



**The Corporation of the Town of Essex**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

January 12, 2026, 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  
Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services  
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services  
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services  
Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services  
Lauryn Smith, Youth Council Member  
Cole Foster, Youth Council Member  
Lyndsay Phoenix, Legislative Clerk  
Cory Simard, Manager, Legal, Licensing and Enforcement  
Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services

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.

**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 Malandrucolo, Director, Legal & Legislative Services/Clerk reported that on January 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM Council moved into Closed Session as permitted to do so pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b), and (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25. as amended to discuss personnel matters and 239 (2) (c) of the Municipal Act, 2001, to discuss a potential acquisition or disposition of property.

**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 January 12, 2026**

**R26-01-001**

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Allard

**That** the published agenda for the January 12, 2026 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as amended with the following amendments:

1. Agenda Item 10.5 be deferred to the next Regular Council Meeting held on February 2, 2026;
2. Agenda Item 17.2 be added to allow for Notice of Motion by Mayor Bondy for presentment only; and
3. Council move into closed session at the end of the Regular Council Meeting as permitted to do so as per section 239 (c) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended to discuss a potential acquisition or disposition of property.

**Carried**

**7. Adoption of Minutes**

**7.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2025**

**R26-01-002**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Councillor Matyi

**That** the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held December 15, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**8. Public Presentations**

**8.1 Monica Carruthers, Heritage Colchester**

Monica Carruthers, Heritage Colchester attended the meeting to provide an annual update on Heritage Colchester operations and advised they had a busy year counting Chimney Swifts at the Colchester Schoolhouse, summer markets (over 1,000 people attended the markets), and summer theatre (sold 170 tickets). She also noted the release of the Heritage Colchester annual newsletter. She thanked the Town for helping with heating the Heritage Colchester facility and supporting the organization.

**R26-01-003**

Moved By Councillor Allard  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

**That** the delegation by Monica Carruthers on behalf of Heritage Colchester be received for information.

**Carried**

**8.2 Mike Yaworsky, Janey Obeid, Corey St. Onge and Ed Zaborski**

RE: Town of Essex Noise By-Law 2422

Corey St. Onge presented to Council to express concerns regarding the Noise By-Law and request a review of By-Law 2422.

**R26-01-004**

Moved By Councillor Allard  
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

**That** Council allow an additional 5 minutes to the delegates.

**Carried**

**R26-01-005**

Moved By Councillor Garon  
Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the delegation by Corey St. Onge regarding the Town of Essex Noise By-Law 2422 be received.

**Carried**

Moved By Councillor Verbeek  
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

**That** Council direct Administration to review the Noise By-Law to address the concerns addressed by Corey St. Onge.

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Regrets</b>
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		
<b>Results</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Defeated (4 to 4)**

**9. Unfinished Business**

**10. Reports from Administration**

**10.1 Planning-2026-02**

RE: General Amendments to Zoning By-Law 1037 (ZBA-03-25)

**R26-01-006**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Councillor Garon

**That** Planning Report 2026-02 entitled General Amendments to Zoning By-Law 1037 (ZBA-03-25) prepared by Rita Jabbour, RPP, Manager, Planning Services dated January 12, 2026 be received; and

**That** By-Law 2501, being a by-law to amend By-Law 1037, the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law for the Town of Essex, be read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

**Carried**

**10.2 Planning-2026-01**

RE: Extension of Draft Plan Approval for Phase II of Sunset Gardens residential subdivision (Ward 4) (County of Essex File No.:37-T-22007)

**R26-01-007**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

**That** Planning Report 2026-01 entitled Extension of Draft Plan Approval for Phase II of Sunset Gardens Residential Subdivision (Ward 4) (File No.: 37-T-22007) prepared by Rita Jabbour, RPP, Manager, Planning Services dated January 12, 2026 be received;

**That** Council approve an extension of Draft Plan Approval for the lands comprising PT LT 1, Registrar’s Compiled Plan 1646 (County of Essex File No.: 37-T-22007) for a period of three (3) years from the date of draft plan approval; and

**That** a copy of the resolution of approval be forwarded to the Manager, Planning Services for the County of Essex.

**Carried**

**10.3 Corporate Services-2026-01**

RE: 2024 Treasurer’s Statement on Development Charges and Parkland

**R26-01-008**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** Corporate Services Report 2026-01 entitled 2024 Treasurer’s Statement on Development Charges and Parkland prepared by Kate Rowe, Director of Corporate Services dated January 12, 2026 be received;

**That** Council approves the Annual Treasurer’s Statement for Development Charges and Parkland Reserves, inclusive of Appendix A through E, in accordance with section 43(1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997 as amended and Section 42 of the Planning Act; and

**That** Council directs the Treasurer to make the statement available to the public upon request as per Section 43(2.1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997, Bill 73 and Section 42 of the Planning Act.

**Carried**

**10.4 Legal and Legislative Services-2026-01**

RE: Public Conduct Policy and Trespass to Property Policy

**R26-01-009**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

**That** Legal and Legislative Services-2026-01 entitled Public Conduct Policy and Trespass to Property Policy prepared by Joe Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk dated January 12, 2026, be received;

**That** Council adopt a Public Conduct Policy; and

**That** Council adopt a Trespass to Property Policy.

**Carried**

**10.5 Office of the CAO-2026-01**

RE: 2023-2027 Strategic Action Plan Annual Progress Report

Agenda Item 10.5 was deferred during the adoption of the published agenda until the next Regular Council Meeting on February 2, 2026.

**10.6 Drainage-2026-01**

RE: Appointment of an Engineer under Section 78 of the Drainage Act for the South Townline Drain

**R26-01-010**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

**That** Drainage Report 2026-01 entitled Appointment of an Engineer under Section 78 of the Drainage Act for the South Townline Drain prepared by Lindsay Dean, Drainage Superintendent dated January 12, 2026 be received; and

**That** Council appoint Rood Engineering Inc. under Section 78 of the Drainage Act to replace a crossing on the South Townline Drain in accordance to Section 22 of the Town of Essex Procurement By-Law 2437.

**Carried**

#### **10.7 Drainage-2026-02**

RE: Appointment of an Engineer under Section 4 & 78 of the Drainage Act to establish new drainage works and make improvements to the Bondy No. 1 Drain

##### **R26-01-011**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Councillor Allard

**That** Drainage Report 2026-02 entitled Appointment of an Engineer under Section 4 & 78 of the Drainage Act to establish new drainage works and make improvements to the Bondy No. 1 Drain prepared by Lindsay Dean, Drainage Superintendent dated January 12, 2026 be received;

**That** Council receive and proceed with the Petition for new drainage works as filed by the corporation of Colchester Bay Inc. for Lot 96, Concession 1 pursuant to Section 4 of the Drainage Act; and

**That** Council appoint N. J. Peralta Engineering Ltd. under Section 4 & 78 of the Drainage Act to make improvements to the Bondy No. 1 Drain in accordance to Section 22 of the Town of Essex Procurement By-Law 2437.

**Carried**

#### **10.8 Drainage-2026-03**

RE: Appointment of an Engineer under Section 78 of the Drainage Act to make improvements to the Bondy No. 2 Drain

##### **R26-01-012**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

**That** Drainage Report 2026-03 entitled Appointment of an Engineer under Section 78 of the Drainage Act to make improvements to the Bondy No. 2 Drain prepared by Lindsay Dean, Drainage Superintendent dated January 12, 2026 be received; and

**That** Council appoint Spriet Associates London Limited under Section 78 of the Drainage Act to make improvements to the Bondy No. 2 Drain in accordance to Section 22 of the Town of Essex Procurement By-Law 2437.

**Carried**

#### **11. Reports from Youth Members**

#### **12. County Council Update**

Deputy Mayor Shepley announced that Count Council approved the Windsor Essex Solid Waste Authority 2026 Budget which includes a 2.6% increase. He further advised that Council approved 6 speed limits reductions on county roads following a detailed safety analysis that considered traffic volume, collision history, road design and pedestrian and cyclist exposure. He further provided a Green Bin Program update.

**R26-01-013**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

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

**Carried**

**12.1 County of Essex Council Meeting Minutes - December 3, 2025**

**13. Correspondence**

**13.1 Correspondence to be received**

**R26-01-014**

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**

13.1.1 The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

RE: Elbows Up for Climate Action

13.1.2 Municipality of Huron Shores

RE: Improvements to Highways 11/17

13.1.3 Township of Nairn and Hyman

RE: Stabilizing and strengthening Canada's steel and softwood lumbar sectors

13.1.4 Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North

RE: November 3, 2025 Minutes

13.1.5 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority

RE: September 10, 2025 and November 4, 2025 Minutes

13.1.6 Minister of Finance

RE: Property Tax Policies for the 2026 Taxation Year

13.1.7 Municipality of Magnetawan

RE: Invest Ready-Certified Site Designation

13.1.8 Essex Region Conservation Authority

RE: 2026 Draft Budget Notice to Member Municipalities

13.1.9 The Corporation of the City of Brantford

RE: Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry

13.1.10 Essex Region Conservation Authority

RE: ERO 025-1257

13.1.11 The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

RE: Bill 9, Municipality Accountability Act, 2025

**13.2 Correspondence to be considered for receipt and support**

13.2.1 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

RE: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Local Policy Advancement

**R26-01-015**

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Shepley

**WHEREAS** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are linked to a range of negative health and social outcomes across the lifespan, including chronic disease, mental illness, substance use disorders, and premature mortality; and

**WHEREAS** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) contribute to significant health inequities that disproportionately affect children and families facing poverty, racism, housing/food instability, and other systemic barriers; and

**WHEREAS** national data indicates that 61.6% of the population has experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in their lifetime and locally 19.3% of respondents had experienced at least one childhood maltreatment incident in Windsor-Essex County (Dawdy et. al., 2025)

**WHEREAS** the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health can endorse comprehensive policy recommendations that will help to address various health sectors in the region by focusing on the prevention and mitigation of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma; and

**WHEREAS** public health has a legislative mandate to promote health equity, prevent illness, and address the social determinants of health through multi-sectoral collaboration and policy advocacy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports engaging local community partners to co-develop strategies that reduce exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma and strengthen protective factors across the region by encouraging adoption of WECHU's training resources and policy within partner organizations;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health will support local collaboration with health care providers through the sharing of resources, research/data, best practices and recommends health care providers adopt WECHU's training resources and policies on

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma informed principles within their own professional development and practices;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health calls on municipal, provincial, and federal partners to implement polices and funding that prevent ACEs by addressing poverty, housing insecurity, food access, and family supports;

**AND FURTHER THAT,** that the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit calls on the provincial government to ensure sustained provincial investment (i.e., funding, training and enhancement of programs and services focused on ACEs) in upstream initiatives that support at risk children, youth and families and help prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences, trauma and associated health issues and behaviours;

**AND FURTHER THAT,** the correspondence from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Local Policy Advancement be received and supported;

**AND FURTHER THAT,** Council direct Administration to prepare and send a letter of support to Anthony Leardi, MPP, Andrew Dowie, MPP, Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Trevor Jones, MPP, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health and our local municipalities.

**Carried**

**14. Committee Meeting Minutes**

**R26-01-016**

Moved By Councillor Matyi

Seconded By Councillor McGuire-Blais

**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 Santa's Village Committee - November 13, 2025**

**14.2 Court of Revision - December 18, 2025**

**15. Financial**

**16. New Business**

**17. Notices of Motion**

**17.1 The following Notice of Motion was presented at the December 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and is being brought forth this evening for Council's consideration:**

17.1.1 Mayor Bondy

Mayor Bondy passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Shepley at 7:25 PM. The gavel was returned to the Mayor at 7:26 PM.

**R26-01-017**

Moved By Mayor Bondy  
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** Council direct Administration to send a letter to Small Craft Harbours, a federal program overseen by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, requesting reconsideration of funding for annual projects located at the Colchester Harbour.

**Carried**

**17.2 The following Notice of Motion is for presentment only and will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the February 2, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:**

17.2.1 Mayor Bondy

Moved By Mayor Bondy

**That** Town of Essex Council direct Administration to consider enhancements to Animal Control regarding dogs off leash in the Town of Essex, including public education, increased signage and continued enforcement measures.

**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 2500

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the December 15, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex

**R26-01-018**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley  
Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** By-Law 2500 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the December 15, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex be read a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

**Carried**

19.1.2 By-Law 2502

RE: Being a by-law to amend By-Law 224, being a by-law to regulate parking in the Town of Essex

**R26-01-019**

Moved By Councillor Garon  
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

**That** By-Law 2502 being a by-law to amend By-Law 224, being a by-law to regulate parking in the Town of Essex be read a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

Carried

19.1.3 By-Law 2493

RE: Being a by-law to provide for Upper Portion of the Taylor Drain Improvements, Geographic Township of Colchester South, Project No. D23-071, Town of Essex, County of Essex

**R26-01-020**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley  
Seconded By Councillor Matyi

**That** By-Law 2493 being a by-law to provide for Upper Portion of the Taylor Drain Improvements, Geographic Township of Colchester South, Project No. D23-071, Town of Essex, County of Essex to be read a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

Carried

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

19.2.1 By-Law 2498

RE: Being a by-law to authorize the execution of a lease agreement between the Town of Essex and 1109065 Ontario Ltd. for property to operate two commercial viewing binocular devices in Colchester Park located at 235 Jackson Street, Harrow, Ontario

**R26-01-021**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley  
Seconded By Councillor Allard

**That** By-Law 2498 being a by-law to authorize the execution of a lease agreement between the Town of Essex and 1109065 Ontario Ltd. for property to operate two commercial viewing binocular devices in Colchester Park located at 235 Jackson Street, Harrow, Ontario be read a first, a second, and a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

Carried

19.2.2 By-Law 2505

RE: Being a by-law to provide for an interim tax levy and to provide for the payment of taxes and to provide for penalty and interest

**R26-01-022**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley  
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** By-Law 2505 being a by-law to provide for an interim tax levy and to provide for the payment of taxes and to provide for penalty and interest be read a first, a second, and a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

Carried

19.2.3 By-Law 2506

RE: Being a by-law to enter into an Agreement with The Corporation of the City of Windsor for the Pathway to Potential Service Contract

**R26-01-023**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais  
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** By-Law 2506 being a by-law to enter into an Agreement with The Corporation of the City of Windsor for the Pathway to Potential Service Contract be read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on January 12, 2026.

**Carried**

**19.3 By-Laws that require a first and second reading**

19.3.1 By-Law 2504

RE: Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex

**R26-01-024**

Moved By Councillor Garon  
Seconded By Mayor Bondy

**That** By-Law 2504 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the December 15, 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 January 12, 2026.

**Carried**

**20. Adjournment**

**R26-01-025**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley  
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** the meeting be adjourned at 7:32 PM.

**Carried**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk