



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

6:00 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 Warden / 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, Warden / 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, Interim CAO & Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk
 - Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA
 - Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
 - Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources
 - Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services
 - Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk
 - 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
Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and
Development
Steffan Brisebois, Manager of Finance and
Administration
Justin Lammers, Deputy Chief, Planning and Physical
Resources
Ellen Van Wageningen, Communications Officer

1. **Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting was held at 5:30PM on March 1, 2023.

039-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

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

- Labour relations and employee negotiations

Carried

041-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Sherry Bondy

That Council rise from the Closed meeting at 5:36 PM and that the Closed meeting for March 1, 2023 be adjourned.

Carried

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

6. **County Warden's Welcome and Remarks**

Warden MacDonald welcomed Council, Administration and the viewing public to the meetings.

The Warden reflected on the ice storm experienced throughout the County in the week prior. The Warden praised utility providers and municipal services for their efforts during and after the event that restored critical services and provided clean-up of debris.

Warden MacDonald provided an update on a meeting with MPP's held recently. She noted that MPP Leardi did not attend, however MPP's Andrew Dowie and Trevor Jones were in attendance. The Warden anticipated that the information exchanged during the lively conversation would be delivered on the County's behalf and the conversation would continue.

7. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the February 15, 2023 Essex County Council, Regular Meeting

042-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

9. **Delegations and Presentations**

9.1. **Essex County Homelessness Hub**

Barb Iacono, Housing Manager, Family Services Windsor-Essex to bring forward an update regarding the Essex County Homelessness Hub.

**To be considered in conjunction with agenda item 12.1, Reports and Questions*

043-2023

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the delegation from Family Services Windsor-Essex be permitted to address Essex County Council.

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

Jeanie Diamond-Francis listed some of the high-level challenges in the housing system for those experiencing homelessness in the County.

Jeanie reminded Council of the request by Administration in June 2022, to enter into a pilot program with Family Services Windsor Essex (FSWE) to develop a homelessness hub program located in the Municipality of Leamington, but servicing the entire County. Funding for the two-year pilot program was drawn from the Ontario Safe Restart funding received by the County and did not impact the County budget.

Jeanie introduced Barb Iacono, Housing Manager, Family Services Windsor-Essex (FSWE). Barb oversaw the startup of the Essex County Homelessness Hub pilot project. Barb

reiterated the unique challenges related to rural homelessness verses urban homelessness. The Essex County Homelessness Hub (the Hub) was a drop-in program designed to meet needs of people experiencing homelessness at a variety of levels; 7 days per week.

Barb explained that, beginning in July 2022, communication of available services was through community partners in addition to an outreach worker seeking engagement with members of the community onsite or elsewhere. Following the official publicized opening of the Hub in September 2022, there was an increase of people seeking assistance.

Barb reviewed the data collected, highlighting that first-time visits and total visits indicated people were returning month over month; for a total of 167 unique individuals and 740 total visits from September 2022 to January 2023.

Of the services provided, food support was in the greatest demand for a variety of reasons, followed by referrals to support and housing related needs. Barb stated that community support was overwhelmingly positive and thanked local business organizations, faith communities, schools and members of the public who had visited the site, offered to do fundraising and provided contributions.

Barb explained that the next steps for the Hub included engaging more service providers to offer services onsite, develop an identification bank, and offering mail services.

Discussion included that there was data-based evidence to conclude there was need for these services and it was suggested the group proactively investigate sustainable funding opportunities through higher levels of government to continue this program beyond the two-year pilot timeframe.

9.2. Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority

Michelle Bishop, General Manager, and Stephan Brisebois, Manager, Finance and Administration presented the 2023 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Budget.

**To be considered in conjunction with agenda item 12.2, Reports and Questions*

045-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the delegation from the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority be permitted to address County Council.

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

Michelle Bishop provided an overview of the 1994 agreement between the County of Essex and the City of Windsor that created the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA); highlighting the provision in the agreement requiring the approval of the annual budget.

Michelle confirmed that the 2023 budget was reviewed and approved by the EWSWA Board of Directors and included a planned increase for 2023 of 4.1%; valued at \$261,050 for County of Essex municipalities.

Each of the recommendations were reviewed providing details to revenue and expenditures variances including impact to the budget pertaining to the Blue Box Transition Plan.

The Warden called for a motion to bring forward item number 12.2 under the Reports and Questions section of the agenda.

10. **Communications**

10.1. Correspondence

047-2023

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for March 1, 2023, be received and any noted action approved.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- February 13, 2023 - [AMO Policy Update - Pre-Budget Submission and Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness](#)
- February 14, 2023 - [AMO New Councillor Training](#)
- February 16, 2023 - [AMO Watchfile](#)
- February 16, 2023 - [AMO Land Use Planning Training for Elected Officials](#)
- February 18, 2023 - [AMO Training: Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official](#)
- February 22, 2023 - [Legal Compliance and Due Diligence / Double Rebates from WSIB for Municipal Health and Safety Programs](#)
- February 23, 2023 - [AMO Watchfile](#)

10.1.2 Pathway to Potential

- [January 2023 - P2P Newsletter](#)
- [February 2023 - P2P Newsletter](#)

10.1.3 Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce

February 14, 2023 - [Information for Members](#)

10.1.4 Hydro One Networks Inc.

Comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Longwood to Lakeshore Project

10.1.5 Ontario Ministry of Health

February 21, 2023 News Release - [Ontario Reducing Wait Times for Publicly Funded Surgeries and Diagnostics - New legislation outlines next steps in province's plan to connect people to convenient care, close to home](#)

10.1.6 Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

February 22, 2023 News Release - [Ontario Strengthening Competitiveness to Attract Investment - Proposed legislation will consolidate an investment-ready mega site in Southwestern Ontario](#)

10.1.7 County of Essex - Notice

[Notice of a Public Meeting Regarding the Proposed New Official Plan - April 5, 2023](#)

10.2. Resolutions

There were no resolutions for the consideration of County Council for March 1, 2023.

11. Consent Agenda

048-2023

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That the recommendations in the Administrative Reports listed as item 11.1, and 11.2 on the Consent Agenda for March 1, 2023, be received.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

11.1. 2022 Statement of Councillors' Remuneration

Report number 2023-0301-FIN-R06-SZ, 2022 Statement of Councillors' Remuneration, dated March 1, 2023, from Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

11.2. Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation

Minutes of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation for:

- February 24, 2022 Board Meeting
- April 28, 2022 Board Meeting
- June 23, 2022 Board Meeting
- June 23, 2022 Annual General Meeting
- August 25, 2022 Board Meeting
- September 22, 2022 Board Meeting
- November 8, 2022 Board Meeting

12. Reports and Questions

12.1. Essex County Homelessness Hub

Report number 2023-0301-LCS-R02-JDF, Essex County Homelessness Hub, dated March 1, 2023 from Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services

**Report to be considered in conjunction with agenda item 9.1 Delegations*

044-2023

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council receive Report #2023-0301-LCS-R02-JDF on the Essex County Homelessness Hub, as information.

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.2. Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority - 2023 Budget

The Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority - 2023 Budget Report, dated March 1, 2023, from Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA.

**Report to be considered in conjunction with agenda item 9.2 Delegations.*

Michael Prue, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg left the meeting at 7:17 pm.

046-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

THAT Essex County Council receive the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority 2023 Budget Report and approve the 2023 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority budget and a 4.1% increase to the 2022 total municipal assessment of \$13,810,740 based on a fixed cost allocation calculated on population and a Total Waste Management Fee of \$41.00 per tonne fee for refuse delivered for disposal. The total assessment to County of Essex municipalities and to the City of Windsor is to also include the

increase in municipal tonnage from 2022 to 2023 being an additional 1,020 tonnes representing \$41,820. The overall 2023 assessment to Windsor and the County municipalities will be \$14,418,800.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.3. Community Safety Zone in the Hamlet of Gesto

Report number 2023-0301-IPS-R04-JB, Community Safety Zone in the Hamlet of Gesto, dated March 1, 2023, from Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development.

As requested by the Town of Essex, Jerry Behl provided Council with the report beginning with the information regarding the current speed limits in the Gesto hamlet area of County Road 12.

Statistics pertaining to the area were reviewed and through examination of the data it was determined that no specific incidents had occurred in the area, however, onsite observations indicated that speeding was present.

Due to the location of Colchester North Public School, two engineering remedies were available; activate a School Safety Zone which provided increased fines for speeding during limited times of the weekday or a Community Safety Zone which provided increased fines for speeding at all times.

Jerry recommended that activating a Community Safety Zone would provide incentive to respect the posted limit under the deterrent of increased fines.

049-2023

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council adopt By-Law number 2023-09 to amend By-law 26-2002 (A By-Law to regulate traffic and parking on highways within the Essex County Roads System), amending Schedule I, designating Community Safety Zones to add a Community Safety Zone, in the Hamlet of Gesto, in the Town of Essex, along County Road 12 from 620m west of Gesto Sideroad

to 620m east of Gesto Sideroad, and will be in effect 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, January to December.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.4. County Wide Active Transportation System - Annual Report

Report number 2023-0301-IPS-R05-JB, County Wide Active Transportation System - Annual Report, dated March 1, 2023, from Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

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

Jerry explained the founding principles of the CWATS project and the processes involved with collecting data and making decisions for development. An update on projects completed in 2022 and projects scheduled for 2023 were provided.

Consultations had taken place with the local tier municipalities to update the CWATS Master Plan from November 2022 to January 2023. The draft report had been prepared and was being reviewed by the CWATS committee. Jerry expected the report to be ready for Council review and adoption later in the Spring.

050-2023

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive report 2023-0301-IPS-R05-JB on the Annual Report for the County Wide Active Transportation System, for information.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.5. Appointment of Weed Inspectors for the County of Essex

Report number 2023-0301-IPS-R06-AB, Appointment of Weed Inspectors for the County of Essex, dated March 1, 2023 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided Council with the report as required by the Weed Control Act.

Allan informed Council that the individuals named have completed the required courses and would perform the duties of the role alongside their regular duties.

051-2023

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council rescind By-law 18-2000, a by-law to appoint an Area Weed Inspector for the County of Essex, assigned the duties and responsibilities of Area Weed Inspector to the Essex County Road Maintenance Foreman.

And further that, Essex County Council endorse By-law 2023-08, to appoint the Manager, Maintenance & Operations, Jeremy Krueger, and Road Supervisors, Donald Kraynack, Roger Demars and Shawn Mulder as Area Weed Inspectors for the County of Essex to carry out and perform the duties required under the provisions of the Weed Control Act.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.6. Digital Ortho-Photographic Services - Contract Award

Report Number 2023-0301-FIN-R07-SZ, Digital Ortho-Photographic Services - Contract Award, dated March 1, 2023 from Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Sandra Zwiers provided Council with the report for Digital Ortho-Photographic Services. The agreement would provide service for the County of Essex, the seven local tier municipalities of Essex County, the City of Windsor and the Township of Pelee.

The high-quality aerial photos were required for many purposes and are taken every year. Any additional services were billed to the requesting municipality.

Sandra indicated that consultation had occurred and the other municipalities supported the tender results.

052-2023

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council approve the award for Digital Ortho-Photographic Services to J.D. Barnes in the amount of \$608,274 (plus applicable taxes).

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for March 1, 2023.

14. New Business

14.1. Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting this evening, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended

- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

Council was provided with and update regarding the CAO recruitment process.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

053-2023

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That By-law(s) 2023-08 through 2023-10, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

15.1. By-Law Number 2023-08

Being a By-law to Appoint Area Weed Inspectors for the Corporation of the County of Essex

15.2. By-Law Number 2023-09

Being a By-law to Amend By-law Number 26-2002, Being a By-law to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways within the Essex County Roads System, Schedule 'I' Community Safety Zone

15.3. By-Law Number 2023-10

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for March 1, 2023

16. Notice of Motion

16.1. Feasibility Report on a Tree Cutting and Site Alteration By-law

Deputy Mayor Kimberly DeYong raised the following motion:

That administration report back on the feasibility of a tree cutting and site alteration by-law pertaining to designated protected natural heritage features and land identified on the natural environment overlay in the Essex County Official Plan.

17. Adjournment

054-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the Essex County Council meeting for March 1, 2023 be adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Mary Birch
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Date Signed