



The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024, 6:00 pm

Location: Essex Municipal Building, 33 Talbot Street South and by livestream at
<https://www.youtube.com/user/EssexOntario>

Present:

- Mayor Sherry Bondy
- Deputy Mayor Rob Shepley
- Ward 1 Councillor Joe Garon
- Ward 1 Councillor Katie McGuire-Blais
- Ward 2 Councillor Kim Verbeek
- Ward 3 Councillor Brad Allard
- Ward 3 Councillor Jason Matyi
- Ward 4 Councillor Rodney Hammond

Also Present:

- Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer
- Joseph Malandruccolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
- Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services
- Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services
- Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
- Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services
- Kevin Carter, Manager, Building Services/Chief Building Official
- Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development
- Diane Emery, Legislative Clerk
- Lauryn Smith, Youth Council Member

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at clerks@essex.ca or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bondy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. National Anthem

4. Closed Meeting Report

Joe Malandruccolo, Director, Legal & Legislative Services/Clerk reported that on May 13, 2024 at 4:00 PM Council moved into Closed Session as permitted to do so pursuant to Section 239 2(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

Director Malandruccolo reported that on May 13, 2024 at 4:30 PM Council moved into Closed Session as permitted to do so pursuant to 239 (3.1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to receive education and training.

Director Malandruccolo further reported that on May 21, 2024 at 5:00 PM Council moved into Closed Session as permitted to do so pursuant to 239 2(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, to discuss labour relations or employee negotiations.

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

6. Adoption of Published Agenda

6.1 Regular Council Meeting Agenda for May 21, 2024

R24-05-196

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Councillor Allard

That the published agenda for the May 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting be adopted with the following amendment:

1. That Agenda Item 16.1 be added to allow for an order of New Business by Deputy Mayor Shepley.

Carried

7. Adoption of Minutes

7.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2024

R24-05-197

Moved By Councillor Matyi

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 6, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

7.2 Special Council Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024

R24-05-198

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held April 2, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

8. Public Presentations

9. Unfinished Business

10. Reports from Administration

10.1 Economic Development-2024-04

RE: Building Report and Development Overview – Q1 Summary 2024

R24-05-199

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

That Economic Development Report-2024-04 entitled Building Report and Development Overview -Q1 Summary 2024 prepared by Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development dated May 21, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

10.2 Building and By-law Enforcement 2024-02

RE: Fence Permit Application Process

Kevin Carter, Manager, Building and By-Law Enforcement provided an overview of the fence permit application process for fences that abut Municipally owned Properties such as parks and parkettes, community centres, arenas, municipal buildings, and municipal parking lots.

Council discussed the fence permit application process and the requirement/cost of a legal survey.

Councillor McGuire-Blais and Deputy Mayor Shepley opposed the motion.

R24-05-200

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Building and By-law Enforcement Report-2024-02 entitled Fence Permit Application Process prepared by Kevin Carter, Manager, Building Services/Chief Building Officer, dated May 21, 2024 be received; and

That Council direct Administration to amend the Town of Essex Fence By-Law to require property owners seeking to construct a fence abutting a municipally-owned property, with the exception of municipal roads and right of ways, to provide a legal survey prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor, at the property owner's expense, as part of their application.

Carried

11. Reports from Youth Members

Lauryn Smith, Youth Council Member, announced that she is hosting a 5K walk at Sadlers Park on Saturday July 7, 2024 and stated that all proceeds will be donated to the Essex Food Bank.

12. County Council Update

Mayor Bondy provided an update on recent correspondence that the County supported and stated that the County is doing a study on Development Charges. She further noted

that the County Emergency Rescue Team partnered with WETRA to provide firefighters with large-scale animal rescue training.

R24-05-201

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That the County of Essex, Regular Meeting minutes listed in Agenda Item 12, be received.

Carried

12.1 County of Essex, Regular Council Meeting Minutes - April 3, 2024

13. Correspondence

R24-05-202

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

That all of the correspondence listed in Agenda Item 13.1 be received and, where indicated, to further share such information with the community using suitable methods of communication.

Carried

13.1 Correspondence to be received

13.1.1 Thank You Letters from Multiple Organizations

RE: Essex Community Partnership Fund 2024

13.2 Correspondence to be considered for receipt and support

14. Committee Meeting Minutes

R24-05-203

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Garon

That the Committee Meeting minutes listed in Agenda Item 14, together with any recommendations to Council noted therein, be received, approved and adopted as circulated.

Carried

14.1 Essex Accessibility Committee - March 8, 2024

14.2 Arts, Culture and Tourism - April 10, 2024

14.3 Essex Festival Committee - April 11, 2024

14.4 Personnel Committee - April 22, 2024

15. Financial

16. New Business

16.1 Deputy Mayor Shepley

RE: Lease Agreement for "Kady" parking lot

R24-05-204

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That Council direct Administration to renew the lease agreement for the use of the lands commonly known as “Kady” Parking lot for the period commencing on May 20, 2024 until October 15, 2024.

Carried

17. Notices of Motion

17.1 The following Notice of Motions were presented at the May 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and are being brought forward this evening for Council's consideration:

17.1.1 Mayor Bondy

R24-05-205

Moved By Mayor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Administration come back with a report by the next Regular Council Meeting with ideas to support businesses impacted by the Tom Wright Drain Culvert closure.

Carried

17.1.2 Mayor Bondy

R24-05-206

Moved By Mayor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That Council direct Administration to come back with a report discussing the inflow and infiltration to the Town’s storm and sanitary sewers, and potential solutions to help reduce flooding. The report should speak to the ability to create an inspection program to identify and repair cross connections and sources of inflow and infiltration.

Carried

17.1.3 Councillor Verbeek

R24-05-207

Moved By Councillor Verbeek
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

Whereas, home parks and land leased communities are often a place where a person owns the home and rents the land from the landlord;

Whereas, in recent years, the mobile home unit selling price has doubled or quadrupled making land lease properties unaffordable to purchase;

Whereas, land lease properties and mobile home parks listed to be seen as affordable living, starter homes for couples and seniors, these areas

are now becoming unaffordable due to lack of rent control when a unit changes ownership; and

Whereas, some of our most vulnerable residents in our Town are losing out on the value of their assets because their home is losing resale value.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Administration be directed to send a letter to provincial government regarding the rising cost to lease the land at mobile home parks and land leased communities.

Carried

17.2 The following Notices of Motion are for presentment only and will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the June 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting:

17.2.1 Councillor McGuire-Blais

Moved by Councillor McGuire-Blais

That Council direct Administration to review the feasibility of installing pedestrian access ramps along South Talbot Road at Iler Avenue, Laird Avenue, and Centre Street to access the multiuse pathway along South Talbot Road South.

17.2.2 Councillor Garon

Moved by Councillor Garon

That Council direct Administration to come back with a report with options to complete the sidewalk between Thomas Street to Victoria Avenue.

18. Reports and Announcements from Council Members

19. By-Laws

19.1 By-Laws that require a third and final reading

19.1.1 By-Law 2328

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex

R24-05-208

Moved By Councillor Allard

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That By-Law 2328 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex be a read a third time and finally passed on May 21, 2024.

Carried

19.2 By-Laws that require a first, second, third and final reading

19.2.1 By-law No. 2320

RE: Being a by-law to establish tax rates and additional charges for Municipal, County and Education purposes for the year 2024

R24-05-209

Moved By Councillor Allard
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That By-Law 2320 being a by-law to establish tax rates and additional charges for Municipal, County and Education purposes for the year 2024 be read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on May 21, 2024.

Carried

19.3 By-Laws that require a first and second reading

19.3.1 By-Law 2330

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 21, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex

R24-05-210

Moved By Councillor Verbeek
Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

That By-Law 2330 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex be read a first and a second time and provisionally adopted on May 21, 2024.

Carried

20. Adjournment

R24-05-211

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk