



Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 6, 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
 - Hilda MacDonald, Warden / Mayor - Municipality of Leamington
 - Gary McNamara, Mayor - Town of Tecumseh
 - Crystal Meloche, Mayor - Town of LaSalle
 - Diane Pouget, Councillor, Town of Amherstburg (Alternate Member)
 - 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
- Absent:
- Michael Prue, Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
- Administration:
- Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk
 - Dee Blais, Administrative Assistant to the CAO
 - Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
 - Adam Craig, CEO and Chief Librarian - Essex County Library
 - Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services

Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk
Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
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

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 5:00 PM on March 6, 2024.

079-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (e), (f) and (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason(s):

- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and
- (k) position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Carried

083-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Sherry Bondy

That Essex County Council adjourn, and rise from the Closed Meeting at 5:37 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 Prue was absent.

Diane Pouget attended as an alternate member for the Town of Amherstburg.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Mary Birch on her retirement after a remarkable 26-year career with the County of Essex as Director of Legislative and Community Services and Clerk. The Warden celebrated Mary as an exceptional public servant with a total of 36 years working in the municipal sector.

The Warden noted the many initiatives that Mary spearheaded to improve service delivery and public access through the adoption of digital tools that were now integral to County of Essex operations. Mary exhibited her commitment to her community through steadfast leadership in trying times and was a champion for accessibility, building up the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee to be a pro-active and community-driven voice.

Warden MacDonald applauded Mary on her outstanding career, thanked her for her leadership, practical guidance, and dedication to her work. Then, on behalf of the County of Essex team, residents, staff, and Council members past and present, the Warden wished Mary best wishes in her retirement.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting for February 21, 2024.

084-2024

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the minutes of the February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

085-2024

Moved By Michael Akpata

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That the Delegation by Emergency Management Ontario be permitted to address Essex County Council. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

9.1 Emergency Management Ontario

Holly Robert, St. Clair Sector Field Officer, Emergency Management Ontario and Darin Dees, St. Clair Sector Field Officer provided County Council with a presentation about the potential impacts of the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

Darin Dees provided Council with a briefing regarding the total solar eclipse expected to be visible in most areas of Essex County. Darrin explained a map that showed Essex County as a prime viewing location as it was in the path of totality. Darrin noted that similar past events have drawn many observers to other communities in this position.

Holly Robert reviewed anticipated impacts that were learned from other communities. Holly mentioned increased traffic flow had the potential to strain local infrastructure and could lead to fuel shortages, mass gatherings in areas that are not typical for gatherings, increased littering and the need for washroom facilities in uncommon areas.

Holly outlined advanced planning steps that were made with various Ministries and Emergency Services to mitigate challenges that may arise. Holly also reported on the importance of protective eye wear as a safety precautions to avoid damage to the eyes when viewing

the eclipse and cautioned shoppers to avoid glasses being sold that did not meet the ISO 12312-2 standard.

The unique event was expected to be beneficial to tourism and there were many local events planned around it.

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

087-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for March 6, 2024, be received and any noted action approved. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 15, 2024: [AMO Watchfile](#)

February 20, 2024: [Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors Training](#)

February 21, 2024: [Advanced Councillor Training](#)

February 22, 2024: [AMO Watchfile](#)

February 23, 2023: [AMO Policy Update - Get It Done Act, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulations](#)

February 23, 2024: [Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official](#)

10.1.2 Invest Windsor Essex

February 22, 2024: [Highlight of the 2023 Fourth-quarter activities.](#)

10.1.3 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

February 22, 2024: [Learn more about what the Ontario Motor Coach Association \(OMCA\) does to bring busses & groups to Windsor Essex.](#)

10.1.4 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

February 22, 2024: Correspondence regarding Comprehensive Environmental Assessment Projects regulation and other regulations.

10.1.5 Township of Perry

February 26, 2024: Seeking support for their resolution calling on the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for 'Ineligible' Sources.

086-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council provide a letter of support for The Township of Perry resolution calling on the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for 'Ineligible' Sources, and

that the letter be sent to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Local MPP's and the Premier of Ontario.

