



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

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
Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Town of Lakeshore
Tom Bain, Mayor, Town of Lakeshore
Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle
Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
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 Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
Morley Bowman, Town of Essex Alternate Member

Absent:

Larry Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex

Administration:

Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS
Rob Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer
Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer
Greg Schlosser, Director Human Resources
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Renée Trombley, Manager Communications and Organizational Development
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
Danielle Dunlop, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was scheduled for 6:30 PM.

185-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Tom Bain

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d).

- Labour Relations and Employee Negotiations

Carried

187-2020

Moved By Hilda MacDonald

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That Council rise from the closed meeting at 6:55PM

Carried

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Recording of Attendance

Warden McNamara attended the meeting at the Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting via video conferencing from alternate remote locations, with the exception of Larry Snively, who was away. Morley Bowman, Town of Essex Alternate Member was also in attendance virtually.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020 - Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes of September 16, 2020 were adopted as amend by adding the words "with construction" prior to "to be commenced no later than 2023", in Resolution 180-2020.

188-2020

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the September 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted, as amended.

Carried

7. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden McNamara welcomed the members of County Council, Administration and members of the public and delivered the following greeting:

The residents of Windsor and Essex County have done an incredible job in response to COVID-19. You followed health guidelines and physical distancing protocols and you flattened the curve. You made significant adjustments to your routines and settled into a new normal of wearing masks and gathering responsibly outdoors in the parks and on the patios of Windsor-Essex.

As a result of your selfless efforts, we've seen relatively low daily case counts over these past few weeks compared to the numbers we saw in the Spring, and compared to the numbers being reported now in areas like Toronto, Ottawa and Peel. But those numbers, unfortunately, have been creeping up over the past few days, with six cases reported Tuesday and another 8 reported this morning.

This uptick underscores the need to remain vigilant even though we are all suffering from COVID-19 fatigue. Wear your mask. Wash your hands. Limit your contacts. Avoid large gatherings. Stay home if you feel sick. Do not let down your guard, especially now that the days are shorter and colder, pushing us indoors for extended periods of time.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford called the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend a "make or break" moment for the province in terms of beating back COVID-19 and I know Windsor-Essex residents will do their part.

Please, follow the advice of health officials and limit your Thanksgiving gathering to your immediate household. A big family dinner bringing together people from multiple households is exactly the sort of super spreader on which COVID-19 thrives. I know it won't be easy forgoing a traditional family feast, but the risk of large gatherings to our loved ones and the community at large is simply too grave.

Thank you, Windsor-Essex residents, for your patience, understanding, compassion and selflessness in these trying times. We will get through this crisis together. I wish everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

8. Delegations and Presentations

189-2020

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Mr. Franz and Ms. McKim be permitted to speak to County Council.

Carried

8.1 Windsor Symphony

Robert Franz and Jennifer McKim, President, Board of Directors will provide County Council with the annual "State of the Symphony" Address, introduction to the WSO's response to COVID-19 - Digital Concert Series, Education Concerts, Kids Concerts

Robert Franz and Jennifer McKim from the Windsor Symphony Orchestra (WSO) presented their annual "State of the Symphony" Address and provided information on their upcoming digital concert series on windsorsymphony.com. They advised that the hour-long series was filmed locally at various locations and would be delivered online once a week until Christmas.

9. Communications

9.1 Correspondence

Morley Bowman, Town of Essex Alternate Member joined the meeting at 6:30 pm.

190-2020

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Richard Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the regular agenda for October 7, 2020, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

9.1.1 Enbridge Gas Inc.

Notice of Application and Enbridge Gas' Application as filed with the Board for the 2019 Earnings Sharing and Disposition of Deferral & Variance Account Balances Application.

9.1.2 Windsor Essex Compassion Care Community (WECCC)

October 27, 2020 WECCC Zoom Call and Newsletter

9.1.3 Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC)

[September 29, 2020 - E-Newsletter](#)

9.1.4 Pathway to Potential

[September 2020 Newsletter Online](#)

9.1.5 City of Windsor

September 14, 2020 - Decision of Windsor City Council RE COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Centre

9.1.6 City of Windsor

September 18, 2020 - A copy of correspondence from the City of Windsor to the Minister of Health and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness seeking funding to manage the operation of the Temporary Foreign Worker Recovery Centre.

