



Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

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, Councillor
 - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden
 - Tracey Bailey, Councillor
 - Sherry Bondy, Councillor
 - Kimberly DeYong, Councillor
 - Chris Gibb, Councillor
 - Hilda MacDonald, Warden
 - Crystal Meloche, Councillor
 - Michael Prue, Councillor
 - Dennis Rogers, Councillor
 - Rob Shepley, Councillor
 - Larry Verbeke, Councillor
 - Kirk Walstedt, Councillor
 - Brian Houston, Councillor, (Alternate Member)
- Absent:
- Gary McNamara, Councillor
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
 - Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
 - Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
 - Kyla Pritiko, Director, Human Resources
 - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services / Treasurer
 - David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services / County Solicitor
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Manager, Records and Accessibility / Deputy Clerk
 - Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and

Development
Ziad Fatallah, Deputy Chief, Planning & Physical
Resources, EWEMS
Kaitlyn Baggio, Administrative Assistant - Legislative and
Legal Services

1. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting held on April 16, 2025.

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.

Gary McNamara was absent. Brian Houston attended as an alternate member for the Town of Tecumseh.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the Regular meeting. The Warden noted that Hospice, which has locations in Windsor and Leamington, has been providing compassionate end-of-life care to residents of the region for over 45 years had launched their annual Blue Dove campaign to raise funds that support the Hospice.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

7.1 Michael Akpata - Regional Policing Study - Cost of Engaging a Consultant

Member of the Windsor Police Service

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

112-2025

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

9.1 Mary Brownlie and Dylan Osborne

Mary Brownlie shared information regarding traffic incidents at the intersection of County Road 18 and County Road 15 and asked Council to consider the stories in their decisions when prioritizing road safety projects.

Dylan Osborne sent regrets.

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

113-2025

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for April 16, 2025, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- [Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum: Toronto, ON June 6, 2025 - Registration Open](#)
- [AMO Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- [AMO Policy Updates](#)
- [AMO Calendar - Education Events](#)

10.1.2 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

- Making Waves Newsletter

- Annual Conference 2025 — Explore our detailed preliminary program and register

10.2 Resolutions

10.2.1 Town of Essex

Letter from Town of Essex RE Regional Transportation Grant for the Leamington-Windsor Transit Line, dated March 28, 2025

114-2025

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive and file the correspondence from the Town of Essex, dated March 28, 2025.

Carried

11. Consent Agenda

115-2025

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Brian Houston

That the recommendations in the Administrative Reports listed as items 11.1 through 11.3, on the Consent Agenda for April 16, 2025, be approved and further that the Minutes listed as items 11.4 and 11.5 on the said Consent Agenda be received.

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

Carried

11.1 Summary of Outstanding Reports - April 16, 2025

Report number 2025-0416-LLS-R18-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports, dated April 16, 2025 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

11.2 Quarterly Procurement Report

Report number 2025-0416-FIN-R11-SP, Quarterly Procurement Report, dated April 16, 2025, from Sandy Pillon, Manager, Procurement and Compliance

11.3 2025 Annual Repayment Limit

Report number 2025-0416-FIN-R09-MR, 2025 Annual Repayment Limit, dated April 16, 2025, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

11.4 Essex County Library Board (ECL)

Minutes of the February 26, 2025 meeting of the Essex County Library Board

11.5 Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WECHC)

Meeting Minutes, WECHC Board Meetings, dated:

- December 14, 2023
- February 20, 2024
- April 12, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- June 27, 2024
- June 27, 2024 (AGM)
- October 3, 2024

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Road Safety Management Program

Report number 2025-0416-IPS-R09-JB, Road Safety Management Program, dated April 16, 2025, from Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Jerry Behl outlined the planned phases of the Road Safety Management Program. Phase 1 included a road network screening and had been completed by a consultant. A full copy of the screening would be shared with local municipal engineering departments for information.

Phase 2 includes a site visit by County engineers and technologists to gather information and review the potential for safety improvements. Following the site visit, phase 3 was planned to develop, where deemed necessary, an implementation strategy and costing analysis of any improvements. Administration will deliver a priority list of projects with budget and timelines over a 5 year plan. The final phase includes continued monitoring to track benefits of improvements where implemented.

116-2025**Moved By** Kirk Walstedt**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0416-IPS-R09-JB, Road Safety Management Program as information.

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

Carried

12.2 Intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road

Report number 2025-0416-IPS-R10-JB, Intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road, dated April 16, 2025, from Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Jerry Behl offered information related the review of safety and speed at the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road.

It was explained that a comprehensive review had been completed referencing the Transportation Association of Canada guidelines, statistics on traffic activity and physical features present in the area in question. The review determined that a recommendation to reduce the speed limit on County Road 20 from 70km/h to 50km/h between Lowes Side Road and 50m south of Dalhousie Street would be appropriate.

Kirk Walstedt, Councillor left the meeting at 6:55 PM.

117-2025**Moved By** Chris Gibb**Seconded By** Michael Prue

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0416-IPS-R10-JB, Intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road as information; and,

That Essex County Council direct administration to reduce the speed limit on County Road 20 from 70km/h to 50km/h between Lowes Side Road and 50m south of Dalhousie Street; and,

That by-law 2025-17 be adopted, amending By-law 26-2002 to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways within the Essex County

Roads System, 'Schedule H' to reduce the speed on County Road 20 between Lowes Side Road and 50m south of Dalhousie Street.

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 Brian Houston

Carried

12.3 Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy

Report number 2025-0416-LLS-R16-DMS, Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy, dated April 16, 2025 from David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

David Sundin explained that the existing non-smoking policy had been adopted in 2003 and did not include vaping. The proposed policy included language more applicable to today's environment.

Kirk Walstedt, Councillor joined the meeting at 7:02 PM.

118-2025

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive Report 2025-0402-LLS-R16-DMS as information; and further,

That the Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy appended to this Report as Appendix A be approved and adopted as a Corporate Policy of the County of Essex.

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

Carried

12.4 Essex Windsor EMS 2026 Pre-Budget Vehicle Procurement Approval

Report number 2025-0416-EMS-R03-ZF, Essex Windsor EMS 2026 Pre-Budget Vehicle Procurement Approval, dated April 16, 2025, from Ziad Fatallah, Deputy Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Deputy Chief Ziad Fatallah outlined the opportunity to secure two additional ambulances in the 2026 purchase and explained that the addition units would be funded by vehicle reserves. Operational costs of staffing the units would be addressed during 2026 budget deliberations.

119-2025

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0416-EMS-R03-ZF, Pre-Budget Vehicle Procurement Approval, and authorize administration to proceed with the addition of two (2) additional ambulances to the 2026 pre-budget vehicle procurement order, bringing the total number of ambulances to be purchased to nine (9).

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

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There were no matters of unfinished business for April 16, 2025.

14. New Business

14.1 Intersection Review – Information Sharing

Councillor Bondy withdrew the Notice of Motion stating that Administration had provided sufficient assurances to this subject under agenda item 12.1.

14.2 Regional Policing Study - Cost of Engaging a Consultant

At the April 2, 2025 meeting of Essex County Council, Councillor Sherry Bondy brought forward a Notice of Motion regarding a report on a cost estimate for engaging a consultant to perform a feasibility study for Regional Policing

Michael Akpata declared a conflict on this item. (Member of the Windsor Police Service)

120-2025**Moved By** Sherry Bondy**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council direct Administration to provide a report on the cost estimate for engaging a consultant to perform a feasibility study for Regional Policing at the June 4, 2025 meeting.

In Favour (3): Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, and Michael Prue

Opposed (10): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Brian Houston

Conflict (1): Michael Akpata

Lost**14.3 Strong Mayors**

Councillor Sherry Bondy requested permission from the Warden to bring forward a motion under Procedure By-law section 11.16.3 as urgent. The urgency was to meet a Provincial deadline for feedback regarding Strong Mayor Powers of April 16, 2025.

Warden MacDonald permitted the motion to be brought forward.

121-2025**Moved By** Sherry Bondy**Seconded By** Rob Shepley

Whereas, the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus outlined in a letter dated October 24, 2023 to Premier Ford, their opposition to the imposition of Strong Mayor Powers to certain municipalities in the Province of Ontario; and,

Whereas, on November 1, 2023 Essex County Council expressed their support for the position of the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus regarding the Opposing of Strong Mayor Powers; and,

Whereas, on February 27, 2025 the Province of Ontario held elections, and subsequently, certain Members of Provincial Parliament changed, and certain roles within the Cabinet have changed; and,

Whereas, on April 9, 2025 the Province expanded Strong Mayor Powers to include an additional 169 municipalities, despite significant expressed opposition from municipalities impacted and not impacted.

Now therefore, the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex expresses its renewed support of the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus position, Opposing the Strong Mayors amendment to the Municipal Act, 2001 and the City of Toronto Act legislation; and,

Further, that a letter expressing said support be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPPs, the leader of the Official Opposition, the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to lower tier municipalities in the County of Essex.

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 Brian Houston

Opposed (1): Kirk Walstedt

Carried

15. Adoption of By-Laws

122-2025

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That By-laws 2025-17 through 2025-19, be given three readings, and having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

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

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2025-17

Being a By-law to Amend By-law Number 26-2002, Being a By-law to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways within the Essex County Roads System (Schedule H)

15.2 By-law Number 2025-18

Being a By-law to Approve and Adopt a Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy

15.3 By-law Number 2025-19

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for April 16, 2025

16. Notice of Motion

There were no Notice of Motion brought forward on April 16, 2025.

17. Adjournment

123-2025

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Michael Prue

That the Essex County Council meeting for April 16, 2025 be adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine J. Hebert,
County Clerk