



The Corporation of the Town of Essex
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2025, 6:00 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: Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer
Joseph Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services
Lauryn Smith, Youth Council Member
Cassandra Roy, Legislative Clerk
Cole Foster, 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

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 July 7, 2025

R25-07-309

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That the published agenda for the July 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting be adopted with the following amendment:

That Agenda Item 16.1 be added to allow for a matter of New Business by Mayor Bondy.

Carried

7. Adoption of Minutes

7.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2025

R25-07-310

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held June 16, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

8. Public Presentations

8.1 Julius Langpeter, Resident

RE: Upgrading the Harrow Lagoons to a Mechanical Plant

Julius Langpeter explained that Cedar Creek is a beautiful little creek that flows into Lake Erie and over the course of time the lake has deteriorated. He advocated to Council to make the Harrow Sewage Lagoons more efficient or to upgrade to a sewage treatment plant that truly cleans and protects our waters.

Council informed the resident that Administration has explored options and are currently looking for a more cost-efficient solution.

Mayor Bondy passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Shepley and left the meeting at 6:15 until 6:17 PM.

R25-07-311

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Council allow the delegate Julius Langpeter an additional 5 minutes.

Carried

R25-07-312

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That the delegation by Julius Langpeter regarding the Harrow Lagoons be received.

9. Unfinished Business

10. Reports from Administration

10.1 Capital Works and Asset Management-2025-16

RE: Walnut Street Reconstruction, as presented at the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025 and June 2, 2025

Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services, explained that at the Regular Council Meetings of May 20 and June 2, 2025 Administration presented three options for the reconstruction of Walnut Street and Council deferred this decision to allow for more public input. He stated that Administration is still recommending that Council proceed with Option 1.

Mayor Bondy stated that a meeting was held with residents on Walnut Street and the consensus was to proceed with Option 1 with an amendment to decrease the gravel shoulder from 2.4 metres to 1 metre.

R25-07-313

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That Capital Works and Asset Management Report-2025-16 entitled Walnut Street Reconstruction by David McBeth, Manager, Capital Works and Asset Management dated May 20, 2025 be received; and

That Council direct Administration to proceed with Option #1 as described within the Report, subject to a one metre gravel shoulder on the east side of the road.

	Support	Opposed	Conflict	Regrets
Mayor Bondy	X			
Deputy Mayor Shepley	X			
Councillor Garon	X			
Councillor McGuire-Blais	X			
Councillor Verbeek	X			
Councillor Allard	X			
Councillor Matyi	X			
Councillor Hammond	X			
Results	8	0	0	0

Carried (8 to 0)

10.2 Community Services-2025-19

RE: Special Event Notice – Essex Centre BIA – Tiny Tot Parade

R25-07-314

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Community Services Report-2025-19 entitled Special Event Notice – Essex Centre Business Improvement Association (BIA) - Tiny Tot Parade, prepared by Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services, dated June 16, 2025, be received; and

That Council approve closing Talbot Street North from Laird Avenue to Victoria Avenue on October 31, 2025, between 9:45 AM and 11:30 AM for the Essex Centre Tiny Tot Parade.

Carried

10.3 Planning-2025-12

RE: Assumption of Phases 1 and 5 of the Essex Town Centre Residential Subdivision (Ward 1)

R25-07-315

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That Planning Report-2025-12 entitled Assumption of Phases 1 and 5 of the Essex Town Centre Residential Subdivision (Ward 1) prepared by Rita Jabbour, RPP, Manager, Planning Services dated July 7, 2025 be received; and

That By-law 2458, being a by-law to acquire and assume municipal works, infrastructure services, and lands for the purpose of dedication as a public highway, within Phases 1 and 5 of the Essex Town Centre Residential Subdivision (Ward 1), be read a first, second and a third time and finally passed on July 7, 2025.

Carried

10.4 Community Services-2025-22

RE: Special Events Resource Team (SERT) Update - July 2025

R25-07-316

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That Community Services-2025-22 entitled Special Event Resources Team (SERT) Update – July 2025 prepared by Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services, dated July 7, 2025, be received.

Carried

10.5 Parks and Facilities-2025-05

RE: Supply and Install Generator at Harrow Arena - Tender Results and Grant Funding

R25-07-317

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley
Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Parks and Facilities-2025-05 entitled Supply and Install Generator at Harrow Arena - Tender Results and Grant Funding prepared by Rodney Klie Manager, Parks and Facilities dated July 7, 2025, be received;

That Council award the supply and install generator at the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre (“Harrow Arena”) (CS-25-0021) to Anchor Hydro in the amount of \$146,784.73, including non-refundable Harmonized Sales Tax; and

That Council receive for information that the Town of Essex was awarded grant funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in the amount of \$97,300.00 towards project CS-25-0021.

Carried

11. Reports from Youth Members

Lauryn Smith, Youth Councillor, announced the formation of the first Junior Optimist Club in Essex.

Cole Foster, Youth Councillor, congratulated Lauryn Smith for being elected as president on the Junior Optimist Club and further highlighted the upcoming Essex Summer Camp Club activities.

12. County Council Update

Deputy Mayor Shepley noted that County Council received an update on the Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, approved an education plan for County Council members, approved a change to the Official Plan in Leamington, adopted the updated 2025 Asset Management Plan and provided an update on National Drowning Prevention Week (July 20 - 26, 2025) which will address water safety this year.

He further highlighted that the 2024 consolidated statements show that the County is in solid financial health, with \$571 million in equity and over \$316 million in reserves, including funds for roads and the new regional hospital.

R25-07-318

Moved By Councillor Hammond
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

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

Carried

12.1 Essex County Council Minutes - June 4, 2025

13. Correspondence

13.1 Correspondence to be received

R25-07-319

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

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

13.1.1 Strong Mayor Powers

13.1.1.1 Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch, and Reglan

13.1.2 Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North Minutes

RE: Essex County OPP Detachment Board Minutes of April 14, 2025

13.1.3 Township of McGarry

RE: Standing for Canada

13.1.4 Town of Bracebridge

RE: Road Salt Usage

13.1.5 Township of Georgian Bluffs

RE: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Bill 5 and Bill 17

13.1.6 Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

RE: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

13.2 Correspondence to be considered for receipt and support

13.2.1 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) Board of Health

RE: Endorsing the Windsor-Essex Food Strategy

R25-07-320

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the correspondence from Windsor-Essex Health Unit Board of Health dated June 12, 2025 regarding Windsor-Essex Food Strategy be received and supported;

That a letter from the Town of Essex be sent to Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Honourable Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham Kent Leamington; and

That Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, ensuring all residents in our community have dignified access to sufficient, affordable, healthy, safe, and culturally appropriate food is a cost-effective form of disease prevention;

Whereas, a healthy and just food system promotes health and dignity for the entire population;

Whereas, changes in the food system require thoughtful and intentional work by all community members, organizations, institutions, businesses, and levels of government;

Whereas, multiple community partners have committed to food system work across Windsor and Essex County, but require coordinated action to continue forward;

Whereas, the Board of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has passed previous resolutions to endorse the Good Food Charter for Windsor-Essex (2014) and support the creation of a local food policy council (2017) committing to the advancement of food system work in our community; and

Whereas, 681 community members provided input into the 2019 Community Food Assessment, determining the recommendations for future local food system work.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health endorse the goals, and recommendations in the Windsor-Essex Food Strategy;

That the WECHU engage community agencies like municipalities and other stakeholders within and outside of the existing Food Policy Council to lead Food Strategy implementation; and further

That the WECHU initiate the following Food Strategy Priority Actions to structure the community's efforts toward improving the overall food system:

1. The creation of a comprehensive food system assessment tool to determine the impacts of policies and community endeavors on the local food system.
2. Assess the availability of community spaces where people can learn food skills in neighbourhoods with limited resources.
3. Develop and/or enhance policies and procedures to support local food purchasing in publicly funded spaces.
4. Pilot evidenced informed programs that improve physical access to food in neighbourhoods with limited retail options.

Carried

13.2.2 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) Board of Health

RE: Animal Bite Prevention Strategies in Windsor-Essex County

R25-07-321

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the correspondence from Windsor-Essex Health Unit Board of Health dated June 12, 2025 regarding Animal Bite Prevention Strategies be received and supported;

That a letter from the Town of Essex be sent to Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Honourable Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham Kent Leamington; and

That Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, animal bites to humans increase the risk of rabies virus transmission which can be fatal if left untreated;

Whereas, data indicates that approximately 92% of local animal to human bite investigations involved canine and feline species, emphasizing the need for responsible pet ownership and up-to-date rabies vaccinations for pets;

Whereas, animal bites affect vulnerable populations such as children, people working with animals, people who are outdoors, as well as people living and working in urban areas disproportionately;

Whereas, a proactive community education and awareness campaigns can effectively promote compliance with leashing requirements and vaccination regulations; and

Whereas, the WECHU is committed to ongoing collaborations with local municipalities, veterinarians, healthcare providers as well as police services to provide information on accurate and complete reporting of animal bites.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health recommends that WEC municipalities support ongoing education, prevention and advocacy efforts related to animal bite and rabies prevention activities; and further

That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health encourages all local municipalities to review, strengthen and enforce existing animal control by-laws, including off-leash violations.

Carried

13.2.3 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) Board of Health

RE: Avian Influenza (H5N1) Prevention and Risk Mitigation

R25-07-322

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

That the correspondence from Windsor-Essex Health Unit Board of Health dated June 12, 2025 regarding Avian Influenza (H5N1) Prevention and Risk Mitigation be received and supported;

That a letter from the Town of Essex be sent to Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Honourable Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham Kent Leamington; and

That Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the current pandemic risk of H5N1 in Ontario for the general public remains low, but the risk of infection is higher for individuals with close contact to infected animals, like farm workers, and for those handling wild birds;

Whereas, wastewater monitoring is a non-invasive, cost-effective rapidly evolving tool for public health surveillance to help alert public health officials to diseases that may be spreading in a community;

Whereas, H5N1 vaccines are available, but not currently accessible for public use in Ontario; and

Whereas, backyard poultry, like chickens, are highly vulnerable to the H5N1 virus, especially if they have free range outdoor access and exposure to infected wild birds.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health will continue to prioritize and resource the work associated with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's emergency preparedness activities and response planning associated with H5N1;

That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health recommends that local municipalities with by-laws permitting backyard chickens make immediate efforts to ensure that backyard chicken owners are aware of the increased illness risks of H5N1, and strategies that should be implemented to reduce their risk of illness;

That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health recommends that local municipalities and key stakeholders connected with the H5N1 response, make efforts in the next three months to update protocols, conduct simulations and activity drills, and plan to ensure the availability of necessary resources in the event of future changes to local H5N1 risk;

That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health recommends that the provincial government work to secure the necessary supply of H5N1 vaccines for individuals at increased risk in Windsor and Essex County and across the province in necessary quantities; and further

That the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health encourages the provincial government to fund the research and development of wastewater testing strategies and strengthen the infrastructure for clinical testing that could be implemented at the local and regional levels.

Carried

14. Committee Meeting Minutes

R25-07-323

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

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 Arts, Culture and Tourism - May 14, 2025

14.2 Essex Festival Committee - May 15, 2025

14.3 Committee of Adjustment - May 21, 2025

14.4 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee - May 29, 2025

14.5 Co-An Park - June 2, 2025

15. Financial

16. New Business

16.1 Mayor Bondy

Mayor Bondy passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Shepley at 7:11 PM.

R25-07-324

Moved By Mayor Bondy

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

That Council direct Administration to draft a letter signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) asking when and why they shut down our County beaches and what measures Essex can take to avoid beach closures this summer and in the future.

Carried

17. Notices of Motion

17.1 The following Notice of Motion was presented at the June 16, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and is being brought forward this evening for Council's consideration:

17.1.1 Councillor Verbeek

R25-07-325

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

That Council direct Administration to provide Council with a written update on the Essex Sport Fields project during the 2026 Town of Essex budget deliberations.

Carried

17.2 The following Notice of Motion is for presentment only and will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the July 21, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

17.2.1 Mayor Bondy

Moved By: Mayor Bondy

That Council direct Administration to review the Town's property standards By-Law and return with a report proposing any changes that Administration determines is required to improve the By-Law's relevancy, effectiveness, and alignment with the community's needs, and that such review incorporates public consultation and education.

17.2.2 Councillor Verbeek

Moved By: Councillor Verbeek

That Council direct Town of Essex Administration to seek information from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding accidents at the corner of County Road 11 and Concession Road 11 and provide Council with a verbal report on Administration's findings.

18. Reports and Announcements from Council Members

Council members thanked the Essex Festival Committee, town staff, volunteers, businesses, sponsorships, and vendors along with those who participated to help make this another successful year for the Essex Fun Fest.

19. By-Laws

19.1 By-Laws that require a third and final reading

19.1.1 By-Law 2459

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex

R25-07-326

Moved By Councillor Matyi

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That By-Law 2459 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex be read a third time and finally passed on July 7, 2025.

Carried

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

19.3 By-Laws that require a first and second reading

19.3.1 By-Law 2460

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the July 7, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex

R25-07-327

Moved By Councillor Allard

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

That By-Law 2460 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the July 7, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex be read a first and a second time and provisionally adopted on July 7, 2025.

Carried

20. Adjournment

R25-07-328

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk