



## **Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

**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
- Steve Bjorkman, Deputy Mayor - Town of Essex
- 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 Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration:

- Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
- Rebecca Belanger, Manager of Planning Services
- Mary Birch, Director, Council & Community Services/Clerk
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
- Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
- Kristie Cronin, Director of Human Resources
- Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
- David Sundin, County Solicitor
- Crystal Sylvestre, Administrative Assistant, Council and Community Services
- Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
- Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services

### **1. Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for February 16, 2022.

**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:

"Welcome viewers and members of council to the regular meeting of Essex County Council.

I want to extend a special welcome this evening to Town of Essex Deputy Mayor Steve Bjorkman, who is joining us for the first time. He was sworn in as a member of county council last week. Welcome to the virtual council table, Deputy Mayor Bjorkman. We are happy to have you join us and look forward to your input.

This council's term will wrap up at the end of 2022. If the past two years are any indication, we will have plenty of challenging issues to deal with before our term is done.

There is no doubt that the overriding challenge has been the pandemic. This week the Ontario government announced it is taking steps to ease restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is good news.

It is happening because of the tireless work of our frontline workers. It is happening because of the willingness of the vast majority of local residents to step up by getting vaccinated and following public health protocols. We cannot thank you enough for taking responsibility and being respectful of others.

Last week, we saw the harm that can come from kicking respect and responsibility to the curb. Demonstrators exacerbated the damage caused by the pandemic by blockading the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest land border crossing in North America and a vital economic link.

On behalf of the County of Essex, I wrote letters to the federal Minister of Emergency Preparedness and the Ontario Solicitor General supporting the City of Windsor's request for help to end the blockade.

Thank you to all parties involved in clearing the road to the Ambassador Bridge this past weekend. A special thanks to police officers who came from other parts of the province. And a big thank you to local police officers, for the long hours and careful effort they put into containing this threat to a major economic lifeline.

I also want to thank the staff of Essex-Windsor EMS for being prepared and being on site throughout.

On a happier note, Essex County Council is this evening paying tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her Platinum Jubilee. She has been our reigning monarch for 70 years, longer than any before her.

During her time as Queen, she has made 22 official trips to Canada. Two of those trips included stops in our region.

The Queen sets an example for all of us by honouring and supporting those who share her sense of duty and commitment to others.

At the end of this meeting, we invite viewers to join members of council as we stand to honour Her Majesty and play God Save the Queen."

**7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

**8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the Essex County Council meeting, dated February 2, 2022

**026-2022**

**Moved By** Tom Bain

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the February 2, 2022 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

## **9. Delegations and Presentations**

### **9.1 New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Management Office Team**

Paul Landry, Project Director; Allison Johnson, Communications & Community Engagement Manager; Dr. Andrew Petrakos, Director of Clinical Services Planning; Jeff Geml, Director of Support Services Planning, and David Musyj, President and CEO Windsor Regional Hospital to provide an update on the New Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital Project planning and community engagement.

The Project Management Team introduced themselves to Council and explained their roles in the development of the new Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital. David Musyj expressed gratitude to County Council for their commitment and support of this project.

Paul Landry reviewed the overall timeline for the project noting groundbreaking in June 2026 and an opening date of June 2030.

Allison Johnson reviewed the Public Consultation segments of the timeline and explained how user groups had been developed to ensure a cohesive approach to the plans. Ms. Johnson also mentioned that eleven Town Hall sessions were anticipated in the schedule.

Paul Landry explained the team were using forecasting data to build a facility to meet the needs of the future. He added that along with best practices currently used in the local healthcare system, the COVID-19 pandemic had provided information that would be drawn upon to implement new strategies to serve the region.

Discussion included the value of local stakeholders in the development of the plans to ensure an efficient and effective system.

**027-2022**

**Moved By** Leo Meloche

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That the delegation from the new Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital project management Office Team be permitted to address County Council.

**Carried**

## **10. Communications**

### **10.1 Correspondence**

**028-2022**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for February 16, 2022, be received and any noted action approved.

**Carried**

#### **10.1.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)**

February 7, 2022 - Letter from Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, RE Ontario-Municipal Housing Affordability Summit and the Rural Housing Affordability Roundtable

#### **10.1.2 Invest Windsor Essex (IWE)**

Government of Ontario "[Site Readiness Program](#)" available for public and private industrial property owners

#### **10.1.3 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)**

January 2022 - [GLSLCI Making Waves Newsletter](#)

#### **10.1.4 Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Engagement**

February 10, 2022 - [Ongoing Work to Support Growth in Southwest Ontario](#)

#### **10.1.5 Pathway 2 Potential**

February 2022 - [Information Sharing Monthly Newsletter](#)

#### **10.1.6 City of Brantford**

January 28, 2022 - Resolutions RE Closing the Revolving Door of Justice and Addressing the Revolving Door of Justice – Accountability for Sureties and Swift Justice

#### **10.1.7 Ontario News Room**

February 6, 2022 - [Office of the Premier - Premier Doug Ford Celebrates Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee](#)

**10.1.8 Ontario News Room**

February 3, 2022 - [Ontario Continues to Protect Agri-food Workers](#)

February 4, 2022 - [Ontario Investing in the Future of Agricultural and Horticultural Societies](#)

**10.1.9 Ontario News Room**

February 4, 2022 - [Ontario Easing Temporary Visiting Restrictions at Long-Term Care Homes](#)

**10.1.10 Ontario News Room**

February 8, 2022 - [Ontario Publishes Housing Affordability Task Force Report](#)

**10.1.11 Ontario Ministry of Health**

February 10, 2022 - News Release RE Ontario Announces New Ontario Health Team in Windsor-Essex, New Ontario Health Team Will Provide Better, Connected Care for Patients and Support Local Pandemic Response

**10.1.12 County of Essex**

Correspondence from Warden McNamara RE:

- February 10, 2022 - Letter to the Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, Requesting Support for Windsor Police Service Request for Resources – Ambassador Bridge Demonstration
- February 10, 2022 - Letter to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, Support for Windsor Police Service Request for Resources – Ambassador Bridge Demonstration

**10.1.13 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

January 28, 2022 - [Update on the AMO 2022 Annual Conference Launch](#)

**10.1.14 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

January 28, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update - Firefighter Certification Model Consultation, Water Infrastructure Funding, and Subwatershed Planning Guide Consultation](#)

**10.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

February 3, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

**10.1.16 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

February 8, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update – Housing Affordability Task Force Report and Call to Re-examine Hospital Capital Funding](#)

**10.1.17 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

February 8, 2022 - [IPAC Annual Leadership Summit](#)

**10.1.18 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

February 10, 2022 - AMO Watchfile Online

**10.2 Resolutions**

**10.2.1 City of Windsor**

Resolution Requesting the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support to extend funding for rent supplement/housing allowance programs and include reference to impacts of the sunsetting of rent supplements.

(City Council Report: S 144/2021 attached)

**029-2022**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That Essex County Council receive the report from the City of Windsor, dated October 28, 2021 entitled Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy, and further that Essex County Council supports their resolution CR/36/2022 CSPA 175 requesting the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support to extend funding for rent supplement/housing allowance programs and include reference to impacts of the sunsetting of rent supplements.

**Carried**

**11. Consent Agenda**

**030-2022**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Tom Bain

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 11.1, on the Consent Agenda for February 16, 2022, be approved and further that the information item listed as item 11.2, on the said Consent Agenda be received.

**Carried**

**11.1 Approval of Invoices – Legal and Consulting Services**

Report number 2022-0216-CCS-R002-DS, Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services, dated February 16, 2022, from David Sundin, County Solicitor

**11.2 Windsor Essex County Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (HHAC)**

Meeting Minutes from the Windsor Essex County Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, dated January 25, 2022, Warden Gary McNamara, member.

**12. Reports and Questions**

**12.1 County of Essex Official Plan Review Update**

Report number 2022-0216-PLN-R01-RB, County of Essex Official Plan Review Update, dated February 16, 2022 from Rebecca Belanger, Manager, Planning Services

Rebecca Belanger provided the report outlining the process the County would undertake to review and update the Official Plan. She explained the review would be completed in three-phases and that each phase included consultations with Council and other stakeholders in the community. Ms. Belanger indicated that the Planning team had begun to analyze growth projections for the region and would be hosting a workshop for County Council to provide a comprehensive review of the Work Plan in March 2022.

**031-2022**

**Moved By** Richard Meloche

**Seconded By** Steve Bjorkman

That Essex County Council receive report 2022-0216-PLN-R01-RB, County of Essex Official Plan Review Update and work as information.

**Carried**

**12.2 Housing with Supports New Service Provider**



Report number 2022-0216-CS-R01-JDF, Housing with Supports New Service Provider, dated February 16, 2022 from Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services

Jeanie Diamond-Francis provided information and background regarding the agreement with Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario (ALSO) in Stoney Point. She indicated this agreement would provide goal-oriented support to residents 25 years and older. Ms. Diamond-Francis explained this innovative program would include staff training to support mental health, additions and various levels of homelessness in order to serve the complex needs of the residents.

Discussions regarding the fairness of the allocation of CHPI and other housing and homelessness related funding provided by upper levels to the City of Windsor as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager took place. It was suggested that formal resolutions be considered under New Business.

**032-2022**

**Moved By** Tom Bain

**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That County Council adopt By-law 2022-04, authorizing the Warden and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario to provide subsidized housing with supports care through the Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program .

**Carried**

**12.3 Tender Summary and Contract Award – 2022 Rehabilitation – CIREAM**

Report number 2022-0216-ISD-R05-AB, Tender Summary and Contract Award – 2022 Rehabilitation – CIREAM, dated February 16, 2022, from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham presented tender information for the annual Cold In Place Recycling with Expanded Asphalt (CIREAM) program. Mr. Botham added that CWATs Paved Shoulder initiatives would be combined in the work wherever possible to efficiently execute the expansion of that network. Mr. Botham indicated the funding of this program was included in the 2022 Road Rehabilitation and Paved Shoulder programs presented and approved by Council in the 2022 Budget.

**033-2022**

**Moved By** Richard Meloche

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

That Essex County Council award the contract for the 2022 Cold In Place Recycling with Expanded Asphalt (CIREAM) program to Coco Paving Inc. for a total tender amount of \$1,827,235.00 plus H.S.T., all as presented in report 2022-0216-ISD-R05-AB

**Carried**

**13. Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business brought forward at the February 16, 2022 meeting.

**14. New Business**

**14.1 Temporary Housing Units on County Property**

Hilda MacDonald explained that the Municipality of Leamington was actively seeking solutions to mitigate homelessness in their community. She explained a proposed project using modular shelter units to provide overnight shelter to people experiencing homelessness. Ms. MacDonald requested that County Administration investigate the feasibility of placing the units on vacant space on the Sun Parlor Home property and report back to Council with their findings.

**034-2022**

**Moved By** Hilda MacDonald

**Seconded By** Tracey Bailey

That County Administration be requested to operationally review the request by the Municipality of Leamington for use of property located at the Sun Parlor Home in Leamington to locate homelessness pods and to consult with the Ministry of Long Term Care to ensure compliance with Long Term Care license obligations.

**Carried**

**14.2 <h3>Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Funding Allocation</h3>**

Leo Meloche requested that County Administration meet with City of Windsor Social Services Department to review the allocation of

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding and report back to Council.

Administration was further given direction to survey other Counties within the Province to seek information on their experience with the allocation of homelessness funding and program delivery by their designated Consolidated Municipal Service Managers for their regions.

**035-2022**

**Moved By** Leo Meloche

**Seconded By** Marc Bondy

That County Administration meet with the City of Windsor Health and Human Services Administration to review the allocation of funding with respect to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative fund and report back to Council.

**Carried**

**15. Adoption of By-Laws**

**036-2022**

**Moved By** Nelson Santos

**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That By-laws 2022-04 and 2202-05, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

**Carried**

**15.1 By-Law Number 2022-04**

Being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement Between the Corporation of the County of Essex and Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario (ALSO)

**15.2 By-law Number 2022-05**

A By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for February 16, 2022.

**16. Notice of Motion**

**16.1 Intersection Review County Road 20 and 23**

Gord Queen, brought forward a Notice of Motion as follows:

Whereas, safe roads and communities are matters of concern for everyone; and

Whereas, in 2020 the Town of Kingsville Council noted a safety concern at the intersection of County Road 20 and County Road 23; and

Whereas, in 2021 this County Council did address a safety concern at an Albuna Townline intersection; and

Whereas, a motion was passed at the Town of Kingsville Council table directing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to bring forward a motion as follows:

That, a controlled intersection at County Road 20 and County Road 23 be requested as a top priority for the County of Essex; and

That, Essex County Council consider and debate the best options moving forward for the intersection located at County Road 20 and County Road 23, considering the option of a Controlled intersection; and

That, should County Council wish to seek expert advice and guidance from our Director of Infrastructure services, that a report be prepared on the subject and brought forward for County Council to consider.

**17. God Save the Queen**

In recognition of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**18. Adjournment**

That the Essex County Council meeting for February 16, 2022 be adjourned at 8:25 PM.

**037-2022**

**Moved By** Larry Verbeke

**Seconded By** Aldo DiCarlo

**Carried**

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Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

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Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk