



The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Special Council Meeting Minutes

July 5, 2021, 5:00 pm

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EssexOntario>

This meeting was hosted and chaired from the Town of Essex Municipal Building. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this meeting is not currently open to the public for in person attendance. This meeting can only be viewed by the public electronically via livestream on YouTube at www.youtube.com/EssexOntario

The purpose of this meeting was to present an update on the Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well Being Plan.

Present: Mayor Larry Snively
Deputy Mayor Richard Meloche
Ward 1 Councillor Joe Garon
Ward 1 Councillor Morley Bowman
Ward 2 Councillor Kim Verbeek
Ward 3 Councillor Steve Bjorkman
Ward 4 Councillor Sherry Bondy
Ward 3 Councillor Chris Vander Doelen

Also Present: Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Auger, Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services
Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Snively called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest noted at this time.

3. Adoption of Published Agenda

3.1 Special Council Meeting Agenda for July 5, 2021

SP21-07-001

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Bowman

That the published agenda for the July 5, 2021 Special Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. Public Presentations

4.1 John Matheson and Olivia Lahaie, StrategyCorp

RE: Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

John Matheson, StrategyCorp, presented on the Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. He noted that the Community Safety and Well Being Plan is to address preventative interventions and activities by proactively developing strategies to address identified local priorities (i.e. risk factors) related to crime and complex social issues. The regional plan includes community data profiles, identified risks and prevention factors, identified assets and analysis of public consultation data. Upon the respective Council's endorsement of the Plan the various partners can work toward implementing shared goals and strategies.

Mr. Matheson explained that the plan addresses seven risk and protective factor categories which include crime and victimization, education, financial security, mental health and substances use, physical health, housing and neighbourhoods, and vulnerable population along with COVID-19.

Through the recent public consultation process priorities were reviewed and the results indicated similarities among municipalities. Mr. Matheson stated that the goal was to have the following priority categories: Engaged and safe community, mental health and substance use supports, financial security and economic equity and good governance and data. These categories would help collaboration and collection of data to ensure sharing of best practices. In reviewing the consultation summary pertaining to the Essex public meeting held back on March 8 2021 the top reported priorities identified at that public meeting were 1) Housing and Neighborhoods; 2) mental health and Substance use and 3) education.

The survey submissions from this consultation indicated the following:

- Most respondents (95%) indicated that they felt overwhelmingly safe in their community.
- Most respondents reported that they trust the police (75%) and 55% reported that they were satisfied with the level of policing in their community compared to those who were unsatisfied (35%).
- The majority of residents were unsatisfied with housing and social supports (65%).
- Most respondents were satisfied with their community's recreation and leisure opportunities and parks and green spaces (70-80%).
- Most reported that they were unsure about their satisfaction with the community's mental health and addiction resources (40-50%). However more respondents were unsatisfied (30-40%) than satisfied (2%).
- More respondents are satisfied with educational opportunities and programming for children (55%) and adults (35%) than unsatisfied.

The major themes expressed at the meeting were attracting young people to the community, affordable housing and access to support services.

Mr. Matheson stated that the finalized plan will be brought to the respective Councils in the fall with the goal of completing local endorsements for the Plan by November.

SP21-07-002

Moved By Councillor Bjorkman
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

That the presentation entitled Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan be received.

Carried

5. Adjournment

SP21-07-003

Moved By Councillor Bjorkman
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:26 PM.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk