



The Corporation of the Town of Essex
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020, 6:00 pm
Location: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EssexOntario>

Present: Mayor Larry Snively
Deputy Mayor Richard Meloche
Councillor Joe Garon
Councillor Morley Bowman
Councillor Kim Verbeek
Councillor Steve Bjorkman
Councillor Chris Vander Doelen
Councillor Sherry Bondy

Absent: Cameron Soucie, Youth Council Member

Also Present: Robert Auger, Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services
Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer
Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO
Jeffrey Morrison, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Agenda for September 8, 2020

R20-09-312

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

That the published agenda for the September 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, be adopted as presented with the following amendments:

- the addition of a delegation by Anne Marie Grantas Item 6.1.2
- the deferral of Item 15.1.3. a Notice of Motion by Councillor Verbeek to the September 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting
- the removal of Item 8.2 regarding the Fill Permit for Mr. Darrel Dufour on County Road 12 as an application for a new permit has been made
- the removal of Paul Fraser and Rachel Jewel who have retracted their request to speak to Item 8.2

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes for August 24, 2020

R20-09-313

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Councillor Bondy

That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 24, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Public Presentations

6.1 Sign By-Law Amendment Request for CREW Winery (108 County Road 50 East, Ward 3)

6.1.1 Bernard Gorski

Bernard Gorski appeared before Council to provide additional information pertaining to a request for signage. Mr. Gorski advised Council that the sign had been modified in design and to be more in line with the sign by-law. The sign has been made horizontal instead of vertical in order to lower the height of the sign, but exceeds the dimension of the sign by-law by 18 inches due to the addition of the business logo. Mr. Gorski felt that the sign would also help boost the business of all agri-business and agri-tourism in the area. Mr. Gorski thanked Council for reviewing his request.

6.1.2 Anne Marie Grant

Anne Marie Grant appeared before Council to speak against the electronic sign which Mr. Gorski has proposed. She questioned what had happened between January and September that Council would now consider a sign that had previously been denied. She noted that the residents of that area had clearly indicated that they do not wish electronic signage to be present in the area noted in the survey that had been distributed. She wondered what it had cost the taxpayer in time and tax dollars in dealing with this issue. She felt that Council had given Mr. Gorski had been given preferential treatment and asked Council to consider what they were approving.

6.1.3 Planning Report 2020-22

RE: Sign By-Law Amendment Request for CREW Winery (108 County Road 50 East, Ward 3)

- Planning Report 2020-01 RE Sign By-Law Amendment for 108 CR 50 East (January 20, 2020)
- Planning Report 2020-18 RE Sign By-Law Amendment for 108 CR 50 East (August 4, 2020)
- Correspondence from Colchester Ridge Estate Winery dated August 25, 2020

- Sign Drawing

R20-09-314

Moved By Councillor Vander Doelen

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

That the public presentations given by Bernard Gorski, Anne Marie Grant and Planning Services Report 2020-22, entitled "Sign By-Law Amendment Request for CREW Winery (108 County Road 50 East, Ward 3)", prepared by Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services, dated September 8, 2020, be received.

Carried

R20-09-315

Moved By Councillor Vander Doelen

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

That Council approve the requested variance to the sign by-law by Crew Winery to approve the increase in height and the percentage of coverage area as presented by Mr. Gorski, and that Administration be directed to return with the appropriate site specific amending by-law.

Carried

8. Reports from Administration

8.1 Chief Administration Officer (CAO), Chris Nepszy Verbal Report

Chris Nepszy, CAO, together with Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer gave a verbal report to Council and advised of the following updates:

- A successful summer of day camps has been completed
- The beach and splash pads are open and monitoring continues and will continue to mid-September similar to what the Windsor Essex County Health Unit has done
- The Harrow arena is opening this evening and the staff have done an excellent job of going through the videos, protocols and information to the residents and user groups
- A report will be provided shortly regarding live council meetings. Administration is working on some technical issues to allow a seamless use by the public, delegates, and Council.

R20-09-316

Moved By Councillor Garon

Seconded By Councillor Bowman

That the Verbal Reports provided by Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer and Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Carried

8.2 Building and By-Law Enforcement Report 2020-01

RE: Fill permit for Mr. Darrel Dufour on County Road 12

Item 8.2 was removed as the matter has been resolved at this time due to compliance with current applicable by-law(s).

8.3 Economic Development Report 2020-12

RE: Community Improvement Plan 2020 Budget Update

R20-09-317

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Bowman

That Economic Development Report 2020-12, entitled "Community Improvement Plan 2020 Budget Update", prepared by Nelson Silveira, Economic Development Officer, dated September 8, 2020, be received; and

That Council approves the transfer of \$66,107.46 from the Harrow and Colchester CIP Reserves to the current budget year.

Carried

8.4 Economic Development Report 2020-13

RE: COVID-19 Business Grant Funding Update

R20-09-318

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Garon

That Economic Development Report 2020-13, entitled "COVID-19 Business Grant Funding Update", prepared by Nelson Silveira, Economic Development Officer, dated September 8, 2020, be received; and

That Council approves extending the deadline of the Business Relaunch Grant until October 2, 2020 for all businesses assessed in the commercial class.

Carried

8.5 Economic Development Report 2020-14

RE: Agri-Tourism Strategy

R20-09-319

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

That Economic Development Report 2020-14, entitled "Agri-Tourism Development Strategy", prepared by Nelson Silveira, Economic Development Officer, dated September 8, 2020, be received; and

That Council supports the Town of Essex making application for a matching grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the Tourism Economic Development and Recovery Fund through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; and

That Council approves reallocating up to \$25,000.00 in funding from the 2020 Tourism Marketing Budget to create an Agri-Tourism Strategy in 2021.

Carried

8.6 Economic Development Report 2020-15

RE: Wayfinding Signage Implementation

R20-09-320

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

That Economic Development Report 2020-15, entitled "Wayfinding Signage Implementation", prepared by Nelson Silveira, Economic Development Officer, dated September 8, 2020, be received.

Carried

R20-09-321

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the proposed signage relating to Essex, Harrow, Colchester and McGregor urban centres be the following: "Essex Centre", "Harrow", "Colchester" and "McGregor".

Carried

8.7 Finance and Business Services Report 2020-01

RE: COVID-19 Financial Impact as of July 31, 2020

- 2020 Operating Budget Summary Including only COVID-19 Related Groupings

R20-09-322

Moved By Councillor Vander Doelen

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That Finance and Business Services Report 2020-01, entitled "COVID-19 Financial Impact as of July 31, 2020", prepared by Katelynn Giurissevich, Manager, Finance and Business Services, dated September 8, 2020, be received for Council and public information purposes.

Carried

8.8 Legal & Legislative Services Report 2020-014

RE: Town of Essex Election Complaints Policy

- Town of Essex Election Complaints Policy 039

R20-09-323

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

That Legal and Legislative Services Report 2020-14, entitled "Town of Essex Election Complaints Policy", prepared by Robert Auger, Town

Solicitor, Legal and Legislative/Clerk, dated September 8, 2020, be received; and

That the Town of Essex Election Complaints Policy attached to the report as Schedule A, be adopted as presented.

Carried

10. County Council Update

Deputy Mayor Meloche reported that a first viewing was held of the "County Road Rationalization Report". Some items requested by the Town of LaSalle were not on the report so it is being moved to the next meeting. What is being recommended in the report is that County Road 50 west of Erie and all of County Road 41 would become municipal roads. Deputy Mayor Meloche stated that he believed strongly that the road structure around the entire waters edge of the County should remain as County roads to ensure proper maintenance is given and any tourism issues with cycling could be upheld by the County. Deputy Mayor Meloche and Mayor Snively assured Council that they intend to continue opposing these roads being downloaded to the municipality and will also make it very clear that they have the support of both Council and Administration in this matter.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence to be received

Chair to ask Council Members if any correspondence to be moved to 11.2 Receive and Support.

R20-09-324
Moved By Councillor Bowman
Seconded By Councillor Garon

That correspondence listed in Agenda Item 11.1 be received and, where indicated, to further share such information with the community using suitable methods of communication.

Carried

11.1.1 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

RE: Apply for Reimbursement of Safe Opening Expenses

Correspondence from the Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island, dated August 25, 2020 advising that The Ministry of Health, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and the Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation has announced a new limited time "Safe Opening" Program that will allow tourism operators within Ontario's Southwest to be reimbursed for a portion of their safe opening expenses, and that the intake process will be on a "First Come, First Served" basis, and further applications will be accepted as of Tuesday, September 15 at 10 am only.

11.1.2 Town of Essex Letter of Support

RE: Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Bid for the Town of Essex

Copy of letter sent August 17, 2020 by the Town of Essex supporting Cogeco Connexion's application to Improving Connectivity of Ontario (ICON) program.

11.1.3 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU)

RE: Request for Raw Data on Positive COVID-19 Cases in Essex County

Correspondence from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, dated September 2, 2020 responding to the Town of Essex's request for raw data on positive COVID-19 cases in Essex County.

