



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

7:00 PM

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Council: Gary McNamara, Warden, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Tracey Bailey, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
Tom Bain, Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
Marc Bondy, Mayor, Town of LaSalle
Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
Richard Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Nelson Santos, Deputy Warden, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Larry Snively, Mayor, Town of Essex
Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration: Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk
Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA
Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources
Robin Greenall, CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS
Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
Crystal Sylvestre, Council and Community Services Administrative Assistant
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer

1. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for October 20, 2021.

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all the Original Peoples of Turtle Island.

5. Recording of Attendance

Warden McNamara attended the meeting virtually from the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers. All other members of Council participated in the meeting virtually, via video conferencing from alternate remote locations.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden McNamara welcomed the members of County Council, Administration and members of the public and delivered the following greeting:

We received a sobering reminder last week that we need to remain firmly focused on our economic future.

Stellantis announced Friday that it will reduce the workforce at the Windsor Assembly Plant to one shift next spring due to economic headwinds that include the semiconductor shortage and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, Stellantis said it remains committed to making a \$1.5-billion investment in the plant, as it promised during 2020 bargaining with Unifor. We were also heartened to hear Premier Doug Ford say Monday that both the provincial and federal governments are ready to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to make that happen.

The Premier said he is confident the Windsor Assembly Plant will return to a three-shift operation in the future. He also expressed support for establishing a vehicle battery manufacturing factory in our region.

We are grateful for the Ontario government's support and are doing our part. The County of Essex is working with the City of Windsor and other local partners to invite investments by forward-looking industries that want to set up shop in our region.

Next week, some of the leaders in the future of manufacturing will be attending and speaking at the Emerging Technologies in Automation Virtual Conference, which is based in Windsor-Essex. This is an example of how our region is supporting the transformation of existing industries and nurturing the development of new ones.

One of those existing industries is agriculture, which has long been an economic mainstay in Essex County. Later this evening, we will review a request by the Essex County Federation of Agriculture. It is asking that we do a better job of consulting with farmers when we make decisions at the municipal and County level.

We want to thank the federation for reminding us how important farming is to this region, and that the technology and equipment farmers use is constantly evolving. We also remind everyone out on the roads this autumn to be patient and drive with caution when they see farm machinery on the road. We want everyone to be safe during this busy harvest season.

Finally, I want to thank Premier Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott for coming to Windsor-Essex on Monday to confirm the province's \$9.8-million commitment to cover the cost of ongoing planning for our new regional hospital. We will be ready when it's time to put a shovel in the ground.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

208-2021

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That the minutes of the October 6, 2021 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

9.1 Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

James Bryant, Director, Watershed Management Services and Tim Byrne, Chief Administrative Officer to make a presentation regarding the Essex County Floodplain Prioritization Project.

Tim Byrne was unable to join the meeting and sent his regrets. James Bryant provided Council with the update of the ERCA report initially presented in December 2020 speaking to the need to update the County of Essex Flood Mapping and the process to do so.

Mr. Bryant explained that flood mapping was collectively used by regulatory agencies to ensure planning functions provide for safe, responsible and sustainable developments that adhere with Provincial direction as outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and that flood maps were used in Official Plans to inform where flood hazards exist and influenced land-use designations and zoning.

He advised that the local engineering firm, Dillon Consulting, was contracted to develop a risk-based prioritization process for Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) as part of the Federal Flood Plain Mapping Guidelines series. The Windsor-Essex region was used as a model in the project providing ERCA with local information regarding the risk-based methodology of assessing flood plains.

Mr. Bryant explained that flood plain mapping took a high view of a watershed and smaller tributaries were considered inside the larger watershed areas. He further clarified that the methodologies used for the assessment were impacts to infrastructure and safety based on risk. The study provided ERCA with a list of priority projects and the information required to apply and receive funding support from the Province to commence work. He noted that studies that evaluate other variables were being conducted by a Provincial working group and were not part of that report.

209-2021

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the delegation from ERCA be permitted to address County Council.

Carried

9.2 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

Michelle Bishop, General Manager, Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority, to make a presentation regarding the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Project. *(Refer to Reports and Questions item 12.1 for disposition)*

Michelle Bishop provided an update on the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Project. Ms. Bishop explained requirements for participation outlined in the Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement. Based on the eligibility criteria provided by the Province, the City of Windsor and four of the seven Essex County local tier municipalities were required to participate in this program. It was further explained that the 2016 census information was used to identify eligible communities. Ms. Bishop cautioned that 2021 census results, in conjunction with future development plans, may impact the level of participation required.

She noted that a regional approach, including all eight municipalities had been recommended and discussions included the voluntary participation of the three municipalities not yet required under legislation to participate. County Council agreed that Ms. Bishop should attend Council meetings at each of the seven municipalities to provide an update on the work that had been done to date on a Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Program and the implications for each municipality. It was noted that the EWSWA Board was requesting that the presentations to each municipality be completed and decisions regarding participation be reported to County Council and subsequently to the EWSWA Board by December 31, 2021.

210-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the delegation from the EWSWA be permitted to address County Council.

Carried

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

211-2021

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Gord Queen

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for October 20, 2021, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Solicitor General of Ontario

October 14, 2021 - Letter RE Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

10.1.2 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP)

October 13, 2021 - Letter RE Decision on the Proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline

10.1.3 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP)

October 7, 2021 Letter RE Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act

10.1.4 Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

October 7, 2021 - Letter RE Proposed amendments to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994, Professional Foresters Act, 2000 and the Public Lands Act, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry included in the Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021

10.1.5 Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)

October 15, 2021 - [AGCO Update RE Sale of Craft Beer at Farmers Market Events](#)

- [Municipal Role for Regulation](#)

10.1.6 Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

October 7, 2021 - Letter to Warden Gary McNamara RE Municipal Energy Futures, Planning and Development

10.1.7 Township of Adelaide Metcalfe

Resolution RE Support of resolution - federal and provincial funding of rural infrastructure projects

10.1.8 Township of Enniskillen

Resolution RE Interim By-law for Cannabis Facility Planning

10.1.9 Township of Enniskillen

Resolution RE Seeking Provincial Support for Cannabis Facility Planning

10.1.10 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 4, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update – Queen’s Park News – Speech from the Throne Highlights and More](#)

10.1.11 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 4, 2021 - [AMO/LAS Digital Services and Municipal Modernization Program/Audit and Accountability Fund](#)

10.1.12 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 7, 2021 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 7, 2021 - [AMO Policy Update – Increased Staffing in Long-Term Care & Red Tape Reduction Bill](#)

10.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

October 14, 2021 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.2 Resolutions

10.2.1 Town of Kingsville

Resolution RE Support of 'Save Eye Care in Ontario'

212-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That Essex County Council receive the correspondence from the Town of Kingsville, dated October 1, 2021 in support of Save Eye Care in Ontario, and further that Essex County Council supports their resolution.

Carried

10.2.2 Municipality of Leamington

Resolution RE Provincial Support for Long-Term Care Homes

213-2021

Moved By Hilda MacDonald

Seconded By Larry Snively

That Essex County Council receive the correspondence from the Municipality of Leamington dated October 8, 2021 seeking Provincial support for Long Term Care, and further that Essex County Council supports their resolution.

Carried

11. Consent Agenda

214-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Tom Bain

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 10.1, on the Consent Agenda for October 20, 2021 be approved.

Carried

11.1 Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services

Report number 2021-1020-CAO-R010-MG, Approval of Legal Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services, dated October 20, 2021 from Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) - Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Project

Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Project Report, dated October 20, 2021 from Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA.

Michelle Bishop provided the report during the Delegations portion of the October 20, 2021 meeting. See item 9.2.

215-2021

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Marc Bondy

THAT Essex County Council consider a Regional approach to the Food and Organics Waste Management Project as it relates to participation from municipalities and report its decision back to the

Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority no later than December 31, 2021.

Carried

12.2 Essex County Library

Minutes of the August 25, 2021 Essex County Library Board meeting, Deputy Warden Nelson Santos, Chair.

216-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Richard Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Library Board meeting for August 25, 2021 be received.

Carried

12.3 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)

Minutes from the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated September 16, 2021, Deputy Mayor, Gord Queen, Vice Chair.

Gord Queen explained that the Committee continues to work with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) investigating the accessibility of the local trail system. In the absence of the opportunity to host public events due to the pandemic, the Committee has opted to purchase benches through ERCA to be placed along the trail system in accessible areas to provide rest areas for users.

217-2021

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting for September 16, 2021 be approved.

Carried

12.4 Essex County Council 2022 Meeting Schedule

Report number 2021-1020-CCS-R010-MB, Essex County Council 2022 Meeting Schedule, dated October 20, 2021 from Mary Birch, Director, Council and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch presented the proposed Essex County Council Meeting schedule for 2022 highlighting the meeting dates required to accommodate the Municipal Election on October 24, 2022.

Ms. Birch pointed out the following dates for Council's consideration:

- October 19, 2022: Final meeting of the current term of County Council
- November 22, 2022: Orientation for new County Council members.
- November 23, 2021: Warden's Election and Inaugural County Council Meeting
- December 7, 2022: 2023 Budget Deliberation Meeting

In addition to the above dates, she advised that Special Meetings were anticipated to be scheduled after the swearing in of Council to develop the County of Essex Strategic Plan.

Ms. Birch asked Council to make note of November 4, 2022 as the tentative date for the Warden's Banquet.

It was noted that Council approved on March 17, 2021, that Essex County Council meetings would start at 6:00 PM beginning with the first meeting of the new Council on December 21, 2022 and that the Procedural By-law 41-2018 would be amended to reflect this change.

218-2021

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Tom Bain

That Essex County Council approve the 2022 County Council meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

12.5 Agricultural Community Liaison

Report number 2021-1020-CCS-R009-MB, Agricultural Community Liaison, dated October 20, 2021 from Mary Birch, Director, Council and Community Services/Clerk

Mary Birch provided the report to Council regarding concerns brought forward by the Essex County Federation of Agriculture (ECFA) pertaining to communications and decisions made by

municipalities that impact the agriculture sector. The areas of concern identified by the group were planning and land use, road infrastructure design and scheduling that inhibits access to agricultural areas and long-term planning impacts of urban sprawl that impede farming activities.

She explained that, as a specialized sector relying on infrastructure decisions for business continuity, the ECFA requested the opportunity to allow for their input in the planning phases of municipal projects.

County Council discussed the existing opportunities for the Agricultural Community to provide their input and encouraged participation in those processes as well as be allowed to participate in Land Use Planning and Infrastructure discussions that could impact farming operations.

219-2021

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council support improved communication and engagement of the agriculture sector within the region;

And further that, County Administration be directed to circulate a copy of report number 2021-1020-CCS-R009-MB to the local municipalities within the region, requesting cooperation in ensuring the Essex County Federation of Agriculture be given the opportunity to consult with administrative committees and notified of opportunities for public consultation on matters affecting the agriculture sector, as recommended in the said Report.

Carried

12.6 Essex Windsor EMS 2022 Response Time Standard Plan

Report number 2021-1020-R008-EMS-BK, dated October 20, 2021 from Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS.

Chief Bruce Krauter provided the 2022 Response Time Standard Plan to County Council based on data from January to September 2021, explaining that the report was a legislated requirement to be provided annually to Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health by October 31, 2021. Chief Krauter reviewed the two key indicators outlined by the Ministry of Health and the potential impacts to the data accuracy. He explained the report was provided

from a regional reporting perspective therefore the data was not broken down by municipality as other reports were.

Chief Krauter explained the report indicated EWEMS was not successful in meeting the targets outlined by the Ministry of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges presented by the pandemic, reductions in hospital capacities and subsequent offload delays greatly impacted the ability to meet targets during that time.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, the service was reaching the targets and it was anticipated the service would be able to return to positive measurements post-pandemic. Investments in pre-hospital care such as the diversion protocols developed in the region, as well as the Vulnerable Patient Navigator (VPN) Program, Community Paramedicine Remote Patient Monitoring (CPRPM), and Community Paramedicine Programs supported by the Ministry of Health and County Council were providing great benefit to the service and the community.

Warden McNamara reminded Council of the impacts of mental health and opioid response calls on the system. Chief Krauter explained that the Premier's announcement regarding Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare becoming a Centre of Excellence for Mental Health Care could greatly assist in getting patients to the right care at the right time. Chief Krauter explained that activating transitional mental health facilities and the addition of medical interventions, such as Narcan and Naloxone to treat drug related medical emergencies in the field, were creating for more positive patient outcomes.

220-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That County Council authorize Administration to adopt and submit the proposed 2022 Essex Windsor EMS Response Time Performance Plan, as required under regulation 257/00 (as amended by regulation 267/08) .

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for October 20, 2021.

14. New Business

There was no new business for October 20, 2021.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

221-2021

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That By-law 2021-33, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2021-33

Being a by-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for October 20, 2021

16. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for October 20, 2021.

17. Adjournment

That the Essex County Council meeting for October 20, 2021 be adjourned at 9:37 PM.

222-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

Carried

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk