



The Corporation of the Town of Essex
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020 6:00 PM

This meeting was held electronically during a time of Declared Emergency,
pursuant to Town of Essex By-Law 1902.

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

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

Also Present: Robert Auger, Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative
Services/Clerk
Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer
Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO
Jeffrey Morrison, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer
Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services
Alex Denonville, Manager, Strategic Communications

Regrets: Ehva Hoffman, Youth Council Member
Cameron Soucie, Youth Council Member

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Closed Meeting Report

Robert Auger, Town Solicitor/Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services provided a verbal report on the Closed Meeting held electronically prior to tonight's Regular Council Meeting. He reported that Council met electronically in a Closed Session, as permitted during a time of Declared Emergency by Section 238/239 2 (d) of the Municipal Act.

At this meeting Council received an update on labour negotiations as it relates to Town of Essex unionized staff and CUPE 702.3. Council gave direction to present a by-law for Council's consideration in the open session tonight, at which time the by-law would be considered for approval for a new 2020 Collective Agreement between the Town and the Town's employees and CUPE 702.3.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Regular Council Meeting Agenda for May 4, 2020

Moved By Councillor Verbeek
Seconded By Councillor Bowman

(R20-05-137) That the published agenda for the May 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as amended with the addition of a Notice of Motion from Councillor Bondy, to be included as agenda item 15.2.1.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2020

Moved By Councillor Bowman
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Meloche

(R20-05-138) That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 20, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5.2 Special Council Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2020

Moved By Councillor Bowman
Seconded By Councillor Garon

(R20-05-139) That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 16, 2020, for the purpose of updating Council on the Town of Essex's continuing response to measures related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Public Presentations

There were no delegations for the May 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

8. Reports from Administration

8.1 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Verbal Report

RE: COVID-19 Town's Response Updates

- Province's first stage in reopening and how it impacts our municipality
- Essential construction projects
- Facilities
- Staffing

Moved By Councillor Bjorkman
Seconded By Councillor Bowman

(R20-05-140) That the verbal report provided by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Chris Nepszy, relating to the Town's latest updates on the Town's responses to the COVID-19 emergency, be received.

Carried

8.2 Community Services Report 2020-04

RE: Essex Fun Fest Update

Moved By Councillor Vander Doelen
Seconded By Councillor Bowman

(R20-05-141) That Community Services Report 2020-04, entitled "2020 Essex Fun Fest Update", be received; and

That Council approves and supports the Essex Fun Fest Committee's recommendation to cancel the 2020 Essex Fun Fest, scheduled for July 2-5, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carried

9. Reports from Youth Members

10. County Council Update

No updates given.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence to be received

Moved By Councillor Bowman
Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

(R20-05-142) That the correspondence listed in agenda item 11.1 be received and, where indicated, to further share such information with the community using suitable methods of communication.

Carried

11.1.1 COVID-19 Virus Correspondence

11.1.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

RE: Staff Reassignment Flexibility Provided (dated April 17, 2020)

11.1.1.2 Office of the Solicitor General

RE: Police Services Act (PSA) - Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan

Correspondence, dated April 24, 2020 advising that due to COVID-19 outbreak, the deadline for the preparation and adoption of a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is extended and a new deadline will be announced at a later date (original deadline was January 1, 2021).

11.1.1.3 Media Release - Town of Essex

RE: No new non-essential building permits, facility closure extended, committees go digital (April 21, 2020)

11.1.1.4 Media Release - Town of Essex

RE: Support local with new Open for Business Map
(April 27, 2020)

11.1.2 Union Water Supply System (UWSS) Joint Board of Management

February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

11.1.3 Town of Amherstburg

The following letters received from the Town of Amherstburg advising Council of resolutions passed at their recent Council Meetings:

- Town of Amherstburg supports AMO's submission to the Attorney General regarding "Addressing Growing Municipality Liability and Insurance Costs" (dated March 19, 2020)
- Active Transportation in the Town of Amherstburg - The Cozmic Queen (dated April 24, 2020)
- Town of Amherstburg supports the Premier's recommendation to "Suspend Time-of-Use" Electricity Billing" (dated April 24, 2020)
- Town of Amherstburg supports Grey County's resolution "100% Canadian Wines Excise Exemptions" (dated April 24, 2020)
- Town of Amherstburg supports Norfolk County's resolution "Issues Regarding the Mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW's)" (dated April 24, 2020)

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

(R20-05-143) That Administration be directed to send a letter in support of Grey County's resolution regarding 100% Canadian Wines Excise Exemptions to The Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada, and that a copy of the letter of support be sent to the Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, Interim Leader of the Green Party of Canada, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex, Chris Lewis, MP, Essex, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Vintner's Quality Alliance, Ontario Craft Wineries, Ontario Craft Cider Association, and to Grey County.