11.1.4 Town of Essex Media Release - September 2, 2020

RE: Harrow Arena opening and Building/By-Law Division returning to regular operating hours

11.2 Correspondence to be considered for receipt and support

11.2.1 City of Windsor

RE: Resolution supporting a healthy ecosystem for local journalism

Correspondence dated August 28, 2020 from Windsor City Council advising of their resolution that supports that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in Windsor and across Canada and urges that federal government to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.

R20-09-325

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That correspondence from the City of Windsor, dated August 28, 2020 advising of a resolution passed by Windsor City Council that supports that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in Windsor and across Canada, be received and supported; and

That a letter be sent to Taras Natyshak, MPP, Chris Lewis, MP, all area municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with copy to the City of Windsor, urging the federal government to move quickly to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadian.

Carried

11.2.2 Essex Center B.I.A.

Correspondence dated August 24, 2020 advising Council of the resignation by Liz Semperger from the Essex Centre B.I.A. Board of Management.

R20-09-326

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Councillor Garon

That correspondence from the Essex B.I.A. dated August 24, 2020 advising of Liz Semperger's resignation from the Essex B.I.A.'s Board of Management, be received with regret; and

That a letter be sent to Liz Semperger thanking her for time spent on the Board and that By-Law 1777 be updated accordingly.

Carried

11.2.3 Project HOPE Windsor Essex

RE: Harrow Community Pantry

- Pantry Design

R20-09-327

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Councillor Bondy

That correspondence from Taylor Gorick, Chairperson of Project HOPE Windsor Essex, dated August 27, 2020, asking that Essex Council consider partnering with their not for profit organization in supporting a Community Pantry in Harrow, be received and supported; and

That Administration be directed to work with Project HOPE Windsor Essex in finding a suitable location to lease for a community pantry in Harrow.

Carried

13. Financial

13.1 July 2020 Bank Payments Report

R20-09-329

Moved By Councillor Garon

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

That the Bank Payments Report, including the July cheque register, cheque number 51588 to cheque number 51724 inclusive in the amount of \$3,098,284.56, the Preauthorized Payments for the month of July in the amount of \$292,062.96; and the Payroll for the month of July in the amount of \$463,499.67, be ratified as submitted.

Carried

15. Notices of Motion

15.1 The following Notices of Motions were presented at the August 24, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and are being brought forward this evening for Council's consideration:

15.1.1 Councillor Bondy

RE: Earlier Mail Out for Notices of Drain Maintenance Works

Councillor Bondy

Moved By Councillor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That Town of Essex Council directs Administration to send out Notices of Drain Maintenance Works in December and January if possible before planting season, to minimize the impact to our farming community during planting and harvesting season.

Councillor Bondy withdrew the notice of motion.

15.1.2 Councillor Bondy

RE: Review Regular Council Meeting Agenda and Procedural By-Law

Moved By Councillor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Garon

That the Town of Essex Council discuss and direct Administration to review the agenda and procedural by-law for our regular council meetings, roll call of votes, the notice of motion process and the submission of verbal reports to be discussed along with any other suggestions from councillors to make improvements to public service.

Councillor Bondy withdrew the notice of motion.

15.1.3 Councillor Verbeek

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

That in light of the correspondence shared by the province regarding regulatory framework changes in the Provincial Offences Act (August 24, 2020 Agenda item 11.1.1.6) and the new Ontario school bus stop arm cameras (August 24, 2020 Agenda item 11.1.5) that Council have a discussion on the feasibility of implementing this kind of safety measure.

The notice of motion was deferred to the September 21, 2020 meeting at the request of Councillor Verbeek.

15.2 The following Notices of Motions are presented this evening and will be brought forward at the September 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for Council's consideration:

15.2.1 Councillor Bondy

RE: Five Year Roads Plan

That Council give direction to Administration to prepare a 5 year roads plan for Council discussions, public transparency and the budgeting process.

15.2.2 Councillor Bondy

RE: Emancipation Day

That August 1st be declared as Emancipation Day in the Town of Essex.

16. Reports and Announcements from Council Members

Each Council member was provided an opportunity to discuss their latest news and activities in the municipality.

17. By-Laws

17.1 By-Laws that require a third and final reading

17.1.1 By-Law 1944

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex

R20-09-330

Moved By Councillor Bowman

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

That By-Law 1944 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex, be read a third time and finally passed on September 8, 2020.

Carried

17.3 By-Laws that require a first and second reading

17.3.1 By-Law 1945

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the September 8, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex

R20-09-331

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Garon

That By-Law 1945 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex, be read a first and a second time and provisionally adopted on September 8, 2020.

Carried

18. Adjournment

R20-09-332

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 PM

Carried

Mayor