9.1.7 Loyalist Township

September 15, 2020 - Resolution RE funding for municipalities in relation to transportation services/ferries and COVID-19 implications.

9.1.8 Town of Gravenhurst

September 16, 2020 - Copy of correspondence supporting the resolution of the Township of Huron-Kinloss RE designation of Emancipation Day.

9.1.9 Township of North Glengarry

September 14, 2020 - Resolution RE Long Term Care Homes and COVID-19

9.1.10 Township of Wollaston

September 16, 2020 - Resolution RE 2018 Municipal Election and 'Pay to Play schemes'.

- 9.1.11 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Watchfile**
September 17, 2020 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)
- 9.1.12 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Update**
September 23, 2020 - [AMO Update: 2020 Federal Throne Speech Lays Out Priorities Including Climate Action, Expanding Rural Broadband, Improved Housing Access, Child Care and Long-Term Care Standards](#)
- 9.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Watchfile**
September 24, 2020 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)
- 9.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**
September 25, 2020 - [AMO Policy Update – New Stage 3 Restrictions](#)
- 9.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Digital Government**
September 28, 2020 - [Municipal Cybersecurity 101: What You Need to Know](#)
- 9.1.16 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Communication**
September 29, 2020 - [Request for Expressions of Interest to fill 2 municipal staff vacancies on the 2020-2022 AMO Board of Directors](#)
- 9.1.17 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**
September 30, 2020 - [AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Fall Plan, COVID-19 Modelling, Social Assistance Recovery & Renewal Plan, Food & Organic Waste Policy Statement, and Pre-Budget Submissions](#)
- 9.1.18 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Watchfile**
October 1, 2020 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)
- 9.1.19 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Policy**
October 1, 2020 - [AMO Policy Update: Temporary PSW Support, Cybersecurity Resources and Updated COVID school + child care screening guidance](#)

9.2 Resolutions

9.2.1 Town of Amherstburg

Resolution RE Request for Consideration of Amendments to Bill 108 *The Ontario Heritage Act*

191-2020

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Richard Meloche

That Essex County Council receive the resolution of the Town of Amherstburg requesting the consideration of amendments to Bill 108, regarding The Ontario Heritage Act as information.

Carried

10. Consent Agenda

10.1 Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services

Report number 2020-1007-ADM-R014-RM Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services, dated October 7, 2020 from Rob Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer.

192-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Gord Queen

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 10.1, on the Consent Agenda for October 7, 2020, be approved.

Carried

10.2 2021 County Council Meeting Schedule

Report number 2020-1007-CCS-R007-MB, 2021 County Council Meeting Schedule, dated October 7, 2020 from Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk.

193-2020

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 10.2, on the Consent Agenda for October 7, 2020, be approved.

Carried

11. Reports and Questions

Due to some internet connectivity issues, the order of business on the agenda was amended to allow for participants to join the meeting.

11.1 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

August 5, 2020 - EWSWA Board Meeting Minutes, Aldo DiCarlo, Vice-Chair

194-2020

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority for August 5, 2020 be received.

Carried

11.2 Essex County Library (ECL)

Essex County Library Board meeting minutes for the June 24, 2020 regular meeting and July 29, 2020 special meeting, Nelson Santos, Chair

Nelson Santos brought the Essex County Library (ECL) report forward, and provided updates, noting that 5 larger branches were opened (LaSalle, Tecumseh, Kingsville, Essex and Lakeshore). Mr. Santos indicated that the ECL was still providing mail services and would look to expand service offerings at the remainder of the branches once it was safe and healthy for the staff and community.

195-2020

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That the Essex County Library Board meeting minutes for the June 24, 2020 regular meeting and July 29, 2020 special meeting be received.

