



## **Essex County Council Special Meeting Minutes**

### **Official Plan Amendment No. 03 Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

**4:00 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
  - 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
  - Brian Houston, Councillor, Town of Tecumseh (Alternate Member)
- Absent:
- Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
- Administration:
- Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk
  - Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
  - Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk
  - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
  - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

David Sundin, County Solicitor  
Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and  
Community Services  
Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer  
Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services

**1. Call to Order**

The special public meeting was held, pursuant to Sections 17 & 22 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, for the purposes of obtaining public comments on the proposal to amend the County of Essex Official Plan to incorporate policies that would allow for the County to participate in grant programs of the County of Essex's seven (7) local municipalities that have Community Improvement Plans.

**2. Land Acknowledgement Statement**

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.

**3. Recording of Attendance**

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

Gary McNamara was absent.

Brian Houston attended as an alternate member for the Town of Tecumseh.

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

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

Warden MacDonald welcomed Council, Administration and the viewing public to the Special meeting. The Warden explained that the amendment to the Official Plan would allow the municipalities within the County to maximize their opportunity to attract large scale businesses to the area for the betterment of all.

## **6. Delegations and Presentations**

**256-2023**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That the delegations regarding OPA No.3 - Community Improvement Policies be permitted to address County Council.

**Carried**

### **6.1 Invest Windsor Essex**

Marion Fantetti, Business Ombudsman, Invest Windsor Essex provided Council with a presentation supporting the exploration and incorporation of Community Improvement Plan (CIP) policies to allow for the County to participate in grant programs with the local tiers.

## **7. Communications**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

**258-2023**

**Moved By** Michael Prue

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That the correspondence listed on the special agenda for October 4, 2023, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

#### **7.1.1 Notice of Complete Application and Virtual Public Meeting**

Official Plan Amendment - File Number OPA-03 Community Improvement Plan Policies

#### **7.1.2 Town of Tecumseh**

Correspondence supporting Community Improvement Plan Policies OPA Amendment. (See Appendix D under Item 6.1)

#### **7.1.3 Invest Windsor Essex**

Correspondence supporting Community Improvement Plan Policies OPA Amendment. (See Appendix E under Item 6.1).

#### **7.1.4 Essex Region Conversation Authority**

Correspondence indicated no objections to Community Improvement Plan Policies OPA Amendment. (See Appendix F under Item 6.1)

### **8. Reports and Questions**

#### **8.1 Public Meeting to Hear Comments on County Official Plan Amendment to Update the Community Improvement Plan Policies**

Report Number 2023-1004-IPS-R32-RB, Public Meeting to Hear Comments on County Official Plan Amendment to Update the Community Improvement Plan Policies, from Rebecca Belanger, Manager, Planning Services, dated October 4, 2023.

Rebecca Belanger explained the feedback received regarding the amendment to the Official Plan from local municipalities, Essex Region Conservation Authority and Invest WindsorEssex. All of the correspondence supported the amendment.

#### **257-2023**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Kimberly DeYong

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2023-1004-IPS-R32-RB regarding the County Official Plan Amendment Number 3 to update the community improvement plan policies.

**Carried**

### **9. Adjournment**

#### **259-2023**

**Moved By** Crystal Meloche

**Seconded By** Michael Akpata

That Essex County Council Special Meeting for October 4, 2023 be adjourned at 4:37 PM.

**Carried**

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Hilda MacDonald  
Warden, County of Essex

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Mary Birch  
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

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Date Signed