's Service, Jennifer Tanner, Manager of Homelessness and Housing Support and Kelly Goz, Coordinator Housing Administration and Development to present to Essex County Council the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

**262-2019**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Larry Snively

That Ms. Vink, Cercone, Tanner and Goz be permitted to address Essex County Council.

**Carried**

Cassandra Vink, the consultant responsible for drafting the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, provided some background on the process and the activities which were undertaken during the process of completing the plan. She referenced the data collection methods and the analysis of same. She discussed the current state of housing and homelessness in Windsor Essex, the vision and guiding principles and the 7 key goals of the program as proposed in the plan. She outlined the role of County and City Councils as it relates to the support of the plan in principle and in collaborative efforts from all parties to ensure the viability of the plan's goals.

Marc Bondy raised concern, with regard to the lack of County specific data and targets for the plan period and noted that there was a homelessness crisis in the local municipalities.

Debbie Cercone noted that although, in terms of planning, the goals are holistic, the implementation was regional and did included 199 units (of the approximately 400 in the region) in the County since 2007. She stated that there was a concerted effort to ensure that there was equal access across the City and County.

Mr. Bondy noted that the County growth was projected to surpass that of the City over the coming years, however, there were no emergency shelters in the County. He questioned how that issue was being addressed in the plan?

Ms. Cercone acknowledged the existing problem noted by Mr. Bondy and advised that when a need for emergency shelter occurred, the City would facilitate transportation to one of the existing shelters in the City. She explained there were some

implications of adding shelters, such as available funding, minimum number of beds that would be occupied, and accessibility for those who require the accommodation. She stated that the City recognized that there was an issue in the County for this area and were doing their best to operate with diversion tactics where possible, meaning temporary housing solutions with friends or family, and transportation for those who have no other recourse to existing facilities in the City.

Hilda MacDonald expressed the importance of access to housing options in the home municipality of the people who were in crisis. She expressed that some people have ties to the local community for family reasons, medical reasons and even for employment. She stated that the landscape of homelessness had changed, and there was a willingness from developers to move forward with affordable housing development. She noted there were many faith-based volunteers and community stakeholders meeting to find solutions and that it was necessary to have a positive outlook so that we can move forward with increasing the number of affordable housing units that are available in the County.

Discussion took place with regard to affordable housing developments and the attraction of private investors, including that initially there was some reluctance to invest in such housing projects, however, it has been proven that there was a market for affordable housing in this region. It was further noted that there had been some changes to the criteria for funding these projects, as the Province had stipulated that there would be limits to funding to private investment, to non-profits and not permitted to subsidize any private development.

Nelson Santos questioned what municipalities need to do in order to foster the right investment, where affordable housing was concerned?

Ms. Cercone advised that when municipalities engage in consultation, to include representation from the City and County housing teams and there can be value added to the conversation right from the initial stages of conversation. Further, municipalities may consider amending their by-laws and official plans to permit second dwellings/suites in residential areas.

Warden McNamara added that municipalities can look at existing multi-residential sites and consider opportunities for expansion on those properties and doing the necessary work to attract any investment in housing to the region. He stated that municipalities

had to find ways to retain the population of young people who might be considering leaving the community because they couldn't afford the available housing or that there wasn't any housing option available. He suggested considering inclusionary zoning to implement change and opportunity for development. He commented that it may be necessary to lobby for partnerships with Federal and Provincial governments to find solutions as housing is everyone's responsibility.

## **8.2 Habitat for Humanity**

Fiona Coughlin, CFRE, Executive Director & CEO, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex.

**263-2019**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That the Fiona Coughlin be permitted to address Council.

**Carried**

Fiona Coughlin provided Council with a summary of what Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex has been doing in the County recently. She noted that they were looking to expand their program and have conducted a fulsome study on the needs of housing in the region. She noted that the study findings support investment into affordable housing and noted that it was thought that any dollar invested into affordable housing returns four times that investment into the community. She noted that the goal of ending homelessness was a shared responsibility and strongly encouraged County Council to support the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan proposed by the City of Windsor.

## **9. Communications**

### **9.1 Correspondence**

**264-2019**

**Moved By** Leo Meloche

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the regular agenda for December 18, 2019 be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

**9.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

View the online versions of the [AMO Watchfile](#).

**9.1.2 City of Stratford**

Received e-mailed correspondence, dated December 6, 2019 from Tatiana Dafoe, Acting Clerk referring to their Stratford City Council resolution supporting Conservation Authorities.

**9.1.3 Anita LaPoint, Infrastructure Services**

Received card of appreciation for thoughtfulness shown at time of her retirement.

**9.1.4 City of Windsor**

Correspondence dated December 2, 2019, regarding Windsor City Council Decision CR 612/2019 CSPA 82, on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan.

**9.2 Resolutions**

There were no resolutions for the consideration of Council for December 18, 2019.

**10. Consent Agenda**

**265-2019**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That the recommendations in the Administrative Report listed as item 10.1, on the Consent Agenda for December 18, 2019, be approved and further that the information item(s) listed as item(s) 10.2 to 10.4 on the said Consent Agenda be received.

**Carried**

**10.1 Revised Fit for Duty Policy 2018-03**

Report Number 2019-1218-HR-R02-GPS, dated December 18, 2019 from Greg Schlosser, Director of Human Resources.

**10.2 City of Windsor - Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy Update Report - City Wide**

City Council Report S 224/2019 dated December 4, 2019 from the Coordinator of Housing Development and Administration.

**10.3 Summary Report of Poverty Reduction Initiatives and Effectiveness 2010 to Present - City Wide**

City Council Report S 222/2019, dated December 4, 2019 from Coordinator of Social Planning.

**10.4 Windsor Essex County Environment Committee - Revised WECEC Terms of Reference & Mandate**

Report Number 106 of the WECEC, dated October 23, 2019.

**11. Reports and Questions**

**11.1 Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan**

Report of the Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan - 2019 - 2028, presented at the December 18, 2019 Essex County Council meeting.

**266-2019**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Larry Snively

That the Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan be received.

**Carried**

**11.2 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority**

Minutes of the EWSWA meeting, dated November 5, 2019.

**267-2019**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Meeting be received.

**Carried**

**11.3 Grant Application to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines to Undertake a Regional Community Energy Plan**

Report Number 2019-1120-PS-R02-RB, dated December 18, 2019 from Rebecca Belanger, Manager, Planning Services.

**268-2019**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Richard Meloche

That Report 2019-1120-PS-R02-RB regarding the grant application to undertake a Regional Community Energy Plan be received by County Council for information purposes.

**Carried**

**11.4 Annual Accessibility Report**

Report Number 2019-1218-CCS-R01-RT, dated December 18, 2019 from Renée Trombley, Manager of Corporate Communications and Accessibility.

Renée Trombley provided a summary of the annual accessibility report and discussed the initiatives of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. She noted that the primary focus had been to raise awareness and work to remove attitudinal and physical barriers to access. She further discussed the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee and their work throughout the year, noting particular attention to the Celebrate Our Abilities - Accessibility Awareness Walk and hosting the guest speaker David Lepofsky for an open session which was well attended. Ms. Trombley also noted that as a matter of housekeeping, the 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report was provided for Council's information.

**269-2019**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That Essex County Council receive the 2019 annual Status Report for the Essex County Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2018-2022), the 2019 activities and updates of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) and the 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report, for information.

**Carried**

**11.5 2020-21 Tuition Assistance Policy**

Report Number 2019-1218-HR-R01-GPS, dated December 18, 2019 from Greg Schlosser, Director of Human Resources.

Greg Schlosser noted that the roll out of the Tuition Assistance Policy was planned for 2020.



**270-2019**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Nelson Santos

That County Council approve the proposed Tuition Assistance Policy #2020-01, effective January 1, 2020, attached as Appendix A of Report 2019-1218-HR-R1-GS.

**Carried**

**11.6 Donation of Surplus Ambulances**

Report Number 2019-1218-EMS-R012-BC, dated December 18, 2019 from Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS.

Chief Krauter provided a summary of the report and discussed the practice of the disposal of surplus ambulances by the County. He noted that, in addition to the donation of the ambulances to the groups discussed in the report, EWEMS had a team of volunteer operators who would work with Hospice to facilitate the transport of patients as required. He advised that a policy outlining that endeavor would be forthcoming to Council.

**271-2019**

**Moved By** Larry Snively

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That Report 2019-1218-EMS-R012-BK be received and that the request for ambulance donations be approved by Essex County Council.

**Carried**

**11.7 Emergency Management Status Report and Compliance**

Report Number 2019-1218-EM-R002-BK, dated December 18, 2019 from Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS.

Chief Krauter provided a summary of the report and the purpose of the emergency management compliance report, outlining the Regulations as they relate to the responsibility of the County.

**272-2019**

**Moved By** Leo Meloche

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That County Council adopt By-law #56-2019 authorizing;

- The approval of the composition of the Essex County Emergency Management Program Committee;
- The acknowledgement of review of the proposed revisions and additions to the Emergency Management Plan for the County of Essex; and
- Authorize the Emergency Management Coordinator to submit the Annual Emergency Management Program Statement of Completion for 2019.

**Carried**

**12. Unfinished Business**

**13. New Business**

**13.1 Holiday Greetings**

Members of Council in turn, expressed holiday greetings to all who had ties to the County of Essex. Expressions of gratitude for municipal council collaboration, staff support and community efforts which made 2019 a successful year were heard.

The Warden extended best wishes to the County as a whole, to neighbouring municipalities of Chatham-Kent and Windsor and offered good tidings for 2020. He thanked members of Council for their efforts and noted that the holidays were a time for enjoying family and friends and for rest and celebration.

**14. Adoption of By-Laws**

**273-2019**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That By-laws #54-2019 through #57-2019, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

**Carried**

**14.1 By-law Number 54-2019**

A By-law Authorizing the Borrowing of Money to Meet Current Expenditures of The Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex.

**14.2 By-law Number 55-2019**

A By-law to Appoint Auditors of The Corporation of the County of Essex for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019.

**14.3 By-law Number 56-2019**

A By-law to Adopt a Revised Emergency Management Program for the County of Essex.

**14.4 By-law Number 57-2019**

A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the County of Essex. (December 18, 2019)

**15. Notice of Motion**

**16. Adjournment**

**274-2019**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Nelson Santos

That the Essex County Council meeting for December 18, 2019 be adjourned at 8:25 PM.

**Carried**

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Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

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Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

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Date Approved