



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

**Wednesday, June 19, 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
  - Michael Prue, Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
  - 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
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
  - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
  - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
  - 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
  - Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services

Dee Blais, Executive Assistant to the CAO  
Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS

**1. Closed Meeting**

There was no closed meeting scheduled for June 19, 2024.

**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. All members of Council were present.

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

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the extreme temperatures in the region. Residents were encouraged all residents to being mindful of the heat's impact on personal health and to check on vulnerable individuals in their neighbourhoods and be respectful to outdoor workers, especially those in road maintenance and construction.

Significant road capacity expansion and rehabilitation projects were underway in the County and drivers were reminded to slow down, be patient, and follow directions near roadwork to ensure safety. The Warden extended appreciation to the Essex County Infrastructure and Planning Services staff and local public works teams for their efforts in maintaining the road network.

In honour of the first National Long-Term Care Day, the Warden offered appreciation and gratitude to the staff of Sun Parlor Home and to all long-

term care workers across Windsor-Essex for their hard work and compassion.

Congratulations was extended to EMS District Chiefs David Jacobs and Mike Jacobs for each providing more than 45 years of service to the residents of Essex County and Windsor. The County of Essex began recognizing employees with long-term service pins this year. The Jacobs cousins are the first to reach the 45-year milestone.

**7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

**8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Essex County Council, Regular Meeting

**171-2024**

**Moved By** Joe Bachetti

**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

That the minutes of the June 5, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Voted by show of hands)

**Carried**

**9. Delegations and Presentations**

**9.1 Windsor Essex County Health Unit**

Dr. Ken Blanchette, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Mehdi Aloosh, Medical Officer of Health; Kristy McBeth, Director of Public Health Programs; Eric Nadalin, Director of Public Health Programs; and Linda Watson, Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Public Health Programs provided an overview of the work the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) has been focused on over the past year.

The delegation outlined how WECHU addresses local public health risks through evidence-informed approaches and data-driven assessments. Efforts are focused on integrating high-priority communities into public health strategies and balancing provincial programming requirements with local needs.

Key program areas include chronic disease prevention, mental health, healthy eating, physical activity, and built environment planning. Initiatives also cover healthy growth and development,

food safety, safe water, environmental health, substance use and injury prevention, immunization, infectious disease control, school health, and oral health. The Ontario government's Strengthening Public Health Strategy, set for implementation in January 2025, aims to optimize public health sector capacity, stability, and sustainability.

Dr. Blanchette thanked Council for their continued investment and support of public health programs, noting the impact their efforts make in the community to ease the stress and burden on hospitals and EMS.

**172-2024**

**Moved By** Dennis Rogers

**Seconded By** Chris Gibb

That the delegation from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit be permitted to address Council and make a presentation.

(Voted by show of hands)

**Carried**

**9.2 Zuzek Inc.**

***(Considered with item 12.1 Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative)***

Peter Zuzek, President, Zuzek Inc.; James Bryant, Director of Watershed Management, Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and Rebecca Belanger, Manager, Planning Services provided an overview of the Shoreline Mapping Project. The initiative focused on identifying and mitigating shoreline natural hazards, including flooding, erosion, and dynamic beach hazards, as defined by the Provincial Policy Statement and Great Lakes Technical Guide. The update integrates climate change impacts, such as warming winter temperatures, increased storm activity, reduced ice cover, and higher lake levels, to address future risks.

Public engagement through open houses in Belle River, Harrow, Leamington, Essex, and LaSalle were held and the next steps included presenting the findings to the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) Board. The updated hazard maps would be utilized for planning and development evaluations and the data would be integrated into a coastal vulnerability and resilience study for the south shore of the County.

**173-2024**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Sherry Bondy

That the delegation from the Zuzek Inc. be permitted to address Council and make a presentation.

(Voted by show of hands)

**Carried**

**10. Communications**

**10.1 Correspondence**

**175-2024**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for June 19, 2024, be received, and any noted action approved.

(Voted by show of hands)

**Carried**

**10.1.1 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)**

[May 2024 - Newsletter](#)

**10.1.2 Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC)**

[June 6, 2024 Media Release - Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Expresses Deep Concern for potential PSAC-CIU Strike](#)

**10.1.3 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

- AMO [Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- AMO [Policy Updates](#)
- AMO Calendar - [Education Events](#)

**10.1.4 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)**

[2024 Visitor and Events Guides](#)

**10.2 Resolutions**

There were no resolutions for June 19, 2024.

## **11. Consent Agenda**

### **176-2024**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That the items listed on the Consent Agenda for June 19, 2024, be received and approved.

(Voted Electronically)

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

**Carried**

### **11.1 Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update**

Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update

### **11.2 Summary of Outstanding Reports**

Report number 2024-0619-LCS-R21-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports, dated June 19, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

## **12. Reports and Questions**

### **12.1 Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative**

Report number 2024-0619-IPS-R11-RB, Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative, dated June 19, 2024, from Rebecca Belanger, Manager, Planning Services

***(Considered with item 9.2 Zuzek Inc.)***

### **174-2024**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0619-IPS-R11-RB Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative as information.

(Voted Electronically)

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

**Carried**

## **12.2 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements**

Report number 2024-0619-FIN-R13-MR, 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements, dated June 19, 2024, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer provided an overview of the 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements noting that KPMG LLP conducted the audit for 2023 and provided the County with a clean unqualified audit opinion. There were no control deficiencies found and confirmed the restatements of the 2022 Financial Information were accurate and appropriately applied.

It was noted that the financial health of the County was strong and that the 2023 Financial Statements highlight the commitment of the County to sound financial planning and long term fiscal sustainability.

Gary McNamara, Mayor - Town of Tecumseh left the meeting at 7:23 pm.

### **177-2024**

**Moved By** Chris Gibb

**Seconded By** Michael Akpata

That Essex County Council receive the 2023 County of Essex Consolidated Financial Report;

That Essex County Council approve the 2023 County of Essex Consolidated Financial Statements; and

That Essex County Council approve the 2023 Sun Parlor Home Residents' Trust Fund Statements.

(Voted Electronically)

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

**Carried**

### **12.3 Traffic Control at the Intersection of County Roads 9 and 10**

Report number 2024-0619-IPS-R10-AB, Traffic Control at the Intersection of County Roads 9 and 10, dated June 19, 2024 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided Council with the results of a traffic study conducted at the intersection of County Road 9 and County Road 10. The study indicates that an electric traffic signal system would be appropriate in this location.

Discussion took place regarding the current state of construction of the bridge adjacent to this intersection and whether it was financially and operationally feasible to accelerate the signalization of the intersection to coincide with current road closures.

#### **178-2024**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council receive report 2024-0619-IPS-R10-AB, Traffic Control at the Intersection of County Roads 9 and 10, as information.

(Voted Electronically)

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

**Carried**

### **12.4 Cost Sharing Agreement with Town of Tecumseh**

Report number 2024-0619-IPS-R14-AB Cost Sharing Agreement with Town of Tecumseh, dated June 19, 2024 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided County Council with information and recommendations related to entering into a Cost Sharing Agreement with the Town of Tecumseh related to Phase II of the County Road 42/County Road 43 project.



**179-2024**

**Moved By** Gary McNamara

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council receive Report number 2024-0619-IPS-R14-AB for information and authorize the Clerk and the Warden to execute the Costs Sharing Agreement with the Town of Tecumseh, substantially in the form appended to this Report.

**(Voted Electronically)**

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

**Carried**

**12.5 Shared Tower Lease Agreement**

Report number 2024-0619-SPH-R04-JBK Shared Tower Lease Agreement, dated June 19, 2024, from Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home

Jayne Brooks Keller provided Council with information pertaining to the request from Shared Tower Inc to lease lands from the Sun Parlor Home for the purpose of erecting a cellular signal tower. Jayne outlined that the process of arriving at the agreement included consultations with internal and external partners, including Essex Region Conservation Authority.

Discussion took place with regard to the recommended proximity of cellular towers to residential areas and whether the distance of this installation would be adequate.

Brooks Keller advised that the revenue realized from the lease agreement would be allocated to a special fund that would support social programs to the residents of Sun Parlor Home.

**180-2024**

**Moved By** Rob Shepley

**Seconded By** Dennis Rogers

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0619-SPH-R04-JBK as information and authorize the Warden and Clerk to execute a Lease Agreement with Shared Tower for the lease of approximately 80 square metres of land for the installation of a cellular signal tower.

(Voted electronically)

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

**Carried**

## **12.6 SPH Building Condition Assessment**

Report number 2024-0619-SPH-R03-JBK, SPH Building Condition Assessment, dated June 19, 2024 from Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home

Jayne Brooks Keller provided the report to County Council that outlined redevelopment options associated with the efficient and effective operation of the County's only long-term care home. The three options provided included redeveloping the existing home, building a new home, or continue to operate the home in its current form.

Brooks Keller explained that positive reputation of the home and the mandated requirement to provide a long-term care facility in the County make SPH a desirable option for the aging population and considerations must be given to ensure the facility is poised for success into the future.

Discussion took place regarding current and forecasted need for long-term care beds and the role that the SPH plays in service to the community.

### **181-2024**

**Moved By** Tracey Bailey

**Seconded By** Sherry Bondy

That County Council receive report – SPH Building Condition Assessment for information; and

That County Council authorize Administration to further explore options to redevelop Sun Parlor Home by engaging a consultant.

(Voted Electronically)

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

**Carried**

**13. Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business for June 19, 2024.

**14. New Business**

There was no New Business for June 19, 2024.

**15. Adoption of By-Laws**

**182-2024**

**Moved By** Crystal Meloche

**Seconded By** Kimberly DeYong

That By-laws 2024-31 through 2024-33, 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, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

**Carried**

**15.1 By-law Number 2024-31**

Being a By-law to authorize a cost sharing agreement between the Corporation of the County of Essex and the Town of Tecumseh

**15.2 By-law Number 2024-32**

Being a by-law to authorize a lease agreement between the County of Essex and Shared Tower Inc.

**15.3 By-law Number 2024-33**

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for June 19, 2024

**16. Notice of Motion**

**16.1 Traffic Signals at the intersection of County Roads 9 and 10**

Michael Prue brought forward the following Notice of Motion:

That Council approve the signals at CR 9 and CR 10 during the construction phase of that project, and that monies be found in the existing construction budget.

**17. Adjournment**

**183-2024**

**Moved By** Kimberly DeYong

**Seconded By** Joe Bachetti

That the Essex County Council meeting for June 19, 2024 be adjourned at 8:20 PM.

(Voted by show of hands)

**Carried**

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Hilda MacDonald,  
Warden, County of Essex

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Katherine Hebert,  
County Clerk