



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

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, 2nd Floor**

**360 Fairview Avenue West**

**Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6**

**<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  
Steve Bjorkman, Deputy Mayor - Town of Essex  
Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Tony Gaffan, Alternate Member - Town of Kingsville  
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington  
Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle  
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg  
Richard Meloche, Mayor, Town of Essex  
Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville  
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

**Administration:**

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk  
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home  
Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services  
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk  
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Services  
Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development  
David Sundin, County Solicitor  
Crystal Sylvestre, Administrative Assistant, Legislative and Community Services

Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

1. **Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for October 19, 2022

2. **Moment of Reflection**

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

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 and members of Council attended the meeting at the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers.

Marc Bondy attended the meeting virtually from a remote location.

Tony Gaffan attended as an alternate member for the Town of Kingsville.

(Nelson Santos resigned as Mayor of the Town of Kingsville, effective July 17, 2022)

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:

"Earlier this week, we at the County of Essex made the difficult decision to declare a local emergency because of the mounting impact of ambulance offload delays. The frequency and length of time when there are no Essex-Windsor EMS ambulances available to respond to 911 calls have escalated to the point where we felt we had to take extraordinary measures.

In first two weeks of October, there were 491 occasions when all of the ambulances in service were tied up outside hospital emergency

departments waiting to unload patients. That is more than four times the number of times we saw this happen in all of September.

This is not a new problem, but we are concerned that it is escalating as we enter the flu season, which is now also COVID season. Essex-Windsor EMS staff, our health-care partners and other local first responders have pulled together to implement multiple measures over the last few years to address the wait times at local emergency rooms. Unfortunately, despite all of our best efforts, the problem is getting worse.

We are using the declaration of a local emergency to urgently bring all the stakeholders together to work on short-term and long-term solutions. Ambulances are still able to respond to life-and-limb emergencies in a timely fashion. Ensuring that continues is our priority.

Essex-Windsor EMS Chief Bruce Krauter and I met earlier today with Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and local MPPs Andrew Dowie and Anthony Leardi. We had frank and fruitful discussions. They understood the urgency of our situation and are committed to helping us address it.

What can the public do to assist? Please remember that frontline health-care workers are the heroes in this story. If you are angry about a long wait for an ambulance or care at an emergency room, don't take it out on the paramedics, nurses, ER doctors and other staff. They have been going above and beyond for over two years. They need our moral support now more than ever.

Through a declaration of a local emergency, the leadership at Essex-Windsor EMS and the County of Essex are working with our partners to provide that moral support and back it up with actions that will keep ambulances and paramedics on the road and available when they're needed.

This is an example of the important issues the municipal candidates elected on Monday will be facing. Please go out and vote if you haven't already. The people you elect to represent you on municipal councils across Essex County will have a big impact on our region."

**7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

**8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the Essex County Council meeting, dated September 21, 2022.

**219-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Leo Meloche

That the minutes of the September 21, 2022 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**9. Delegations and Presentations**

**9.1. Presentation to Committees**

The Warden and members of Council presented an award of appreciation to members of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee, to acknowledge the end of the term.

Present in Chambers from the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee were Chairperson Christine Easterbrook, Vice Chairperson Gord Queen and members Brad Frenette, Diana Kirkbride and Debbie Alexander.

Members Stephanie Olewski and Rachel Jewell were absent.

Warden McNamara offered gratitude to the committee for their commitment to making Essex County a more inclusive and accessible place to work, live and visit through awareness campaigns by breaking down barriers and by advocating for change to the standards of what is acceptable.

The Warden highlighted the activities of the committee including the WE Check the Trails initiative to improve accessibility on local trail systems; designing and raising the first County wide Accessibility Flag; and the No Barriers, No Problem speaker's forum that included two speakers who shared their lived experiences.

Gord Queen commended the committee for supporting a co-operative approach with the local tier Accessibility Advisory Committees and other organizations throughout the County.

**10. Communications**

**10.1. Correspondence**

**220-2022**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for October 19, 2022, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

**10.1.1 The Essex and Kent Scottish - Borderers Foundation**

September 27, 2022 Letter of Appreciation RE Contribution to Scottish Borderers Foundation on behalf of the Essex and Kent Scottish

**10.1.2 Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce**

September 27, 2022 - [Regional Chamber Update](#)

**10.1.3 Pathway to Potential**

Monthly Newsletter - [September Edition](#)

**10.1.4 Canadian Wildlife Service - Ontario / Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Management Plan for the Eastern Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) in Canada

**10.1.5 Township of Adjala-Tosorontio**

Resolution RE Opposition to the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act

**10.1.6 Township of Alnwick-Haldimand**

Resolution RE OMAFRA Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Administration

**10.1.7 Town of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh**

Resolution RE Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

**10.1.8 Municipality of Brighton**

Resolution RE Streamlining Governing Legislation for Physicians in Ontario

**10.1.9 Municipality of East Ferris**

Resolution RE Support for finding a solution to child care issues in Ontario

**10.1.10 Town of Gravenhurst**

Resolution RE Opposition to the Strong Mayors Bill, in Ontario

**10.1.11 Municipality of Grey Highlands**

Resolution RE Increase Speeding Fines

**10.1.12 Municipality of Huron Shores**

Resolution RE Support for Streamlining Governing Legislation for Physicians in Ontario

**10.1.13 Norfolk County**

Resolution RE Support for Draven Alert

**10.1.14 Township of Perry**

Resolution RE Support for Healthcare Connect System for Members of the Canadian Armed Forces

**10.1.15 Municipality of Powassan**

Resolution RE Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Administrative Fees

**10.1.16 City of Sarnia**

Letter RE Light It Up! for NDEAM Event - October 20, 2022

**10.1.17 Municipality of Thames Centre**

Resolution RE Opposition for Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act

**10.1.18 Municipality of West Perth**

Resolution RE Opposing the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act

**10.1.19 Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat - Finance**

September 23, 2022 - [News Release RE Ontario Releases 2021-2022 Public Accounts](#)

**10.1.20 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

September 23, 2022 - [News Release RE Province Supporting Made-in-Ontario Fertilizer Solutions for Farmers](#)

**10.1.21 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs**

October 7, 2022 - [News Release RE Canada and Ontario Increasing Access to Broadband Service in Essex County](#)

**10.1.22 Ontario Ministry of Health**

September 25, 2022 - [News Release RE Ontarians 18+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster Starting Tomorrow](#)

- 10.1.23 Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs**  
September 15, 2022 - [News Release RE Province Partnering with Three Fires Nations to Strengthen Economy in Southwestern Ontario](#)
- 10.1.24 Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development**  
September 27, 2022 - [News Release RE Ontario Preparing to Expand Health and Benefits Coverage](#)
- 10.1.25 Ontario Ministry of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity Children, Community and Social Services**  
October 4, 2022 - [News Release RE Ontario Celebrates Women's History Month](#)
- 10.1.26 Ontario Ministry of Energy**  
October 4, 2022 - [News Release RE Ontario Expanding Energy Efficiency to Help Families and Businesses Keep Costs Down](#)
- 10.1.27 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)**  
September 24, 2022 - [ROMA 2023 – Breaking Ground from January 22, 2023 – January 24, 2023](#)
- 10.1.28 Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC)**  
September 26, 2022 Letter RE Submission on the 2022 Federal Electoral Districts Redistribution
- 10.1.29 Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS)**  
September 30, 2022 - Notice of Achievement, Don Kraynack, Certified Road Supervisor
- 10.1.30 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)**  
Newsletter - [September 2022 Edition](#)
- 10.1.31 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**  
September 22, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)
- 10.1.32 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**  
September 26, 2022 - [Clear Risk, It's Time for Change](#)
- 10.1.33 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

September 27, 2022 - [AMO New Head of Council and New Councillor Training](#)

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

September 29, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

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

September 29, 2022 - [AMO News Release - Municipal Clerks and Returning Officers](#)

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

October 4, 2022 - [Human Rights and Equity: The Role and Obligations of Municipal Leaders](#)

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

October 4, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update – Proposed Regulations Under The Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, and Federal Cannabis Act Review](#)

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

October 6, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

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

October 6, 2022 - [AMO Training: Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official](#)

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

Colin Best, AMO President RE Canada Community-Building Fund

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

October 8, 2022 - [AMO Professional Development Lineup for 2022-2023: Register Today!](#)

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

October 12, 2022 - [AMO Survey: Bill 3, The Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022](#)

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

October 13, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

## **10.2. Resolutions**

### **10.2.1 Town of Kingsville**

Resolution RE Opposition to Bill 3, Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022

**221-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Steve Bjorkman

The Essex County Council support the resolution from the Town of Kingsville regarding their opposition to Bill 3, Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022.

**Carried**

### **10.2.2 City of Windsor**

September 6, 2022 City of Windsor Council Decision - Housing Hub Consultation and Architectural Feasibility Study Update

**222-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That Essex County Council receive the resolution from the City of Windsor seeking action from the Province to flow capital and operating funding to municipalities and Service Managers in Ontario to lead the development of critical supportive housing programs.

**Carried**

## **11. Consent Agenda**

**223-2022**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That the recommendations in the Administrative Report listed as item 11.1, on the Consent Agenda for October 19, 2022, be approved.

**Carried**

### **11.1. Approval of Invoices - Legal and/or Consulting Services**

Report number 2022-1019-LCS-R24-DS, Approval of Invoices - Legal and/or Consulting Services, dated October 19, 2022, from David Sundin, County Solicitor

12. **Reports and Questions**

**12.1. Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)**

Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, Deputy Mayor, Gord Queen, Vice Chair.

**224-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Richard Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee for September 8, 2022 be adopted.

**Carried**

**12.2. 2023 Essex County Council Meeting Schedule**

Report number 2022-1019-LCS-R23-MB, 2023 Essex County Council Meeting Schedule, dated October 19, 2022, from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

**225-2022**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council approve the 2023 County Council meeting dates as outlined in Appendix A to this report.

**Carried**

**12.3. Procedural By-law Amendment**

Report number 2022-1019-LCS-R25-MB, Procedural By-law Amendment, dated October 19, 2022 from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch provided the report regarding the review of the Procedure By-law to ensure it was up to date for the incoming Council.

Since the consolidation of the by-law in 2018, there were two amendments to allow the electronic participation at Council meetings; first in a declared emergency, and second, pursuant to

updates to the Municipal Act, 2001, which allowed for electronic participation in meetings during other circumstances.

Ms. Birch also listed two resolutions during the last term of Council that were incorporated into the Procedure By-law. One being to add a land acknowledgement to the agenda protocol and the other to change the start time of regular council meetings from 7 PM to 6 PM EST, beginning with the December 21, 2022 meeting.

Other amendments to the by-law included housekeeping items such as updating the website address, reordering of the agenda and amendments to other sections to allow for electronic voting and participation.

Ms. Birch reminded Council that the Procurement By-law allowed for the payment of legal invoices without a resolution of council and therefore that section of the Procedure By-law was removed. The section of the by-law pertaining to Council member travel, meeting and conferences was also updated to reflect the changes to the policy approved by Council earlier in 2022.

Ms. Birch explained that it was the intention of the Clerk's office to undertake a comprehensive review of the by-law to address parliamentary procedures and rules of conduct at the beginning of the next term of council.

**226-2022**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Tony Gaffan

That Essex County Council approve By-law 2022-31 being a by-law to provide rules governing the order and proceedings for the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex and repealing By-law 41-2018 and all other by-laws inconsistent with By-law 2022-31.

**Carried**

**12.4. Sun Parlor Home – Medical Director Agreement**

Report number 2022-1019-SPH-R004-JBK, Sun Parlor Home – Medical Director Agreement, dated October 19, 2022 from Jayne Brooks-Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home

Jayne Brooks-Keller provided Council with information regarding legislated changes to the Medical Director Agreement pursuant to

changes to Long Term Care Act and associated regulations with the Act.

In consultation with the County Solicitor, Council was presented with a draft agreement for review. Ms. Brooks-Keller reminded Council that Dr. Moncur had been the Medical Director for the Sun Parlor Home since 2013 and it was the intention of the contract to continue this relationship.

**227-2022**

**Moved By** Hilda MacDonald

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council approve the Medical Director Agreement, both as members of County Council and as members of the Committee of Management of the Sun Parlor Home, and adopt By-law 2022-30, authorizing the Warden and the Clerk to execute the Medical Director Agreement between Dr. Ross Moncur, R.A. Moncur Medicine Professional Corporation and the Corporation of the County of Essex.

**Carried**

**12.5. Electricity and Natural Gas Update - Commodity Price Hedging Strategy 2021**

Report number 2022-1019-FIN-R14-SZ, Electricity and Natural Gas Update - Commodity Price Hedging Strategy 2021, dated October 19, 2022 from Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Sandra Zwiers provided the annual report outlining the results of hedging programs for electricity and natural gas that the County participated in through LAS.

Ms. Zwiers explained the County's goals by participating in the hedging program and the results experienced in 2021. She indicated that the rewards of the program were less than expected in 2021 but more favourable returns are anticipated for 2022.

**228-2022**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That Essex County Council receives the Electricity and Natural Gas Hedging Strategy – 2021 report for information.

**Carried**

### **12.6. Essex-Windsor EMS 2023 Response Time Standard Plan**

Report number 2022-1019-EMS-R07-BK, Essex-Windsor EMS 2023 Response Time Standard Plan, dated October 19, 2022, from Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Chief Bruce Krauter presented the annual report to Council as required under Section 257 of the Ambulance Act. The report is required to be submitted to the Ministry of Health by October 31, 2022.

Chief Krauter provided statistical information pertaining to EMS response. It was acknowledged that EWEMS fell below the target response times for all Canadian Triage Acuity Scale (CTAS) levels. There were several contributing factors to the situation including: increased offload delays, decreased capacity within hospitals, decreased access to primary care, increase of Emergency Room visits for low acuity needs, increased backlog of follow up care and treatment and decreased human assets across the entire healthcare system.

To mitigate these impacts, the service implements offload diversion protocols and management and the Community Paramedicine and Vulnerable Patient Navigator (VPN) programs provide connection to services for people before they need urgent care.

Chief Krauter stated the goal of the service was to maintain their performance plan by setting achievable goals developed with the data and indicated that the 2023 budget would include some solutions to further ease the burden currently being experienced and ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively.

#### **229-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Leo Meloche

That Essex County Council approve the recommended 2023 Land Ambulance Response Time Plan for Essex Windsor EMS, as required by Ontario Regulation 257/00 (as amended by Regulation 267/08).

**Carried**

### **13. Unfinished Business**

### **14. New Business**

### **14.1. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Head Office Relocation Project**

Report, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Head Office Relocation Project, dated September 29, 2022 from Lorie Gregg, Director, Corporate Services, WECHU

Warden McNamara explained that the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) have outgrown the Ouellette Ave facility and the University of Windsor has offered a space for them. This location offers a unique opportunity for WECHU to collaborate with the University for research and education, securing grants and was the first public health unit in Ontario to be linked to a medical school.

Discussion included the site selection process and it was expressed that the preference would have been for the new location to be closer to the County. The Windsor-Essex Ontario Health Team mobile health clinic is active and available to County residents.

#### **230-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council receive the report of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU), dated September 29, 2022, and entitled "Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Head Office Relocation Project";

And Further That the Board of Health of WECHU be advised, that pursuant to subsection 52(4) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7 (the "HPPA"), the Council of The Corporation of the County of Essex consents to WECHU's proposal to lease real property located at the University of Windsor for the purposes of relocating the WECHU head office and performing its mandatory functions and duties under the HPPA or any other legislation.

**Carried**

### **14.2. Offload Delay Emergency Declaration**

Chief Krauter was asked to update Council regarding the declaration of a local emergency regarding offload delays at hospitals and the resulting lack of available ambulances.

Chief Krauter explained that the situation that precipitated the declaration included decreased ambulance availability from not only Essex-Windsor but also from the neighbouring communities of

Chatham-Kent and Middlesex-London. Tiered response arrangements with allied agencies like Windsor Fire and Rescue were also in jeopardy.

The intention of the declaration was to bring high level attention to the reality of the situation. There were eleven points brought to the Ministry of Health and many of them were approved. Some of the points included creative solutions to address the issue including more input from public health, offloading patients to alternate locations such as Hotel Dieu Healthcare or Hospice and engaging the private sector for patient transportation support. It was not the intention of the declaration to direct blame towards the hospital. A meeting had been held that included all stakeholders to discuss the landscape and assign tasks that range in complexity from easy to difficult. Chief Krauter and Warden McNamara had met with Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and local MPPs Andrew Dowie and Anthony Leardi. There was an understanding of the urgency and gravity of the situation and pledged their commitment to help address it.

15. **Adoption of By-Laws**

**231-2022**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That By-laws 2022-30 through 2022-32, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

**Carried**

**15.1 By-law Number 2022-30**

Being a By-law to authorize the execution of an agreement between R.A. Moncur and R.A. Moncur Medicine Professional Corporation and the Corporation of the County of Essex

**15.2 By-law Number 2022-31**

Being a By-law to Provide Rules Governing the Order and Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex

**15.3 By-law Number 2022-32**

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, for October 19, 2022

**16. Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion for October 19, 2022.

**17. County Council Remarks**

Warden McNamara acknowledged the retiring members of County Council; Mayor Marc Bondy, Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche and Deputy Mayor Steve Bjorkman.

Each member of Council expressed personal gratitude to the other members of Council and administration for their collaborative and supportive approach to regional business. Many members spoke of personal anecdotes from their term on County Council and celebrated the successes achieved during a term that included challenges that had not been encountered in modern day.

**18. Adjournment**

**232-2022**

**Moved By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That the Essex County Council meeting for October 19, 2022 be adjourned at 8:38 PM.

**Carried**

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Gary McNamara  
Warden - County of Essex

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Mary Birch  
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

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Date Signed