



## **Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

**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, Councillor
  - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden
  - Tracey Bailey, Councillor
  - Sherry Bondy, Councillor
  - Kimberly DeYong, Councillor
  - Chris Gibb, Councillor
  - Hilda MacDonald, Warden
  - Dennis Rogers, Councillor
  - Rob Shepley, Councillor
  - Larry Verbeke, Councillor
  - Kirk Walstedt, Councillor
  - Mark Carrick, Councillor, (Alternate Member)
  - Brian Houston, Councillor, (Alternate Member)
- Absent:
- Gary McNamara, Councillor
  - Crystal Meloche, Councillor
  - Michael Prue, Councillor
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
  - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
  - Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
  - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
  - 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

Natasha Sheeler, Director, Health and Community  
Services/Administrator

**1. Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting was held at 4:00PM on February 4, 2026.

**018-2026**

**Moved By** Chris Gibb

**Seconded By** Dennis Rogers

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

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; and

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

Council will receive information in three separate reports regarding the acquisition of certain parcels of property;

And pursuant to Section 239 (2)

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

Council will receive legal advice and information related to the Regional Organics Program.

**Carried**

**025-2026**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council adjourn and rise from the Closed Meeting of Essex County Council for February 4, 2026 at 4:39 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 County of Essex Administration Building, Council Chambers.

Councillors McNamara, Meloche and Prue were absent. Mark Carrick attended as an alternate member for the Town of LaSalle and Brian Houston attended as an alternate member for the Town of Tecumseh.

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

Warden MacDonald encouraged all residents to visit the Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island website to see a schedule of local events celebrating Black History Month.

The Warden thanked the Province of Ontario and Ministry of Health for fast-tracking Essex-Windsor EMS into the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) rollout. The modernized system supports paramedic dispatch across the region.

**7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

**8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

**026-2026**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That the minutes of the January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

## **9. Delegations and Presentations**

### **027-2026**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That the order of business be amended to consider the Administrative Report, listed as item 12.1 Final Draft County Development Charges By-law, in conjunction with Delegation item 9.1.

**Carried**

### **9.1. Development Charges By-law**

***Considered with agenda item 12.1 Final Draft County Development Charges By-law***

#### **9.1.1. Windsor-Essex County Association of Realtors (WECAR)**

Alyssa Ismail, President-Elect, Windsor-Essex County Association of Realtors (WECAR) provided a presentation regarding Development Charges.

Alyssa Ismail expressed concern regarding the timing of the Development Charges By-law noting an already strained housing supply and other housing market issues with affordability.

#### **9.1.2. Ryan McNamara**

Ryan McNamara, Resident, County of Essex, provided a presentation regarding Development Charges.

Ryan McNamara spoke in support of a Development Charges By-law as a mechanism to allow growth to pay for growth but also expressed concern to the timing of the new charge given the pressures present in the region at present.

### **9.2. Green Bin Program**

***Considered with agenda item 11.3 Green Bin Organics Recycling Program – Summary of County Council Direction and Funding and New Business item 14.2 RE Green Bin Organics Program***

#### **9.2.1. Tim Vickerd**

Tim Vickerd, Resident, County of Essex, provided a presentation regarding the Green Bin Program.

Tim Vickerd provided an opinion in opposition to the Green Bin program.

**9.2.2. Carolyn Crankshaw**

Carolyn Crankshaw, Resident, County of Essex, provided a presentation in opposition to the Green Bin Program.

Carolyn Crankshaw provided information regarding other Ontario municipalities and their billing structure related to organics collection.

*Note: Carolyn Crankshaw was not in the Chambers at the time of her delegation, therefore Council considered Ryan McNamara's delegation ahead of that of Ms. Crankshaw, who completed a delegation upon returning to the Chambers.*

Council was made aware of a late delegation request for this evening's meeting. A resolution to permit the delegation was passed, in accordance with the County's Procedure By-law.

**033-2026**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Kirk Walstedt

That Ryan McNamara be permitted to provide a Delegation to Essex County Council regarding the Green Bin Program.

In Favour (12): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

Opposed (1): Chris Gibb

**Carried**

**9.2.3. Ryan McNamara**

Ryan McNamara, Resident, County of Essex, provided a presentation regarding the Green Bin Program.

Ryan McNamara provided an opinion in support of the Green Bin program.

## 10. Communications

### 10.1. Correspondence

**038-2026**

**Moved By** Chris Gibb

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for February 4, 2026, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

#### 10.1.1 Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)

- [AMO Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- [AMO Policy Advocacy Updates](#)
- [AMO Education Workshops](#)
- [AMO Training Events](#)

#### 10.1.2 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)

[WOWC News](#)

#### 10.1.3 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

[Best of Windsor Essex Awards Nominations Are NOW OPEN!](#)

#### 10.1.4 New Fancsy Family Hospital Project Update

- [Request for Qualifications Issued for the Next Phase of The Fancsy Family Hospital Project](#)
- [Media Release](#)

#### 10.1.5 Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC)

[Upcoming Events](#)

### 10.2. Resolutions

There were no Resolutions for consideration for February 4, 2026

## **11. Consent Agenda**

### **039-2026**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That the recommendations in the Administrative Reports listed as items 11.1 through 11.2 on the Consent Agenda for February 4, 2026, be received and approved and further that the Minutes presented as information listed as items 11.4 on the said Consent Agenda be received.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

### **11.1. Summary of Outstanding Regular Agenda Matters -February 4, 2026**

Report number 2026-0204-LLS-R09-KH, Summary of Outstanding Regular Agenda Matters - February 4, 2026, from Katherine Hebert, Clerk

### **11.2. Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2026 Delegation Update**

Report number 2026-0204-CAO-R04-SZ, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2026 Delegation Update, dated February 4, 2026, from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

### **11.3. Green Bin Organics Recycling Program - Summary of County Council Direction and Funding**

Report number 2026-0204-FIN-R04-MR, Green Bin Organics Recycling Program - Summary of County Council Direction and Funding, dated February 4, 2026, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

#### ***Considered in conjunction with Delegation item 9.2 Green Bin Program***

Discussion took place regarding the green bin program initiative, Council decisions and feedback received.

**034-2026**

**Moved By** Sherry Bondy

**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

That the order of business be amended to consider the Administrative Report, listed as item 11.3 on the Consent Agenda Green Bin Organics Recycling Program - Summary of County Council Direction and Funding, in conjunction with Delegation item 9.2.

**Carried**

**035-2026**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0204-FIN-R04-MR, Green Bin Organics Recycling Program - Summary of Council Direction and Funding Decisions, as information.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**11.4. Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-being Systems Leadership Table**

Minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-being Systems Leadership Table meeting, dated June 11, 2025 and September 10, 2025

**12. Reports and Questions**

**12.1. Final Draft - County Development Charges By-law**

Report number 2026-0204-FIN-R03-MR, Final Draft - County Development Charges By-law, dated February 4, 2026, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

***Considered in conjunction with Delegation item 9.1  
Development Charges By-law***

Discussion took place regarding the proposed Development Charges program and By-law, as well as the implementation schedule.

**028-2026**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Kirk Walstedt

That Essex County Council cease all discussions regarding the implementation of Development Charges at this time.

In Favour (4): Tracey Bailey, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Opposed (9): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Lost**

**029-2026**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Sherry Bondy

That Essex County Council defer consideration of the Final Draft County Development Charges By-law until such time as the Local Service Policies required under Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, are completed and brought forward to Council, in order to ensure Council has clear direction on roles, responsibilities, and cost allocation prior to approving a development charge framework.

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

Opposed (10): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Larry Verbeke, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Lost**

**030-2026**

**Moved By** Dennis Rogers

**Seconded By** Kimberly DeYong

That the motion be amended to begin January 1, 2028.

In Favour (10): Michael Akpata, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Opposed (3): Joe Bachetti, Hilda MacDonald, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**031-2026**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That the By-law presented at the October 1, 2025 statutory public meeting with a five-year term and implementation date of January 1, 2028 with updated schedules be approved implemented, as amended.

In Favour (10): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Larry Verbeke, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

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

**Carried**

**032-2026**

**Moved By** Mark Carrick

**Seconded By** Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0204-FIN-R03-MR, Final Draft-County Development Charges By-law as information

In Favour (12): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

Opposed (1): Tracey Bailey

**Carried**

**12.2.2026 Tax Policy Discussion and Recommendation**

Report number 2026-0204-FIN-R01-MR, 2026 Tax Policy Discussion and Recommendation, dated February 4, 2026, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan outlined the review process taken with the local municipal partners regarding the tax policy; highlighting the Council approved addition of the Affordable Rental Housing Property Tax

Subclass in 2025. Melissa noted that this optional subclass would not be activated in 2026 as it was yet unknown how MPAC would identify this type of property.

**040-2026**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0204-FIN-R01-MR, 2026 Tax Policy Discussion and Recommendation as information.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**12.3.2026 Virtualized Environment Purchase**

Report number 2026-0204-ITS-R01-DL, 2026 Virtualized Environment Purchase, dated February 4, 2026, from Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology Services

It was explained that the sharp increase in price was provided to the County after the 2026 budget deliberations and is indicative of dramatic industry changes in the supply chain for this product.

**041-2026**

**Moved By** Chris Gibb

**Seconded By** Kimberly DeYong

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0204-ITS-R01-DL, 2026 Virtualized Environment Purchase, as information and approve funding of the replacement equipment, including the additional \$457,500 required, to be funded from the Rate Stabilization Reserve.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**13. Unfinished Business**

There were no matters of Unfinished Business for February 4, 2026.

**14. New Business**

**14.1. Public Reporting of Closed Meeting**

Council met in a Closed meeting at 4:00 PM on February 4, 2026.

Reports were considered pursuant to Section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001 as amended* as follows:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

Council provided Administration with direction to complete the acquisition of certain properties. As a result of Council deliberations, the following recommendations are before Council:

**042-2026**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Brian Houston

That Essex County Council authorizes Administration to finalize the negotiations related to the County's acquisition of a certain piece of property fronting on County Road 22, in the Town of Tecumseh, and as identified in Report Number 2026-0204-LLS-R05-DMS – Proposed Property Acquisition for County Road 19 and 22 Intersection Improvements, and authorizes the Warden and the Clerk to execute such documents as may be required to effect same.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**043-2026**

**Moved By** Kirk Walstedt

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That Essex County Council authorizes Administration to finalize the negotiations related to the County's acquisition of a certain piece of

property fronting on County Road 22, in the Municipality of Lakeshore, and as identified in Report Number 2026-0204-LLS-R06-DMS – Proposed Property Acquisition for County 22 Improvements, and authorizes the Warden and the Clerk to execute such documents as may be required to effect same.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

**044-2026**

**Moved By** Brian Houston

**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council authorizes Administration to finalize the negotiations related to the County's acquisition of a certain piece of property located in the Town of LaSalle, and as identified in Report Number 2026-0204-LLS-R07-DMS – Potential Property Acquisition for EWEMS, and authorizes the Warden and the Clerk to execute such documents as may be required to effect same.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

Finally, as permitted, and pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001* Section 239 (2) (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; Council received legal advice and information related to the Regional Organics Program.

The Closed meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.

**14.2. Green Bin Organics Recycling Program**

On January 21, 2026, at the Regular County Council Meeting, Councillor Sherry Bondy introduced a Notice of Motion as follows:

***Considered with agenda item 9.2 Green Bin Organics Recycling Program***

**036-2026**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That the order of business be amended to consider New Business, listed as item 14.2 Green Bin Organics Recycling Program, in conjunction with Delegation item 9.2

**Carried**

**037-2026**

**Moved By** Sherry Bondy

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

Whereas an organic waste program is being rolled out to the seven (7) local municipalities of the County of Essex and the City of Windsor, as a Regional Organic Green Bin Program (the "Program"); and,

Whereas it is understood that the Region needs to divert organic waste from the Regional Landfill to extend its life expectancy; and,

Whereas residents have many inquires about the Program including the cost, the contract, and rationale for why those who compost or wish to opt out cannot do so; and,

Whereas the Program is regional in nature and is managed by the Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority (the "Authority") on behalf of the entire Region and manages the contract for the Program; and,

Whereas County Council is responsible for setting the service levels for the Program; and,

Whereas County Council does not have the necessary information on the Program's effectiveness in the County, or the effectiveness in rural areas versus urban areas, in order for County Council to evaluate the proper service levels for the Program in the County.

Now therefore be it resolved that Council direct Administration to request that the Authority provide the following in writing to the County for Council's information:

- Available statistics to date on the effectiveness of the Program in each of the County's seven (7) local municipalities;
- Available statistics to date on the effectiveness of the Program in urban areas and in rural areas;

- Details of the public education campaign to date for the Program and details of future planned public education campaigns;
- Details about the cost of the Program to each of the seven (7) local municipalities.

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

## **15. Adoption of By-Laws**

### **045-2026**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That By-laws 2026-02 and 2026-03, be given three readings, and 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, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, Mark Carrick, and Brian Houston

**Carried**

### **15.1.By-law Number 2026-02**

Being a By-law to Establish Development Charges for the County of Essex -Five Year Phase-In (*As amended with a start date of January 1, 2028*)

### **15.2.By-law Number 2026-03**

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, Regular and Closed Meetings for February 4, 2026

## **16. Notice of Motion**

### **16.1.Committee and Board Meeting Videos**

Councillor Bondy brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

Whereas the County of Essex is a government working for the people and wishes to increase transparency and awareness of initiatives happening at the County level on Boards and committees; and,

Whereas meeting times and locations are not always accessible to members of the public who may work, have transportation or child care challenges.

Now Therefore be it resolved that:

County Council direct County Administration to request that boards and committees on which members of County Council serve, such as the Essex County Library, the Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority, etc. consider recording and then posting meetings online so that members of the public can become more engaged and educated on issues important to them.

**17. Adjournment**

**046-2026**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Dennis Rogers

That the Essex County Council meeting for February 4, 2026 be adjourned at 8:56 PM.

**Carried**

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Hilda MacDonald,  
Warden, County of Essex

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Katherine J. Hebert,  
County Clerk

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Date Signed