



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

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
Morley Bowman, Alternate Member - Town of Essex
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
Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Nelson Santos, Deputy Warden, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration: Mary Birch, Director, Council & Community Services/Clerk
Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources
Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
Robin Greenall, CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
David Sundin, County Solicitor
Crystal Sylvestre, Administrative Assistant, Council and Community Services
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning
Diana Radulescu, Active Transportation Coordinator

1. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2022.

2. Moment of Reflection

The Moment of Reflection was not observed at this meeting.

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

The Singing of 'O Canada' was not observed at this meeting.

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all the Original Peoples of Turtle Island.

5. 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.

Morley Bowman was in attendance as an alternate member for the Town of Essex.

6. 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:

"Welcome. I want to start by addressing everyone in our region who is celebrating the lunar new year. We wish you all a happy and prosperous Year of the Tiger. It appears to be starting on a hopeful note. Despite the weather and no matter what the groundhog forecasters had to say today, we do not want a repeat of the last six weeks of the pandemic.

In early January, the province had to re-impose restrictions on public gatherings, businesses, municipal facilities and other venues due to rising case numbers. I want to thank everyone who once again stepped up to protect friends, family, neighbours and strangers.

On Monday, some of the restrictions were lifted as the numbers appear to be levelling off. We are looking forward with hope to what February will bring.

This is not the time to lose heart or let anger and frustration dominate our thoughts. Focus on your mental and physical health. Reach out to those who are struggling. If you are struggling, reach out for help. Know that you are not alone, marginalized or forgotten.

We can have different opinions or feelings, and still be united in the fight to move beyond this pandemic. Vaccines, social distancing and masks are making a difference. We are learning more every day about how we can live with this virus.

This evening, the Windsor-Essex County Acting Medical Officer of Health will update us on where we stand. Before he does that, I want to take a few minutes to talk about the good things that are happening in this region.

Every municipality in Essex County has now approved a responsible 2022 budget and is moving ahead with plans that are making this region an even better place to live, work and play.

Everywhere we are seeing the demand for housing skyrocket. This is creating some pressures, but it is also a sign that our region is coming into its own.

New developments keep popping up in Amherstburg's historic downtown. Businesses are quietly opening and transforming every community in the Town of Essex.

Kingsville is always adding events and amenities for its growing population. Lakeshore is doing an incredible job of balancing the needs of its fast-growing urban population with those of rural residents and businesses.

LaSalle is preparing to redevelop its waterfront into an attraction that will be second to none. Leamington is embarking on an exciting project to turn a former school site into attractive and affordable housing. And in Tecumseh, we are preparing for our town's 100th birthday party this summer. I am looking forward to celebrating the past and better days ahead.

Honouring our history is vital to navigating the path to a better future. This is why we should all mark Black History Month in February by learning more about our rich past. While the Black history of this region stretches back to the 18th century, it wasn't until 1993 that Black History Month was declared in Ontario. In 1995, it was officially recognized across Canada. We can all learn more by taking advantage of the Windsor-Essex Black History Month events that are being put on by local groups and organizations throughout February. You can find all the details on the Amherstburg Freedom Museum website. Thank you to Windsor-Essex

Black History Month organizers for shining a light on this important part of our past and for showing us how Black history is continuing to be made today."

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Essex County Council Meeting Minutes - January 19, 2022

016-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That the minutes of the January 19, 2022 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

9.1. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Nicole Dupuis, CEO, WECHU, to provide an update on COVID-19 within the region.

017-2022

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the delegation from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit be permitted to address County Council.

Carried

Dr. Nesathurai reviewed the statistics of the COVID-19 pandemic for the Windsor-Essex region and the Province of Ontario. Dr. Nesathurai explained that based on the data, COVID-19 remained a significant challenge. He explained WECHU continues to monitor the burden of disease in the community and public health measures associated with mitigating the burden of disease in the community.

Discussions included re-opening opportunities, testing availability and vaccinations for school children.

The Warden applauded WECHU and all public health officials for providing good leadership and offering guidance to our communities and community leaders through the pandemic.

9.2. County-Wide Active Transportation -Annual Update

Diana Radulescu, Active Transportation Coordinator, to present the annual update on CWATS to County Council.
(Refer to Reports and Questions item 12.1)

018-2022

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Tom Bain

That the Diana Radulescu, CWATS Coordinator, be permitted to address County Council.

Carried

Diana Radulescu provided an overview of the CWATS program that began formally with the 2012 Master Plan. Ms. Radulescu explained that the network of on and off-road routes promotes community connections, health and active living, as well as assists in economic development and tourism.

Ms. Radulescu explained the founding principles of the CWATS project and the processes involved with collecting data and making decisions for development. The CWATS Committee had visited with local tier Councils between November 2021 and January 2022 to provide updates regarding the program and seek input. Ms. Radulescu explained that Public Consultation phases would take place throughout 2022 followed by a draft Plan for local and County Council's review and approval thereafter.

10. Communications

10.1. Correspondence

019-2022

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for February 2, 2022, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Health Canada

January 26, 2022 Correspondence in response to Essex County Council support for Long-Term Care Resolution.

10.1.2 Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

January 25, 2022 Correspondence from Marie-Claude Bibeau, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Lisa M. Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs RE Strengthening the agriculture and agri-food sector is critical to Canada's economic growth.

10.1.3 Ontario Newsroom

January 24, 2022 - [Premier Doug Ford's Speech at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association 2022 Conference](#)

10.1.4 Ontario Newsroom

January 27, 2022

- [Improving Storm and Wastewater Management Monitoring and Public Reporting](#)
- [Ontario Helping Municipalities Build Storm and Wastewater Infrastructure](#)

10.1.5 Ontario Newsroom

January 25, 2022 - Intake Applications Being Accepted for Funding RE

- [Economic Development Opportunities in Ontario](#)
- [Inclusive and Accessible Communities](#)

10.1.6 Town of Bracebridge

Resolution RE Support for Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services (MPSSAS) Receive Increased and Sustainable Provincial Funding

10.1.7 Town of Mono

January 7, 2022 Correspondence to the Attorney General of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Downey RE Provincial Offences Act, Court and Municipal Resources

10.1.8 Invest Windsor Essex (IWE)

January 25, 2022 - [Business Development Initiatives in Windsor-Essex, Highlights of the 2021 Fourth-Quarter Activities](#)

10.1.9 Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board 2021 Director's Annual Report to the Community - Emelda Byrne, Director of Education

10.1.10 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 14, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update – MOI Broadband Webinar, Joint + Several Liability Resolution and Federal Housing Accelerator](#)

10.1.11 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 19, 2022 - [Registration is Open, AMO – LAS Virtual Municipal Energy Symposium - March 31st & April 1st, 2022](#)

10.1.12 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 19, 2022 - [Ontario-Municipal Summit Seeks Solutions to Build More Homes](#)

10.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 20, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 26, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, New Joint & Several Technical Group, Phase 2 CA Regulations, and Provincial Gas Tax Boost](#)

10.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

January 27, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions for Council consideration for February 2, 2022.

11. Consent Agenda

There were no Consent Agenda items for February 2, 2022.

12. Reports and Questions

12.1. County Wide Active Transportation System - Annual Update

Report number 2022-0202-ISC-R04-DR, County Wide Active Transportation System - Annual Update, dated February 2, 2022 from Diana Radulescu, CWATS Coordinator

020-2022

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Morley Bowman

That Essex County Council receive the report for information.

Carried

12.2. Essex County Library Board

Minutes of the Essex County Library Board meeting, dated November 24, 2021, Deputy Warden, Nelson Santos, Chair

021-2022

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Library Board for November 24, 2021 be received.

Carried

12.3. Tender Summary – Bridge over South Branch Cedar Creek (B-23-22)

Report number 2022-0202-ISC-R03-AB, Tender Summary - Bridge Over South Cedar Branch Creek - B-23-22, dated February 2, 2022, from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham reported on the tender results for rehabilitation of the Bridge over South Branch Cedar Creek. He explained that a full closure of County Road 23 was required to complete the replacement of this structure and a road detour would be in place prior to construction. The proposed timing of the work was to commence in late February or early March and was anticipated to take 22 weeks to complete.

022-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That Essex County Council award a contract to replace Bridge B-23-22 as follows:

Project Number 155-2022 – County Road 23 – Bridge over South Branch Cedar Creek (B-23-22) to Front Construction Industries Inc. for a total tender amount of \$1,282,700.00, plus H.S.T. All as presented in report 2022-0202-ISC-R03-AB.

Carried

12.4. Road User Agreement with Cogeco Connexion Inc.

Report number 2022-0202-CCS-R01-DS, Road User Agreement with Cogeco Connexion Inc., dated February 2, 2022, from David Sundin, County Solicitor

David Sundin presented the report regarding the Road User Agreement with Cogeco Connexions Inc. Mr. Sundin advised that Cogeco was engaged in the installation of high-speed internet infrastructure as part of the Southwest Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project in the County Road network right of way. Mr. Sundin reviewed the spans of roadway impacted by the Road User Agreement and the cost impacts of the agreement over time.

023-2022

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Nelson Santos

That Essex County Council adopt By-law 2022-02, authorizing the Clerk and the Warden to execute a copy of the Road User Agreement between Cogeco and the County substantially in the form appended to this report as Appendix "A".

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business to be addressed at the February 2, 2022 meeting.

14. New Business

There was no New Business brought forward at the February 2, 2022 meeting.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

025-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That By-law(s) 2022-02 and 2022-03, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

15.1.By-Law Number 2022-02

Being a By-law to authorize the execution of a Road User Agreement with Cogeco Connexion Inc.

15.2.By-Law Number 2022-03

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, for the meeting of February 2, 2022

16. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion brought forward.

17. Adjournment

That the Essex County Council meeting for February 2, 2022 be adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk

Date Signed