Carried

10.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions for Council's considerations for March 6, 2024.

11. Consent Agenda

088-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 11.1 and the minutes listed as Item 11.2 on the Consent Agenda for March 6, 2024, be received. (Voted by Show of Hands)

Carried

11.1 Summary of Outstanding Reports

Report number 2024-0306-R010-MB, Summary of Outstanding Reports, dated March 6, 2024.

11.2 Essex County Library Board

Minutes of the Essex County Library Board dated November 29, 2023.

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Sun Parlor Home – Declaration of Compliance for 2023

Report Number 2024-0306-SPH-R01-JBK, Sun Parlor Home - Declaration of Compliance for 2023, from Jayne Brooks-Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home, dated March 6, 2024.

Jayne Brooks Keller provided an overview of the annual compliance report to the Ministry of Health. Jayne highlighted that the report shows there were no outstanding items and the Sun Parlor Home had fulfilled its obligations per the Service Accountability Agreement for 2023.

089-2024

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council authorizes the execution of the Declaration of Compliance indicating that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, Sun Parlor Home, has fulfilled its obligations under the Service Accountability Agreement in effect during the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. (Voted Electronically)

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

Carried

12.2 Essex-Windsor EMS 2025 Pre-Budget Vehicle Procurement Approval

Report number 2024-0306-EMS-R03-JL, Essex-Windsor EMS 2025 Pre-Budget Vehicle Procurement Approval, from Justin Lammers, Chief EMS, dated March 6, 2024.

Chief Lammers provided County Council with an overview of the configuration of the vehicles required and their anticipated delivery dates.

Discussion included the pre-approval process and how the process would be altered in the next budget cycle.

Sandra Zwiers clarified that securing the vehicle order now would allow for the vehicles to be built but payment would not be provided until the vehicles were delivered in 2025.

090-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council provide Essex Windsor EMS with 2025 pre-budget approval to proceed with:

1. The 2024 ordering of eight (8) Crestline Coach Ltd. Type III ambulances with a total purchase price of \$1,878,195 (plus HST).
2. The 2024 ordering of two (2) Emergency Response Vehicles with conversion for an estimated purchase price of \$249,642 (plus HST).
3. The 2024 ordering of two (2) pickup trucks with conversion, for an estimated purchase price of \$318,000 (plus HST).

(Voted Electronically)

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

Carried

12.3 Essex-Windsor EMS Operational Tempo Update

Report 2024-0306-EMS-R05-JL, Essex-Windsor EMS Operational Tempo Update, from Justin Lammers, Chief, EMS, dated March 6, 2024

Chief Lammers provided an explanation of the data provided in each figure of the report highlighting the successes and the efforts being taken by EWEMS to mitigate challenges presented by each metric.

Chief Lammers reiterated the commitment of all EWEMS staff towards continued success and improvement in service delivery and thanked Council for their continued support.

Discussion included calculating the cost of a staffed ambulance while on offload delay to compare to that of an offload nurse. Chief

Lammers would investigate that subject and return information to Council as soon as he's able.

091-2024

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0306-EMS-R05-JL Essex-Windsor EMS Operational Tempo Update for information purposes. (Voted Electronically)

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

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

14. New Business

14.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held prior to the Regular meeting of Council on March 6, 2024, pursuant to Sections 239 (2), (e), (f), and (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended.

Council was provided with information on a matter that was subject to solicitor-client privilege, and involved litigation.

Council also provided Administration with instructions to be applied to ongoing negotiations carried on by the County.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

092-2024

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That By-laws 2024-11 and 2024-14, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted. (Voted Electronically)

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

Carried

15.1 By-law 2024-11

A By-law to authorize the expropriation of certain lands for improvements to County Road 43 from County Road 42 to South of the CP Rail Line.

15.2 By-law 2024-14

A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex Regular and Closed Meetings held March 6, 2024.

16. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion on March 6, 2024.

17. Adjournment

093-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the Essex County Council meeting for March 6, 2024 be adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine Hebert,
Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk