



Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

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

Council:	Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden Tracey Bailey, Councillor Sherry Bondy, Councillor Kimberly DeYong, Councillor Chris Gibb, Councillor Hilda MacDonald, Warden Gary McNamara, Councillor Crystal Meloche, Councillor Michael Prue, Councillor Dennis Rogers, Councillor Rob Shepley, Councillor Larry Verbeke, Councillor Kirk Walstedt, Councillor Mark Carrick, Councillor (Alternate Member)
Absent:	Michael Akpata, Councillor
Administration:	Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services Katherine Hebert, County Clerk Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development Kyla Pritiko, Director, Human Resources Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services / Treasurer David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services / County Solicitor Crystal Sylvestre, Manager, Records and Accessibility / Deputy Clerk Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Slawomir Pulcer, Deputy Chief, Professional Standards,
EWEMS

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 5:30PM in April 2, 2025.

098-2025

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council move into Closed session pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason:

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

Carried

101-2025

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council adjourn and rise from the Closed Meeting of Essex County Council for April 2, 2025 at 5:47 PM.

Carried

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

Michael Akpata was absent. Mark Carrick attended as an alternate member for the Town of LaSalle.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged everyone to get involved in the Great Cleanup Challenge hosted by the Essex County Library and Essex Region Conservation Authority. Residents could pick up clean-up kits at any Essex County Library Branch and contribute to cleaning up Essex County in time for Spring.

The Warden reminded everyone that April is Organ Donor month and to visit beadonor.ca or visit any Service Ontario location to register to be a donor.

The Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee was hosting open houses April 14, 2025 in Wheatley and April 15, 2025 in Kingsville to gather input regarding the development of a climate resiliency plan for the Lake Erie coast between Amherstburg and Port Alma. Residents could visit peleecoastal.ca for more information.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

102-2025

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the minutes of the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations scheduled for April 2, 2025

10. Communications

10.1. Correspondence

103-2025

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Mark Carrick

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for April 2, 2025, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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

10.1.2 Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC)

March 2025 Newsletter

10.1.3 Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce

March 25, 2025: [Chamber Update](#)

10.1.4 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

[W.E. Keep You Informed: LAST CALL for Staycation Expo, Cycle Tourism Workshops, We're Hiring & MORE](#)

10.2. Resolutions

There were no resolutions for consideration for April 2, 2025.

11. Consent Agenda

104-2025

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Kirk Walstedt

That the recommendations in the Administrative Report listed as item 11.1, on the Consent Agenda for April 2, 2025, be approved and further that the minutes listed as item 11.2 on the said Consent Agenda be received.

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

Carried

11.1. Summary of Outstanding Reports for April 2, 2025

Report number 2025-0402-LLS-R17-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports, dated April 2, 2025, from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

11.2.Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WECHC)

Minutes of the November 27, 2024 meeting of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation

12. Reports and Questions

12.1.Development Charges Study - Draft Rates

Report number 2025-0402-FIN-R08-MR, Development Charges Study - Draft Rates, dated April 2, 2025, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan provided s summary of the local municipalities engagement in the use of development charges. It was noted that all seven local Lower-Tier municipalities have implemented Development Charges.

Development Charges support the concept that 'growth pays for growth'. As recent legislation has implications for development, fueling growth at a rapid pace, it is important that municipalities are able to leverage every tool available to fund the infrastructure necessary to support the needs of growing municipalities.

While the exact financial impact will depend on the final rates adopted by Council, the study aims to align funding needs with projected growth, ensuring that growth-related infrastructure costs are appropriately distributed.

Stefan Krzeczunowicz, Hemson Consulting, provided a presentation for Council regarding the supporting data, and proposed draft rates for Development Charges, resulting from the study.

Discussion took place with regard to the next steps in the analysis, and feedback gathering process as well as to the proposed timeline for same.

105-2025

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0402-FIN-R08-MR, Development Charges Study-Draft Data Tables as information.

In Favour (11): Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Larry Verbeke, and Mark Carrick

Opposed (3): Tracey Bailey, Rob Shepley, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

106-2025

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council direct Administration to negotiate a revision to the scope of work of the DC Consultant to add public consultation meetings in each of the constituent 7 local municipalities of the County, and to fund the additional cost for same from the County's Rate Stabilization Reserve.; and,

include the residential and non-residential rate of Chatham-Kent as a comparator.

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

Carried

12.2.Servicing and Encroachment Agreement with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

Report number 2025-0402-IPS-R08-AB, Servicing and Encroachment Agreement with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, dated April 2, 2025, 2025 from Alan Botham, Director, Infrastructure Services

Allan Botham explained that the encroachment agreement is required to extend sanitary service to Villanova High School. A design and maintenance agreement would be required. There is no cost to the County in the agreement.

Larry Verbeke, Councillor left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Kirk Walstedt, Councillor left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Gary McNamara, Councillor left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

107-2025

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2025-0402-IPS-R08-AB, Servicing and Encroachment Agreement with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, as information and authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute the Servicing and Encroachment Agreement with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board.

In Favour (11): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, and Mark Carrick

Carried

Gary McNamara, Councillor joined the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Larry Verbeke, Councillor joined the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Kirk Walstedt, Councillor joined the meeting at 7:31 pm.

12.3.Appointment of Alternate Fire Coordinators for the County of Essex and Agreement for Remuneration

Report number 2025-0402-EMS-R04-JL, Appointment of Alternate Fire Coordinators for the County of Essex and Agreement for Remuneration, dated April 2, 2025 from Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS

Deputy Chief Slawomir Pulcer provided the background to support the formal appointment of the Essex County Fire Co-ordinator and two Alternate Fire Co-ordinators.

108-2025

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That Council for the County of Essex receive report number 2025-0402-EMS-R04-JL as information;

That Council for the County of Essex direct Administration to submit information to the Office of the Fire Marshal, in the prescribed form, expressing the support of Council for the County of Essex for the following appointments:

1. Fire Co-ordinator – Windsor Fire Chief James Waffle

2. Alternate Fire Co-ordinator – Windsor Deputy Fire Chief
Daemon Hart
3. Alternate Fire Co-ordinator – Leamington Fire Chief Don
Williamson

That Council for the County of Essex authorize the execution of a fresh Agreement with the individuals named above; and

That Council for the County of Essex adopt By-law 2025-15, establishing the remuneration for the position of Fire Co-ordinator and remuneration for the position of Alternate Fire Co-ordinator for 2025 and subsequent years.

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

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There were no matters of unfinished business for April 2, 2025.

14. New Business

14.1. Regional Police Services

At the March 5, 2025 meeting of Essex County Council, Councillor Michael Prue brought forward two Notices of Motion. Councillor Prue prefaced the two Notices as Option 1 and Option 2:

Regional Police Services - Option 1:

Whereas the Town of Amherstburg Policing Contract with the City of Windsor ends on December 31, 2028 and the City of Windsor has decided not to renew this contract with the Town of Amherstburg; and,

Whereas most of the municipalities in Essex County are currently receiving policing services from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP); and,

Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Amherstburg has requested that due consideration be given to options for policing of the Town of Amherstburg that include a regional approach; and,

Whereas the County of Essex is uniquely positioned to administer and deliver programs as an upper tier municipality.
Now therefore it is requested:

That the Administration of the County of Essex work with local municipalities to explore options for traditional regional policing models for the County of Essex and to be in place for January 1st, 2029 and for Administration to report back as soon as possible.

Regional Police Services - Option 2

Whereas the Town of Amherstburg Policing Contract with the City of Windsor ends on December 31, 2028 and the City of Windsor has decided not to renew this contract with the Town of Amherstburg; and,

Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Amherstburg has requested that due consideration be given to options for policing of the Town of Amherstburg that include a regional approach; and,

Whereas the County of Essex is uniquely positioned to administer and deliver programs as an upper tier municipality; and,

Whereas there is a recognized interest in preserving local span of control and service levels in policing activities, while enjoying the economies of scale and cost effectiveness of centralized control over policing activities; and

Whereas the decision on how a community is policed requires careful consideration and planning, and communities in Essex County may approach such an endeavour on different time scales.

Now therefore it is requested:

That the Administration of the County of Essex work with local municipalities to explore possible options for a collaborative approach to policing in the long term where the Police Board, Command and Corporate structures are held at the County level and local communities are provided with options for flexible service delivery models to meet local needs and pricing. This model should be built upon the premise that any municipality can opt out of the program if they have other means of providing policing to their community and the costs borne for the command and corporate structures are levied equally amongst all signatories, with pricing for specific service delivery within each community being wholly the responsibility of the host community.

Michael Prue advised that it was the intent that Administration would prepare reports on both options, as outlined as Option 1 and Option 2.

Discussion took place among Council Members regarding the satisfaction level with existing police services in each of their municipalities. Neither Option 1 nor Option 2 were ultimately moved.

109-2025

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Michael Prue

That Essex County Council postpone this matter to the meeting of May 7, 2025; and,

That the two previous reports provided to Administration be distributed for Council's review and consideration.

In Favour (4): Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Michael Prue, and Dennis Rogers

Opposed (10): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Lost

It was noted that Administration would circulate the previous regional policing study report to Council.

14.2. Essex County Counts

Joe Bachetti questioned whether Administration has communicated the Essex County Counts priorities, in consideration of the upcoming the Canadian Federal Election in April.

Sandra Zwiers indicated that Administration was preparing Essex County Counts communications that would be reflective of the advocacy pillars recently updated for the Provincial Election, with an added emphasis on the impact of tariffs on the County of Essex.

Discussion took place with regard to the importance of the dissolution of interprovincial trade barriers, infrastructure funding, Great Lakes and source water protection and continued environmental safeguards for all natural resources.

14.3. Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 5:15p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting this evening, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as follows:

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

As permitted, Council received information related to report number 2025-0402-HR-R03-KP, Collective Bargaining Parameters- CUPE 860. As a result of that information, Council provided administration with direction and instruction on the bargaining parameters for the upcoming negotiations with CUPE 860.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

110-2025

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Sherry Bondy

That By-laws 2025-13, and 2025-15 through 2025-16, be given three readings, and having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

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

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2025-13

Being a By-law to Authorize the execution of a Servicing and Encroachment Agreement between the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board and the Corporation of the County of Essex

15.2 By-law Number 2025-15

Being a by-law to Authorize the Execution of a Remuneration Agreement Related to the Positions of Fire Co-ordinator and Alternate Fire Co-ordinators

15.3 By-law Number 2025-16

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, Regular and Closed Meetings, for April 2, 2025

16. Notice of Motion

16.1 Regional Policing

Councillor Sherry Bondy brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

That Essex County Council direct Administration to provide a report on the cost estimate for engaging a consultant to perform a feasibility study for Regional Policing at the June 4, 2025 meeting.

17. Adjournment

111-2025

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That the Essex County Council meeting for April 2, 2025 be adjourned at 8:24PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine J. Hebert,
County Clerk

Date Signed