Carried

11.3 Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services 2021 Response Time Standard

Report number 2020-1007-R003-EMS-BK, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services 2021 Response Time Standard, dated October 7, 2020 from Bruce Krauter, Chief Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services.

Bruce Krauter, Chief of Essex-Windsor EMS, updated Council on the EWEMS Response Time Standard for 2021, a requirement under Regulation 257 of Ambulance Act. Chief Krauter noted that the report was developed annually and included data back to 2012.

Chief Krauter provided information on the various call volumes and response times and updated the group on various challenges experienced during the 2020 pandemic. Chief Krauter commended the paramedics for reaching the response time targets, despite the COVID-19 impact and donning their PPE.

Marc Bondy questioned the impact on call volume due to COVID. Chief Krauter responded that April and May showed a 35% decrease in call volume to previous years. However, by June and July, call levels were back up. Chief Krauter further noted that call volume levels had then steadied and somewhat decreased due to coordinated efforts between EMS and the hospitals.

Chief Krauter advised that it could take anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes for the paramedics to put on their PPE, especially for sudden cardiac arrest. He commented that at the time of reporting, there were no positive cases in the Essex-Windsor paramedics.

Richard Meloche requested information on the 44% call volume for sudden cardiac arrest calls. Chief Krauter indicated that he would report on the times for each municipality at a future date and noted that tiered response may impact the data consistency.

Leo Meloche inquired about the adverse effects of the delay for sudden cardiac arrest and impact on results. Chief Krauter committed to reporting on those numbers at a future date once the information was compiled. Chief Krauter noted that an increase in mortality rate had not been noticed.

Warden McNamara noted the dispatch issue and commented that a more centralized dispatch unit, similar to the Niagara model, would improve the response times. Chief Krauter indicated that the Province was working on a new dispatch algorithm which would assist with current dispatching issues.

Warden McNamara further inquired about the impact of opioids on the overall all volume.

Warden McNamara extended thanks to the leadership team and the paramedics at Essex-Windsor EMS for their efforts and leadership during such difficult times.

196-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Morley Bowman

That County Council authorize Administration to adopt and submit the proposed 2021 Essex Windsor EMS Response Time Performance Plan, as required under regulation 257/00 (as amended by regulation 267/08)

Carried

11.4 County Connecting Link (CCL) Extensions

Report number 2020-1007-ISD-R028-JM, County Connecting Link (CCL) Extensions, dated October 7, 2020 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/Engineer

Jane Mustac provided information on the redevelopment of the Town of LaSalle corridor, and the request to extend the CR 3 (Malden) Connecting Link Agreement from Reaume to Golfview.

198-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Nelson Santos

That County Council support the adoption of By-Law 2020-38 to extend the CR 3 (Malden) Connecting Link Agreement from Reaume to Golfview.

Carried

11.5 Electricity and Natural Gas Update - Commodity Price Hedging Strategy (AMO LAS)

Report number 2020-1007-R0X-FIN-SZ, Electricity and Natural Gas Update - Commodity Price Hedging Strategy (AMO LAS), dated October 7, 2020 from Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer.

Sandra Zwiers provided an update to County Council on the County's participation in a number of hedging programs, related to

electricity and natural gas. Ms. Zwiers noted that hedging allowed for consistent budget information year over year.

197-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Gord Queen

That County Council receive Report number 2020-1007-FIN-R015-SZ on Commodity Price Hedging Strategy as information.

Carried

11.6 HRIS Payroll Scheduling Software Project - RFP Results and Award

Report number 2020-1007-FIN-R016-SZ, HRIS Payroll Scheduling Software Project - RFP Results and Award, dated October 7, 2020 from Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer

Sandra Zwiers provided Council with information on the RFP process for purchasing integrated software to address the functions of HR, Payroll and Scheduling. Ms. Zwiers noted that outdated products, support and integration issues were the reason for the purchase.

Ms. Zwiers indicated that an RFI was issued in early 2019, allowing the County to better inform themselves on what was available to meet their needs.

She noted that submissions were received on the comprehensive RFP, and after review and scoring, the top 4 proponents were invited to the demonstration phase.

She further noted that 1100 users were included as part of the costing, which included the Library and EWSWA.

199-2020

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That County Council approve the award of RFP 2020-0116 – HRIS, Payroll, Scheduling (Time & Attendance) to Telus Employer Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$1,583,626 plus applicable taxes.

Carried

11.7 2021 Tax Policy Recommendations

Report number 2020-1007-R014-FIN-SZ, 2021 Tax Policy Recommendations, dated October 7, 2020 from Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services Department/Treasurer.

Sandra Zwiers reported on the tax policy recommendations and the reduction of the Multi-Residential tax ratio from 1.9554 to 1.74155 (representing the first year of a four-year plan to achieve the same rate as the multi-residential tax rate.). Ms. Zwiers recommended that a reduced Multi-Residential tax ratio be used in the calculation of Draft 2021 Budgets by the County and its seven local municipalities

Mr. Santos questioned the burden on the residential ratepayer, due to any tax shifts from that tax class. Ms. Zwiers noted that the Regional Treasurers Group reviewed and agreed that the phased-in approach of 25% was more palatable at the local level

Ms. Zwiers committed to providing a report to Council at a later date.

200-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That County Council approve in principle the reduction of the Multi-Residential tax ratio from 1.9554 to 1.74155 (representing the first year of a four-year reduction plan) and that the reduced Multi-Residential tax ratio be used in the calculation of Draft 2021 Budgets by the County and its seven local municipalities.

Carried

11.8 Property Tax Rate Reduction – Amherstburg Affordable Housing Development

Report number 2020-1007-FIN-R017-SZ, Property Tax Rate Reduction – Amherstburg Affordable Housing Development, dated October 7, 2020 from Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer

Sandra Zwiers presented the report on the Property Tax Rate Reduction for an Amherstburg Affordable Housing Development and highlighted the need for the County multi-residential tax rate to be reduced to the residential rate for the specified development.

201-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That County Council adopt By-law 2020-37, authorizing a single residential tax rate be applied to calculate the County property taxes for the affordable housing development located at 680 Front Road South, in the Town of Amherstburg.

Carried

12. Unfinished Business

12.1 County Road 42 Improvements, Issue of 0.3 Metre (1foot) Reserve

Report from David Sundin, McTague Law Firm LLP, County Solicitor, dated October 1, 2020

Deputy Mayor Bachetti confirmed that the Senior Administration team in Tecumseh and their solicitor had reviewed the draft By-law and were satisfied that it rectified their concerns. It was noted that the by-law would be brought forward at the next County Council meeting for adoption.

202-2020

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

THAT Council receive the report from David Sundin, McTague Law Firm LLP, County Solicitor, dated October 1, 2020 for information.

Carried

13. New Business

13.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 6:30 p.m., prior to the regular Council, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001. Administration provided Council with an update on labour relations and employee negotiations matters.

Warden McNamara also reported on the creation of a Committee of Council and planned engagement of a third party consultant to lead the recruitment initiative for a Chief Administrative Officer to replace Robert Maisonville, who had announced his intention to retire in March 2021.

14. Adoption of By-Laws

203-2020

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Tom Bain

That By-law(s) 2020-37 through 2020-40, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

14.1 By-law Number 2020-37

Being a By-law to Authorize a Single Residential Tax Rate for County Tax Purposes for the Municipal Capital Facility for Affordable Housing at 680 Front Road South, in the Town of Amherstburg

14.2 By-law Number 2020-38

Being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of a Connecting Link Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Essex and the Corporation of the Town of Lasalle

14.3 By-law Number 2020-39

Being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement Between the Corporation of the County of Essex and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2974.1

14.4 By-law Number 2020-40

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, for October 7, 2020.

15. Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion for October 7, 2020.

16. Adjournment

204-2020

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That the Essex County Council meeting for October 7, 2020 be adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Carried

Essex County Council Special Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2020

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

Signed October 21, 2020