



**The Corporation of the Town of Essex**

**Special Council Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2024, 5:00 pm

Location: Essex Municipal Building, 33 Talbot Street South

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 Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services  
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services  
Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services  
Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services  
Cassandra Roy, Legislative Clerk

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

The purpose of this meeting was to present the Water and Wastewater Rate Study.

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bondy called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

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

**4. Adoption of Published Agenda**

**4.1 Special Council Meeting Agenda for June 17, 2024**

**SP24-06-006**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** the published agenda for the June 17, 2024 Special Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**5. Public Presentations**

**5.1 Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.**

RE: Water and Wastewater Rate Study

Daryl Abbs, Managing Partner, Watson and Associates Economist Ltd, explained that the purpose of the water and wastewater study is to identify all current and future water and wastewater system capital needs, to identify cost recovery options for capital, to estimate future operating costs over the next 10 years and to recommend new rates to recover the cost of water and wastewater. He stated that water and wastewater billing rates are divided through all Wards. He advised that the wastewater in Ward 2 is not serviced by the Town however, McGregor area is serviced by the Town of Amherstburg. He explained the anticipated growth is gathered through the development charges background study and noted that the Town has healthy reserve balances to fund capital infrastructure.

Mr. Abbs explained that they reviewed capital needs based on the 2023 capital budget, the 10-year forecast, the Town's 2022 Asset Management Plan and the ongoing work by Watson in collaboration with the Town throughout the 2024 Development Charges Background Study. He further explained that the capital works were identified by need, timing and costs. He stated that the increase of rates is based on potential growth through a 10-year annual average base charge and the volume rate increases that are required to meet the needs of water and wastewater forecasts.

Mr. Abbs advised that this meeting is only for Council to receive information on the capital program, the operating program and the proposed water and wastewater rates.

Council directed questions to Mr. Abbs regarding the water and wastewater rates in different wards and in different municipalities.

Mr. Abbs explained that historically the cost of water and wastewater has been segregated by each of the different systems as Wards 1 and 2 are serviced by Union Water Supply System and Wards 3 and 4 use different infrastructure such as the lagoons that are cheaper to operate than a treatment plant. He noted that many municipalities are looking at 10% rate increases every year over 10 years as this is a Provincial Requirement to look at asset management and incorporate that into the analysis and financially plan. He further explained that water rates are higher in Essex opposed to other municipalities such as Tecumseh as it is based on the system and the funding.

**SP24-06-007**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the presentation by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. regarding the Water and Wastewater Rate Study be received.

**Carried**

**6. Adjournment**

**SP24-06-008**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 PM.

**Carried**

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Mayor

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Clerk