



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

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>**

Council: Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore  
Tom Bain, Mayor, Municipality 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 Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex  
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration: Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk  
Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources  
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home  
Robin Greenall, CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library  
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS  
Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development  
Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer  
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk  
Crystal Sylvestre, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant

### **1. Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting was held for 6:45 PM on June 2, 2021

**121-2021**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (i) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason:

(i) 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

**Carried**

**123-2021**

**Moved By** Richard Meloche

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

That Council rise from the closed meeting at 6:59 pm.

**Carried**

**2. Moment of Reflection**

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

**4. Recording of Attendance**

Warden McNamara attended the meeting virtually from the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting virtually, via video conferencing from alternate remote locations.

**5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

**6. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

May 19, 2021 - Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

**124-2021**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

That the minutes of the May 19, 2021 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 and delivered the following greeting:

Good evening and welcome.

This week began on a sombre note, as we lowered flags across the country and paused to mourn 215 children whose bodies were discovered recently on the grounds of a former residential school.

While this unmarked gravesite is in Kamloops, British Columbia, it is a reminder of the trauma these residential schools caused to Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

This week the County of Essex has lowered flags at its facilities for 215 hours to honour these children, and show respect to their families and communities. We also recognize the need for Canada to fully address what happened at residential schools decades ago.

Please join me now in a moment of silence to reflect on this tragedy and honour these lost lives.

Thank you.

Now, I want to recognize everyone at the County of Essex who is wearing red today. It is Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion. It is also National AccessAbility Week.

The Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee has encouraged everyone to wear a red shirt to show support for persons and families living with disabilities, as well as celebrate their achievements.

Committee members wore their red shirts to their last Zoom meeting and have posted a photo on social media. This week they also launched their WE Check the Trails campaign to promote safe and accessible trails for all.

I can't think of a better inspiration for wearing red to show our support for accessibility and inclusion.

Before we begin our meeting, I want to note that we are joined for the first time by our new Director of Human Resources, Kristie Cronin. Welcome, Kristie. County Council looks forward to working with you.

We also want to wish Kristie's predecessor, Greg Schlosser, a happy retirement and thank him for his 16 years of service to the County.

## **8. Delegations and Presentations**

### **125-2021**

**Moved By** Larry Snively

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That representatives of Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island be permitted to address County Council.

**Carried**

### **8.1 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)**

Gordon Orr, CEO, Lynette Bain, Vice President, Destination Development, Jason Toner, Director of Marketing and Communications to discuss plans for 2021 and to unveil the new 2021/2022 Official Visitor's Guide.

Gordon Orr guided Council through a presentation outlining TWEPI's mission statement and their core functions. Mr. Orr informed Council that TWEPI had become an accredited organization through Destinations International. The Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) accreditation made TWEPI part of an elite group of 225 Destination Marketing Organizations globally, with there being only nineteen accredited organizations in Canada and only four in Ontario.

Mr. Orr discussed TWEPI's redirection of resources during the past year of COVID restrictions, noting that, at the onset of pandemic restrictions, TWEPI paused their marketing strategies and pivoted their efforts to developing a COVID resource hub focused on providing businesses with real time information to guide them through pandemic safety requirements. He explained that TWEPI's 2021 Destination Development and Marketing Plan had four pillars of focus: outdoor adventure, arts and culture, food and drink, and entertainment.

Lynette Bain outlined new and enhanced program development initiatives designed to grow local capacity and stakeholders including programs for indoor and outdoor opportunities designed

to showcase the heritage and uniqueness of Windsor Essex culture. She explained that TWEPI had embraced the Safe Travels designation certified by the World Travel and Tourism Council allowing travelers to recognize companies that had adapted to health and hygiene protocols.

Jason Toner highlighted the Windsor Essex Staycation initiative designed to guide local residents through 'close to home' opportunities. He noted that, the 2021 Visitors Guide had been rebranded to reflect the Staycation initiatives and was available in print and virtually.

As well, it was noted that the TWEPI website had been enhanced for new features; including hotel bookings, restaurant menus and new content that was breaking immediately.

County Council applauded TWEPI for their ingenuity and commitment to sustaining and invigorating the Windsor Essex tourism sector through the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

## **9. Communications**

### **9.1 Correspondence**

**126-2021**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for June 2, 2021, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

#### **9.1.1 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)**

[Making Waves Newsletter](#)

#### **9.1.2 Statistics Canada**

2021 Census - [Complete your online census today!](#)

Warden McNamara reminded all residents to complete their 2021 Census, explaining that the information was used by Statistics Canada for Federal Gas Tax distribution and the gas tax were used by municipalities for infrastructure improvements.

**9.1.3 Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC)**

May 26, 2021 - [Chamber News](#)

**9.1.4 Town of Blue Mountains**

Resolution RE Request for Provincial Re-opening Strategy and Frontline Business Experience

**9.1.5 Township of Brock**

Resolution RE Dead End Road Kids

**9.1.6 Regional Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

Resolution RE Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Time for Change

**9.1.7 Town of Cochrane**

Resolution RE Greenwater Provincial Park

**9.1.8 Township of McKellar**

Resolution RE Tax Relief on 2020 CERB Payments

**9.1.9 Township of Matachewan**

Resolution RE Request to the Province of Ontario to reverse their decision on the Closure of Youth Justice Facilities in Northeastern communities

**9.1.10 Township of Terrace Bay**

Resolution RE Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Legislation

**9.1.11 City of Owen Sound**

Resolution RE Support for three digit dialing for Suicide and Crisis Prevention Hotline

**9.1.12 Municipality of West Elgin**

Resolution RE Phragmites australis (Phragmites) an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes and the need for Provincial action.

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

May 14, 2021 - [2021 Municipal Information and Data Analysis \(MIDAS\) Survey](#)

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

May 19, 2021 - [Leading Through Crisis Strengthening Personal Resilience New Dates Added! June 17 & September 16, 2021](#)

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

May 20, 2021 [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

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

May 22, 2021 - [AMO Conference Just Three Months Away](#)

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

May 25, 2021 - [AMO 2021 Training Human Rights and Equity The Role and Obligations of Municipal Leaders](#)

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

May 25, 2021 - [AMO Digital Partner Webinar: Last Chance to Register, What's New and What's Changed at MindBeacon](#)

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

May 27, 2021 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

**9.2 Resolutions**

**9.2.1 City of Windsor**

Resolution Re: Urging Governments of Canada and Ontario to allow Windsor-Essex residents to obtain vaccinations in Detroit, without being required to self-isolate and quarantine upon return.

County Council discussed the merits and drawbacks of the proposal contemplated in the City of Windsor resolution. Several significant concerns were presented in the areas of logistics, legislated emergency response protocols and tracking for administered doses for statistical purposes. Council was of the opinion that further investigation into alternative arrangements with the United States were required before support could be offered. Council expressed confidence in the Provincial system of vaccine distribution and the availability of vaccines in the Province of Ontario.

**127-2021**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That Essex County Council receive the correspondence from the City of Windsor urging the Governments of Canada and Ontario to allow residents of Windsor-Essex County to obtain vaccinations in Detroit, without being required to self-isolate and quarantine upon return, and further that City of Windsor Resolution Number CR230/2021 be supported.

**Motion Lost**

**10. Consent Agenda**

**128-2021**

**Moved By** Marc Bondy

**Seconded By** Leo Meloche

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 10.1, on the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

**10.1 Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services**

Report number 2021-0602-CAO-R003-MG, Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services, dated June 2, 2021 from Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

**11. Reports and Questions**

**11.1 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)**

Minutes of the October 15, 2020, December 10, 2020 and February 25, 2021 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island meetings, Deputy Warden Nelson Santos to bring forward.

Nelson Santos, on behalf of the Board, commended TWEPI on their efforts and instilling faith and trust in Windsor Essex tourism sector.

**129-2021**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That the minutes of Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island for October 15, 2020, December 10, 2020 and February 25, 2021 be received.

**Carried**

### **11.2 Road User Agreement - TekSavvy Solutions Inc.**

Report number 2021-0602-ISD-R017-JM, Road User Agreement – TekSavvy Solutions Inc., dated June 2, 2021 from Jane Mustac, Director of Infrastructure Services Department/County Engineer

Jane Mustac presented the report regarding the Road User Agreement with TekSavvy Solutions. She advised that TekSavvy was awarded a contract with Southwest Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) to expand highspeed fiberoptic broadband service in the Municipality of Lakeshore, specifically the Lighthouse Cove area. She noted that the Agreement had been prepared in consultation with the County Solicitor and that all costs associated with the agreement, construction and future maintenance of the forcemain were the obligation of TekSavvy Solutions.

**130-2021**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Larry Snively

That Essex County Council adopt By-Law 2021-20 for the execution of the Road User Agreement with TekSavvy Solutions Inc.

**Carried**

## **12. Unfinished Business**

## **13. New Business**

### **13.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting**

Warden McNamara stated that a Closed Meeting of County Council had been held at 6:45 p.m. pursuant to Section 239 (2) (i) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

Council received an Administrative update on a matter which involved commercial information, provided in confidence, which if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice the contractual negotiations of an organization.

### **13.2 Requesting Reconsideration of COVID-19 Safe Reopening Strategy for Businesses**

Nelson Santos put forward a motion, seeking Council support to have the Warden send a letter to the Premier to request a re-evaluation of the reopening plan on a regional basis, in an effort to support the business communities of Essex County who were heavily impacted by pandemic restrictions.

#### **131-2021**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

Whereas the Windsor-Essex County region has achieved a 70 per cent vaccination rate by the date of June 2, 2021, and in recognition of the approved provincial stepped plan to reopening;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the County of Essex send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, requesting that there be a reconsideration of the criteria used in the COVID-19 safe reopening strategy for businesses, and that discretionary decisions in accordance with the multi-step criteria be advanced by region based on regional data available at the present time; and further,

That the letter be forwarded to local lower tier municipalities, the City of Windsor, local MPPs, Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) and to the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Honourable Vic Fedeli, requesting further support.

**Carried**

### **14. Adoption of By-Laws**

#### **132-2021**

**Moved By** Hilda MacDonald

**Seconded By** Joe Bchetti

That By-laws 2021-20 and 2021-23, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

**Carried**

#### **14.1 By-law Number 2021-20**

Being a By-law Number to authorize the execution of a Road User Agreement with TekSavvy Solutions Inc.

**14.2 By-law Number 2021-23**

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for June 2, 2021

**15. Notice of Motion**

**16. Adjournment**

That the Essex County Council meeting for June 2, 2021 be adjourned at 8:39 PM.

**133-2021**

**Moved By** Richard Meloche

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

**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 Signed