



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 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
 - 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
 - Tony Gaffan, Town of Kingsville Councillor, Alternate Member
- Absent:
- Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
- Administration:
- Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk
 - Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home
 - Adam Craig, CEO and Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
 - Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk
 - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services
 - Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Justin Lammers, Deputy Chief, Planning and Physical Resources
 - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services / Treasurer

1. **Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for September 20, 2023.

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.

Kimberly DeYong was absent.

Tony Gaffan attended as an Alternate Member for the Town of Kingsville.

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

Warden MacDonald welcomed Melissa Ryan to the Senior Leadership team as the new Director, Financial Services and Treasurer. The Warden also congratulated Deputy Chief Justin Lammers who has been appointed as Chief of Essex-Windsor EMS; replacing the retiring Chief, Bruce Krauter.

The Warden encouraged residents and local municipal partners to register for the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee forum being held in October. "Invisible No More" aims to raise awareness of invisible disabilities and find ways to be more inclusive.

7. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council - Strategic Planning Session dated August 28, 2023, the Regular Meeting dated September 6, 2023 and the Special Meeting of Essex County Council, dated September 13, 2023.

243-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That the minutes of the August 28, 2023 and September 13, 2023 Special Meetings and the September 6th, 2023 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented. (Voted by show of hands).

Carried

9. **Delegations and Presentations**

There were no delegations for September 20th, 2023.

10. **Communications**

10.1. Correspondence

244-2023

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for September 20, 2023 be received and any noted action approved. (Voted by show of hands)

Carried

10.1.1 Liberation of Dieppe - Painting Unveiling

- September 12, 2023 letter from Michael Waffle, son of artist Donald Robert Waffle RE Painting Unveiling at the Essex County Civic Centre
- Program Information for the 'Liberation of Dieppe' Painting Unveiling on September 20, 2023 3:00PM

Deputy Warden Bachetti offered his appreciation to Deputy Mayor Michael Akpata for organizing the ceremony to unveil the painting and welcome members of the service community to the Civic Centre.

10.1.2 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- September 1, 2023 - [AMO Councillor Training](#)
- September 5, 2023 - [AMO Policy Update - Cabinet Shuffle, Municipal Risk and Gender-Based Violence](#)
- September 7, 2023 - [AMO Watchfile](#)
- September 14, 2023 - [AMO Watchfile](#)

10.1.3 Invisible No More - An Accessibility Forum

Registration Is Open for 'Invisible No More - An Accessibility Forum' hosted by the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee on October 19, 2023.

The event is open to anyone who would like to attend, and people may [Register Here](#) using the online form.

Members of Council are asked to contact Crystal Sylvestre to arrange attendance.

10.1.4 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

September 1, 2023 - Letter RE Proposed Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, regulation changes for special projects and well security

10.1.5 Municipality of Lakeshore

Municipality of Lakeshore Memo RE AMO Delegation with the Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

10.1.6 Municipality of Leamington

Municipality of Leamington Memo RE AMO Delegation to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Associate Minister Tangari, dated August 21, 2023

Warden MacDonald added that this delegation offered information to the Minister regarding the challenges the Municipality of Leamington experienced when they purchased of former high school property for housing opportunities. The Warden stated that there was no financial ask in their delegation.

10.1.7 Province of Ontario

- [September 4, 2023 - Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development - Minister McNaughton Thanks Workers on Labour Day](#)
- [September 7, 2023 - Ministry of Colleges and Universities - Ontario Training More French-Language Teachers Additional teacher education spaces providing students with greater access to French-language education](#)
- [September 14, 2023 - Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade - Ontario Welcomes \\$15 Million Manufacturing Investment in](#)

[Windsor Cavalier Tool & Manufacturing will create 30 good-paying jobs](#)

10.2. Resolutions

There were no resolutions for the September 20, 2023 meeting.

11. Consent Agenda

245-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the minutes listed as Item 11.1 on the Consent Agenda for September 20, 2023 be received. (Voted by show of hands).

Carried

11.1. Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

Minutes of the Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2023

12. Reports and Questions

12.1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement - Review and Update

Report number 2023-0920-LCS-R20-MB, Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement - Review and Update, dated September 20, 2023 from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch provided the report to Council regarding the update to the Land Acknowledgment Statement. Mary provided the background information on the statement indicating that it was a living document that was intended to be reviewed and updated.

Mary explained potential actions the County had identified to address action number 57 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report. Specifically,

- (1) revise County land acknowledgement to specifically name Caldwell First Nation in recognition of its significant and ongoing connection to the County;
- (2) commit to providing County staff at least one opportunity, and preferably more, a year, to learn about Indigenous history, culture, rights and laws – particularly as they relate to the County; and

- (3) consider assisting Caldwell First Nation in making and erecting directional signage to the Caldwell Lands, following consultation with and confirmation that Caldwell First Nation wishes to accept such an offer.

Discussion included supporting the continued efforts of Administration towards achieving the goals of the report.

246-2023

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive report 2023-0920-LCS-R20-MB Land Acknowledgement Review and Update as information, and further approve the use of a revised land acknowledgement statement as follows:

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

And, that County Administration report annually on steps taken to educate staff and build respectful, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

12.2. Approval of 2024 Conferences

Report number 2023-0920-LCS-R21-MB, Approval of 2024 Conferences, dated September 20, 2023 from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch provided the report to Council listing the conference opportunities for 2024. Discussion included an overview of the Policy 2022-003 Travel, Meetings and Conferences – Council, Committees, Agencies and Boards.

247-2023

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Michael Prue

That Essex County Council receive the report 2023-0920-LCS-R21-MB Approval of 2024 Conferences, and approve for attendance by the members of Essex County Council for the year 2024, the conferences identified and attached as Appendix B to this report, in accordance with Policy 2022-003: Travel, Meetings and Conferences – Council, Committees, Agencies and Boards. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

12.3. Approval of the 2024 Essex County Council Meeting Schedule

Report number 2023-09220-LCS-R22-MB, Approval of the 2024 Essex County Council Meeting Schedule, dated September 20, 2023 from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch offered the 2024 Essex County Council meeting schedule noting that an additional meeting had been added to January for budget deliberations and the August meeting was moved to the second Wednesday to accommodate Council members attending the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference.

248-2023

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council receive the report 2023-0920-LCS-R22-MB, Approval of the 2024 Essex County Council Meeting Schedule, and approve the meeting dates as outlined in Appendix A attached to the report for the year 2024. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

12.4. Tender Summary – Culvert Rehabilitation on County Road 50 at Tom Wright Drain (RC-50-135)

Report number 2023-0920-IPS-R31-KT, Tender Summary – Culvert Rehabilitation on County Road 50 at Tom Wright Drain (RC-50-135), dated September 20, 2023 from Karyn Templin, Manager, Design and Construction

Karyn Templin provided the report explaining the project and the tender process taken to arrive at the proposed price.

Karyn explained that the project schedule would extend into 2024 requiring the transfer of budgeted funds into the Corporation’s Capital Reserve to be used in 2024.

249-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council receive report 2023-0920-IPS-R31-KT, Culvert Rehabilitation on County Road 50 at Tom Wright Drain (RC-50-135) and award the contract to Front Construction Industries Inc. for a total tender amount of \$1,254,600 (plus applicable taxes) and further;

That Essex County Council approve the transfer of the total project cost of \$1,381,681 to the Corporation’s Capital Reserve for use in 2024. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

13.1. Summary of Outstanding Reports

Report number 2023-0920-LCS-R19-MB, Summary of Outstanding Reports dated September 20, 2023 from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch explained that the list of reports required had not been changed from previous reports. The dates of when the reports would be presented had been updated.

250-2023

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council receive report number 2023-0920-LCS-R19-MB, Summary of Outstanding Reports as information. (Voted by show of hands).

Carried

14. **New Business**

14.1. Notice of Motion from September 6, 2023 - Plaque for the River Canard Bridge on County Road 8 at the LaSalle/Amherstburg Boundary

Crystal Meloche submitted the following Notice of Motion:

Whereas the bow string River Canard Bridge, which is owned by the County of Essex and located on the boundary of LaSalle and Amherstburg, is an Essex County landmark with historical significance to the area;

And whereas this bridge has deep ties to our communities and is widely photographed and painted by artists;

And whereas other bridges of lesser historical or architectural significance have historical or descriptive plaques recognizing them;

Now therefore, Essex County Council requests County Administration to prepare a Council report on the feasibility of having a plaque installed at the location of the bow string River Canard Bridge.

251-2023

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Michael Prue

Whereas the bow string River Canard Bridge, which is owned by the County of Essex and located on the boundary of LaSalle and Amherstburg, is an Essex County landmark with historical significance to the area;

And whereas this bridge has deep ties to our communities and is widely photographed and painted by artists;

And whereas other bridges of lesser historical or architectural significance have historical or descriptive plaques recognizing them;

Now therefore, Essex County Council requests County Administration to prepare a Council report on the feasibility of having a plaque installed at the location of the bow string River Canard Bridge. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

14.2. Notice of Motion from September 6, 2023 - Notice of Motion Procedures

Gary McNamara submitted the following Notice of Motion:

To ensure that all members of Essex County Council are supportive of utilizing staff resources to respond to requests from individual members of Essex County Council; and further,

To ensure that all members of County Council are provided with information from County Administration, that has been requested by individual members of County Council; and further,

To ensure that County Council has an opportunity to receive recommendations from County Administration on all matters raised by members of Essex County Council under the Notices of Motion section of the Agenda,

Now therefore, be it resolved that all Notices of Motion brought forward by a member of Essex County Council shall be worded such that County Administration is requested to prepare a report which provides information and recommendations for Essex County Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Discussion included the potential of this motion to impact work load of Administration and concerns that this would limit Council's ability to contact Administration to ask questions.

252-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

To ensure that all members of Essex County Council are supportive of utilizing staff resources to respond to requests from individual members of Essex County Council; and further,

To ensure that all members of County Council are provided with information from County Administration, that has been requested by individual members of County Council; and further,

To ensure that County Council has an opportunity to receive recommendations from County Administration on all matters raised by members of Essex County Council under the Notices of Motion section of the Agenda,

Now therefore, be it resolved that all Notices of Motion brought forward by a member of Essex County Council shall be worded such that County Administration is requested to prepare a report which provides information and recommendations for Essex County Council's consideration at a future meeting. (Voted electronically)

In Favour (4): Tracey Bailey, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, and Kirk Walstedt

Opposed (10): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Tony Gaffan

Lost

14.3. Notice of Motion from September 6, 2023 - Intersection at County Road 15 and 18

Sherry Bondy submitted the following Notice of Motion:

That Essex County Council direct County Administration to look into the intersection at County Road 18 and County Road 15 and report back to Council on changes that can be made to have the intersection safer.

253-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council direct County Administration to look into the intersection at County Road 18 and County Road 15 and report back to Council on changes that can be made to have the intersection safer. (Voted electronically)

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

Carried

15. Adoption of By-Laws

254-2023

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That By-laws 2023-45 through 2023-47, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted. (Voted electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche,

Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Tony Gaffan

Carried

15.1. By-law Number 2023-45

Being a By-law to adopt Official Plan Amendment Number 4 To the County of Essex Official Plan

15.2. By-law Number 2023-46

Being a By-law to Appoint Melissa Ryan as the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer for the Corporation of the County of Essex.

15.3. By-law Number 2023-47

Confirmatory By-law for September 13, 2023 Special Meeting of Essex County Council and September 20, 2023 Regular and Closed Meetings

16. **Notice of Motion**

16.1. Traffic Control Study Request – Intersection of County Road 9 (Howard Ave) and County Road 10 (Middle Side Road)

Chris Gibb brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

Whereas Amherstburg Town Council has voted at their September 11, 2023, to direct Mayor Prue and/or Deputy Mayor Gibb to introduce a Notice of Motion to County Council requesting a Traffic Control Study at the intersection of County Rd 9 and County Rd 10;

And whereas this intersection is owned by the County of Essex and is located within the Municipality of Amherstburg;

Now therefore, Essex County Council requests County Administration that a Traffic Study be conducted to study the intersection of County Road 9 (Howard Ave) and County Road 10 (Middle Side Road) to assess the requirement for traffic signalization.

16.2. Civic Centre Tour

Sherry Bondy brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

Ahead of the 2024 budget that Essex County Council (council members that are interested) have a tour of the County of Essex building including recently renovated rooms and rooms that need to be renovated to ensure we are educated and informed for making budgetary decisions for any future building improvement requests from administration.

16.3. Current Financial Agreements

Sherry Bondy brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

Ahead of the 2024 budget that Essex County council be given a report on all the current financial agreements in place where the County allocates budget dollars.

And, that Essex County Council requests a report from Administration regarding cost sharing agreements currently in place between the City and the County, the County and the Province and other third parties.

17. **Adjournment**

255-2023

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That the Essex County Council meeting for September 20, 2023 be adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Mary Birch
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Date Signed