



Essex County Council Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

7:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

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

Council: Michael Akpata, Deputy Mayor - Town of LaSalle
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor - Town of Tecumseh
Tracey Bailey, Mayor - Municipality of Lakeshore
Sherry Bondy, Mayor - Town of Essex
Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor - Town of Kingsville
Chris Gibb, Deputy Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor - Municipality of Leamington
Gary McNamara, Mayor - Town of Tecumseh
Crystal Meloche, Mayor - Town of LaSalle
Michael Prue, Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
Dennis Rogers, Mayor - Town of Kingsville
Rob Shepley, Deputy Mayor - Town of Essex
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor - Municipality of Leamington
Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor - Municipality of Lakeshore

Administration: Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk
Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA
Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home
Adam Craig, CEO and Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources
Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services
Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
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. Procession

Procession of members of County Council into the Council Chambers.

2. Call to Order

Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

Performed by the Essex Community Concert Band.

4. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

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

All members of Essex County Council were in attendance.

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

7. Declarations of Office

The Honourable Mr. Justice George W. King administered the declarations of office by members of Essex County Council.

8. Election of the County Warden

8.1. Procedure for Election the County Warden

Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk outlined the procedure to be followed for electing the Essex County Warden in accordance with Section 1 of 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.

8.2. Roll Call to Determine Candidates for Election of County Warden

Ms. Birch performed the Roll Call and Hilda MacDonald and Gary McNamara stated that they desired to stand for the position of Warden.

8.3. Appointment of Scrutineers

233-2022

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the Clerk be authorized to appoint two (2) members of County Council to act as scrutineers for the election of the County Warden.

Carried

Ms. Birch appointed Kimberly DeYong and Michael Prue as scrutineers for the election of Warden and Deputy Warden.

8.4. Election of the Warden

The ballots were distributed to and collected from all members of County Council by the scrutineers. Ms. Birch explained that the first candidate to obtain a simple majority will be declared the County Warden.

Following the first counting of the ballots it was determined that Hilda MacDonald was the successful Warden elect.

8.5. Introduction of Dignitaries

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer, performed introductions of dignitaries who were present for the Inaugural Meeting and Warden's Election while the ballots were being counted.

8.6. Motion to Declare Election of County Warden Unanimous

Ms. Birch advised that in accordance with Section 1.3.10 of By-law #2022-31, the stated wish of County Council that the results of any and all ballots used in the election of the County Warden not be disclosed by those privy to such information.

234-2022

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That Hilda MacDonald is hereby elected to the office of the Warden of the County of Essex for the term commencing November 23, 2022 and ending November 14, 2026 and further that the election of Warden Hilda MacDonald be declared unanimous.

Carried

8.7. Destruction of Ballots re: Election of County Warden

In accordance with Section 1.3.9 of By-law#2022-31, Ms. Birch called for a motion to destroy all ballots following the election of the County Warden.

235-2022

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Michael Akpata

That all ballots in regard to the election of the County Warden be destroyed.

Carried

8.8. Declaration of Office of the County Warden

The Honourable Mr. Justice George W. King administered the Declaration of Office for Hilda MacDonald for the position of Warden of the County of Essex for the term commencing November 23, 2022 and ending November 14, 2026.

8.9. Presentation of the Chain of Office and the Gavel to the Warden

The Chain of Office and Gavel were presented to Warden MacDonald by the Clerk, Ms. Birch.

8.10. County Warden's Remarks

Warden Hilda MacDonald delivered remarks beginning her term as County Warden.

9. Election of the Deputy Warden

Warden MacDonald assumed the Chair and named the Clerk, Ms. Birch, Presiding Officer over the election of the Deputy Warden.

In accordance with Section 1.3.12 of By-law #2022-31, Ms. Birch explained that the Election of the Acting Warden, hereinafter referred to as the Deputy Warden, followed the same procedure as the election of the County Warden.

Ms. Birch performed the Roll Call and Joe Bachetti and Crystal Meloche stated that they desired to stand for the position of Deputy Warden.

236-2022

Moved By Deputy Mayor Verbeke

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Gibb

Upon resolution of County Council, the appointed scrutineers may continue in their scrutineer roles for the election of the Deputy Warden.

Carried

The ballots were distributed to and collected from all members of the County Council by the scrutineers.

Entertainment was provided by members of the Essex County Community Band during the counting of the ballots for the Deputy Warden.

Following the first counting of the ballots it was determined that Joe Bachetti was the successful Deputy Warden elect.

**9.1. Motion to Declare Election of County Deputy Warden
Unanimous**

Ms. Birch advised that in accordance with Section 1.3.10 of By-law #2022-31, the stated wish of County Council was that the results of any and all ballots used in the election of the County Deputy Warden not be disclosed by those privy to such information.

237-2022

Moved By Kirk Walstedt

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Joe Bachetti is hereby elected to the office of the Deputy Warden of the County of Essex for the term commencing November 23, 2022 and ending November 14, 2026 and further that the election of Deputy Warden Joe Bachetti be declared unanimous.

Carried

9.2. Destruction of Ballots - Election of County Deputy Warden

In accordance with Section 1.3.9 of By-law 2022-31, Ms. Birch called for a motion to destroy all ballots following the election of the County Deputy Warden.

238-2022

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That all ballots in regard to the election of the Deputy Warden be destroyed.

Carried

9.3. Declaration of Office of the County Deputy Warden

The Honourable Mr. Justice George W. King administered the Declaration of Office for Joe Bachetti for the position of Deputy Warden of the County of Essex for the term commencing November 23, 2022 and ending November 14, 2026.

9.4. Deputy Warden's Remarks

Deputy Warden Bachetti provided remarks beginning his term as County Deputy Warden.

10. Election of the Striking Committee

Warden MacDonald advised that the Clerk, Mary Birch, would proceed with the election of the Striking Committee.

10.1. Explanation of Procedure

Ms. Birch reviewed the procedures for the election of the Striking Committee.

10.2. Call for Nominations for Striking Committee

The following nominations were received for the Striking Committee:

- Kirk Walstedt nominated Deputy Warden Joe Bachetti
- Rob Shepley nominated Dennis Rogers
- Kimberly DeYong nominated Sherry Bondy
- Crystal Meloche nominated Michael Akpata and Larry Verbeke
- Gary McNamara nominated Crystal Meloche

10.3. Call for Close of Nominations

Warden MacDonald called three times for any further nominations and seeing none, declared the nominations closed.

10.4. Confirmation of Nominees

Ms. Birch performed the Roll Call for those nominated to the Striking Committee and it was determined that Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Dennis Rogers and Larry Verbeke would stand for election to the Striking Committee.

10.5. Appointment of Scrutineers for Election of Striking Committee

There were four members of Council that stood for nomination and therefore the required positions of the Striking Committee were acclaimed. Scrutineers were not required.

10.6. Election of Striking Committee

An election was not required.

10.7. Confirmation of Striking Committee Members

239-2022

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That, in addition to the Warden, the following four members of County Council serve on the Striking Committee for the current term of Council,

1. Michael Akpata
2. Joe Bachetti
3. Dennis Rogers
4. Larry Verbeke

Carried

11. New Business

Warden MacDonald asked the members assembled if there was any business or matter which should be dealt with at that time, for the good of the County. Hearing none, she advised that the first regular meeting of County Council was scheduled for December 7, 2022.

12. Adoption of By-Laws

12.1. By-law Number 2022-33

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, for November 23, 2022.

240-2022

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That By-law 2022-33, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

13. Adjournment

The newly elected Warden advised that all in attendance were invited to attend a Reception immediately following the adjournment.

241-2022

Moved By Michael Prue

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the Essex County Council meeting for November 23, 2022 be adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald
Warden, County of Essex

Mary Birch
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Date Signed