Carried

11.2 Correspondence to be considered for receipt and support

11.2.1 Ministry of Transportation

RE: Council Resolution to close or modify roadways RE: Highway 3 expansion, City of Essex

Ministry's request to pass a by-law to close South Talbot Road at County Road 8 and modify access on Victoria Avenue/North Malden Road at Highway 3 to allow for through traffic only via a grade separation.

Director, Infrastructure Services, Kevin Girard explained to Council that at this time the Ministry needed a commitment from Council to the commit to the closure of the roadway in order to move forward with the already planned and approved expansion. He also told Council that modified access will be required on Pinkerton Sideroad at County Road 8.

Moved By Councillor Verbeek
Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

(R20-05-144) That correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation, dated April 17, 2020 requesting that Council pass a by-law to close South Talbot Road at County Road 8, modify access on Victoria Avenue/North Malden Road at Highway 3 and modify access on Pinkerton Sideroad at County Road 8, all for the Highway 3 expansion in accordance with the plans attached to the agenda, be received and supported; and

That Council supports a by-law to close and modify access at the intersections, upon completion of the two months' notice from the Ministry of Transportation.

Carried

12. Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved By Councillor Bowman
Seconded By Councillor Bjorkman

(R20-05-145) That the minutes of the Fun Fest Committee Meeting of April 22, 2020, together with the recommendations noted therein be received and adopted as circulated.

Carried

12.1 Fun Fest Committee Meeting - April 22, 2020

13. Financial

14. New Business

15. Notices of Motion

15.1 The following Notice of Motion was presented at the April 20, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, and is being brought forward for consideration this evening:

15.1.1 Councillor Bondy

RE: Online Satisfaction Survey

Moved by Councillor Bondy
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Meloche

(R20-05-146) That the Town of Essex conduct a satisfaction survey similar to the one recently completed by the Town of Tecumseh to look at the quality of life, core services and to see if the Town is going in the right direction and that the survey be considered as part of the 2021 Budget approval process.

Carried

15.2 The following Notice of Motion was presented at this evening's Council Meeting for Council's consideration at the May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Bondy
Seconded by

That Council bring forward the item listed as "shoreline protection of public property" from the Mayor's list of round table items in order to discuss and give direction to Administration as it relates to potential liability, budget considerations, shoreline protection of public property policy, timelines and fallen trees policy during this time of historic high water levels.

16. Reports and Announcements from Council Members

Each Council member was provided an opportunity to discuss their latest news, and activities in the municipality.

On behalf of the Town's Youth Members, Ehva Hoffman and Cameron Soucie, Council Verbeek provided Council with a brief update on their activities.

17. By-Laws

17.1 By-Laws that require a third and final reading

17.1.1 By-Law 1909

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Moved By Councillor Bjorkman
Seconded By Councillor Bowman

(R20-05-147) That By-Law 1909, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex, be read a third time and finally passed on May 4, 2020.

Carried

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

17.2.1 By-Law 1891

Being a by-law to enter into a Collective Agreement between The Corporation of the Town of Essex and The Canadian Union of Public Employees and its Local 702.3

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche
Seconded By Councillor Bjorkman

(R20-05-148) That By-Law 1891 being a by-law to enter into a Collective Agreement between The Corporation of the Town of Essex and The Canadian Union of Public Employees and its Local 702.3, be read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on May 4, 2020.

Carried

17.2.2 By-Law 1910

Being a by-law to establish tax rates and additional charges for Municipal, County and Education purposes for the year 2020

Moved By Councillor Garon

Seconded By Councillor Bowman

(R20-05-149) That By-Law 1910 being a by-law to establish tax rates and additional charges for Municipal, County and Education purposes for the year 2020, be read a first, a second time and a third time and finally passed on May 4, 2020.

Carried

17.3 By-Laws that require a first and second reading

17.3.1 By-Law 1911

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

(R20-05-150) That By-Law 1911 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex, be read a first and a second time and provisionally adopted on May 4, 2020.

Carried

18. Adjournment

Moved By Deputy Mayor Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Vander Doelen

(R20-05-151) That the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk