



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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
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
Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
Brian Houston, Councillor, Town of Tecumseh, (Alternate Member)
Paul Tiessen, Councillor, Municipality of Leamington, (Alternate Member)
- Absent:** Hilda MacDonald, Warden / Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
- Administration:** Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home
Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Interim Clerk
Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer
David Sundin, County Solicitor/Interim Director, Legislative and Community Services
Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services
Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
Dee Blais, Administrative Assistant to the CAO

1. **Closed Meeting**

There was no closed meeting scheduled for May 1, 2024

2. **Moment of Reflection**

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

4. **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.

5. **Recording of Attendance**

Warden MacDonald was absent. Deputy Warden Bachetti presided over the meeting.

Deputy Warden Bachetti and 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.

Larry Verbeke was absent. Paul Tiessen attended as an alternate member for the Municipality of Leamington.

Kimberly DeYong joined the meeting virtually from a remote location.

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

Deputy Warden Bachetti noted that County Council adopted a Strategic Plan that envisions the County as a regional champion and trusted partner in delivering services for the success of our local communities and residents. The Deputy Warden commended the collaboration between the County and the Town of Essex to develop a practical solution to improve detour routes along County Road 50 during construction.

The Deputy Warden praised Essex-Windsor EMS paramedics, first responders, dispatchers, doctors, nurses and other front-line responders in honour of First Responders Day, May 1, 2024.

Nurses Week is May 6 to 12, 2024. Deputy Warden Bachetti encouraged everyone to show their appreciation for the hard work performed by Sun Parlor Home in the delivery of services and support to their residents.

7. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. **Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council

126-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Michael Prue

That the minutes of the April 17, 2024 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 May 1, 2024

10. **Communications**

10.1. Correspondence

127-2024

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for May 1, 2024, be received and any noted action approved. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- AMO [Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- AMO [Policy Updates](#)
- AMO Calendar - [Education Events](#)

10.1.2 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

WE Keep You Informed - [TWEPI Newsletter](#)

10.1.3 Invest Windsor Essex

2024 quarterly reports:

- [Q1 2024 Report](#) and [Q1 2024 Performance Metrics](#)

10.1.4 Windsor Essex Region Chamber of Commerce

April 16, 2024 - [WERCC Newsletter](#)

10.1.5 Deadline for Compliance with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

- Municipality of Wawa
- Prince Edward County

A 'call to action' to meet the deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025, and the deadline for compliance with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislation.

10.1.6 Bill C-63 The Online Harms Act

- Town of Grimsby
- Township of Clearview

Resolution in support of Bill C-63, An Act to enact the Online Harms Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act and An Act respecting the mandatory reporting of Internet child pornography by persons who provide an Internet service and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts.

10.1.7 Municipality of Wawa

April 16, 2024 Correspondence from the Municipality of Wawa RE Fully Funded Municipal Equipment Operator Course

10.1.8 Township of Scugog

April 18, 2024 - Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from Municipal heritage registers

10.1.9 Municipality of West Perth

April 16, 2024 - Correspondence RE Review of Powers Under the Conservation Authorities Act.

- Link to [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

10.2. Resolutions

There were no resolutions for May 1, 2024

11. **Consent Agenda**

128-2024

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Kirk Walstedt

That the information item listed as 11.1 on the Consent Agenda be received. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

11.1. Summary of Outstanding Reports for May 1, 2024

Report number 2024-0501-LCS-R16-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports for May 1, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk

12. **Reports and Questions**

12.1. Legacy Oil and Gas Well Preparedness

Report number 2024-0501-EMS-R07-JL, Legacy Oil and Gas Well Preparedness, dated May 1, 2024 from Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Chief Lammers noted that the County of Essex had spearheaded the first year of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Action Plan to address risks associated with the improper closure of gas wells across the province. The County had received full funding for the first-year plan that included collaboration with local municipal partners and focuses on public awareness, training, monitoring, capacity building, emergency response plan updates and delivering Emergency Management Ontario training.

Chief Lammers provided an overview of the actions taken under each portion of the criteria and commended County staff and allied agencies in accomplishing their plan within budget.

129-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council receive report 2024-0501-EMS-R07-JL for information purposes. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Kirk Walstedt, Brian Houston, and Paul Tiessen

Carried

12.2. Investment Performance Review 2023

Report number 2024-0501-FIN-R10-MR, Investment Performance Review 2023, dated May 1, 2024 from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan provided Council with the annual report reviewing performance of the County of Essex investment portfolio for the year 2023.

130-2024

Moved By Michael Akpata

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That Essex County Council receive report 2024-0501-FIN-R08-MR, Investment Performance 2023 as information. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Kirk Walstedt, Brian Houston, and Paul Tiessen

Carried

12.3. Addressing Healthcare Needs in Essex County

Report Number 2024-0501-CAO-R08-SZ, Addressing Healthcare Needs in Essex County, dated May 1, 2024, from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Sandra Zwiers provided the report previously requested by County Council in 2023.

Ms. Zwiers explained that data indicates that the County is experiencing a shortage of doctors, an aging population, and an increase of mental health and addiction concerns since the COVID-19 pandemic. The issues were being experienced across the country and were not isolated to Essex County.

Ms. Zwiers reviewed the hierarchy of healthcare service in Canada and provided an overview of the services under the jurisdiction of the County of Essex; namely, Essex-Windsor EMS, Residential Home Services and the Sun Parlor Home.

Ms. Zwiers provided a high-level overview of funding streams for each service under the healthcare related services at the County and outlined the other financial contributions that the County of Essex was furnishing to enhance the healthcare requirements in our region including infrastructure maintenance and improvements and contributions to the hospital system.

The County had been focusing on advocacy efforts through delegations with Ministries and conversations with MPs and MPPS to help spotlight the unique issues facing the region.

As a next step, Ms. Zwiers suggested gathering further data to more clearly identify where residents are underserved in our communities and report back to Council.

Discussion included considering the opportunity to offer tax incentives related to healthcare related facilities.

131-2024

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Brian Houston

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0501-CAO-R08-SZ, Addressing Healthcare Needs in Essex County as information. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Kirk Walstedt, Brian Houston, and Paul Tiessen

Carried

13. **Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business for May 1, 2024.

14. **New Business**

14.1. Two Intersection Review - County Road 20 (Martin Lane and Victory)

132-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Michael Akpata

Whereas the intersections at Martin Lane and Front Road, and Victory and Front Road are owned by the County of Essex, but located within the Town of LaSalle;

And Whereas Front Road has seen an increase in traffic volume, which volume will only further increase with the new developments on Martin Lane;

Be It Resolved that Council support Mayor Meloche and Deputy Mayor Akpata in their efforts to introduce a motion at County Council requesting a traffic control study at the intersections of Martin Lane and Front Road, as well as at Victory and Front Road,

to assess the requirement for traffic signalization, to assist not only with the traffic flow but also with pedestrian safety. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Kirk Walstedt, Brian Houston, and Paul Tiessen

Carried

15. **Adoption of By-Laws**

133-2024

Moved By Brian Houston

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That By-law 2024-20 having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Kirk Walstedt, Brian Houston, and Paul Tiessen

Carried

15.1. By-law Number 2024-20

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for May 1, 2024

16. **Notice of Motion**

16.1. Submitted by Dennis Rogers

Dennis Rogers withdrew the following Notice of Motion on May 1, 2024. Dennis will be reintroduced the Notice of Motion at a future meeting.

Whereas on March 16, 2022, Essex County Council determined that all lower-tier municipalities shall participate in the regional organic waste collection and processing program;

And whereas County Council has established the level of service associated with such program;

And whereas it is estimated that this service will result in a 4.3% property tax increase for the Town of Kingsville in the first year of the program;

It is moved that Kingsville Council directs Deputy Mayor DeYong or Mayor Rogers to make a Motion at County Council asking that the County Council agree to fund the cost of the regional organic waste collection and processing program through the County of Essex property tax levy. If changes are required to by-laws and agreements to achieve this result, it is requested that the County of Essex amend these by-laws and agreements as required, such as with EWSWA, City of Windsor, and others.

17. **Adjournment**

134-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That the Essex County Council meeting for May 1, 2024 be adjourned at 6:44 PM. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

Joe Bachetti,
Deputy Warden, County of Essex

Katherine Hebert
Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk

Date Signed