



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 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
Steve Bjorkman, Deputy Mayor - Town of Essex
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 Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington

Administration: Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer
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
Robin Greenall, CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor EMS
David Sundin, County Solicitor
Crystal Sylvestre, Administrative Assistant, Council and Community Services
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer

1. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for March 2, 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:

"As we begin this evening's meeting our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine. We are shocked, saddened and horrified at the unprovoked Russian invasion of their country.

We stand behind our federal and provincial governments in their condemnation of this large-scale military aggression. We also back Canadian actions to support Ukraine in any way we can.

Residents of our region, who have family in Ukraine and who have roots there, are directly affected by this tragic situation. They are hurting and scared for their loved ones. They are calling on us all to stand with them and stand up for Ukraine.

As a sign of solidarity with the brave people of Ukraine, the County of Essex is shining yellow and blue lights on the exterior of the Civic Centre. Let's all show them our continued support.

While we condemn the Russian leadership's actions, we do not condemn the Russian people. They too are suffering because of this senseless act of war.

This attack on Ukraine has awoken us to the need to defend the sovereignty and freedom of democratic states – as imperfect as they may be. Today, we are all Ukrainian.

On a more hopeful note, next week we will celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in our region and around the world.

Tuesday, March 8, is International Women's Day – a day that has been marked for over a century.

Women have made great strides in breaking down barriers and levelling the playing field for all over the last one hundred years. But there is more to be done.

Sadly, bias still prevents many women from moving ahead and being treated equitably.

"Break the Bias" is the theme of International Women's Day this year. I encourage residents to make a difference for women on March 8 by celebrating their achievements, raising awareness about women's equality and supporting female-focused charities.

Let's "Break the Bias" on International Women's Day.

I want to close by giving a shout-out to our County of Essex information technology and GIS team.

They are among the finalists in the WEtech Alliance Tech Awards category for Tech Team of the Year.

This small and mighty group works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure all operations at the County of Essex run smoothly 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

They have been integral in moving services online during COVID-19 so that residents could reach us and get the help they need. The services they support include road maintenance, Essex-Windsor EMS and Sun Parlor Home.

The winner of the Tech Team of the Year award will be announced during the fifth annual TeCK Week YQG, which takes place from March 21 to March 27.

TeCK Week and the Tech Awards do an outstanding job of shining a spotlight on Essex County and Windsor's strong technology sector.

Thank you to the WEtech Alliance and the region's entire tech sector for all you do to make us better, stronger and smarter."

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the February 16, 2022 Essex County Council - Regular Meeting.

038-2022

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations scheduled for March 2, 2022.

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

039-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for March 2, 2022, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

[2022 Destination Development & Marketing Plan](#)

10.1.2 Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)

Webinar Opportunity: What Environmental Justice Means for Cities - [Registration for March 3, 2022](#)

10.1.3 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

February 23, 2022 - [2022 ROMA Conference Highlights](#)

10.1.4 Town of Bracebridge

Resolution RE Joint and Several Liability Reform

10.1.5 Town of Halton Hills

Resolution RE Dissolving the Ontario Land Tribunal

10.1.6 Township of Limerick

Resolution RE Gypsy Moth Concentration and Control Measures

10.1.7 Township of Front of Yonge

Resolution RE Dissolving the Ontario Land Tribunal

10.1.8 City of Sarnia

Resolution RE Dissolving the Ontario Land Tribunal

10.1.9 County of Prince Edward

Resolution RE Renovictions and other bad faith evictions

10.1.10 Township of Adelaide Metcalfe

Resolution RE Closing the Revolving Door of Justice

10.1.11 City of Thorold

Resolution RE Dissolving the Ontario Land Tribunal

10.1.12 Norfolk County

Resolution RE The [Canadian Garden Council's](#) 'Year of the Garden' Proclamation

10.1.13 Town of Gravenhurst

Resolution RE Dissolving the Ontario Land Tribunal

10.1.14 Ontario Farmland Trust

2022 Farmland Forum - The Future of Farmland Diversification

10.1.15 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - Local Authority Services (LAS)

[2022 Risk Management - Free Webinars](#) - Virtual Quarterly Exchange - Register and Save the Dates.

10.1.16 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 15, 2022 - [AMO – LAS Virtual Municipal Energy Symposium, March 31st & April 1st, 2022](#)

10.1.17 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 17, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.1.18 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 17, 2022 - [AMO Policy Update - AMO's Integrated Housing Paper with Long-Term Care Phase 1 Regulations and Community Housing Regulations Submissions](#)

10.1.19 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

February 24, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.1.20 Ontario Premier's Office

February 14, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17](#)

10.1.21 Ontario Premier's Office

February 15, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Province Invests in Clean Steelmaking Technology in Hamilton to Support Future of Ontario's Auto Sector](#)

10.1.22 Ontario Premier's Office

February 22, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Eliminating Licence Plate Renewal Fees and Stickers](#)

10.1.23 Ontario Ministry of Energy

February 23, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Launches ONroute Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)

10.1.24 Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Communication RE Source Water Protection best practices and survey

10.1.25 Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

February 22, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario's Newest Red Tape Reduction Act Features Fewer Fees, Better Services](#)

10.1.26 Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

February 11, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Province Providing Free Training for PSWs in Southwestern Ontario](#)

10.1.27 Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

February 16, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Expands Critical Relief For Tourism Sector](#)

10.1.28 Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

February 23, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Investing in a More Accessible Southwestern Ontario](#)

10.1.29 Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

February 17, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Keeping Seniors Healthy and Engaged](#)

10.1.30 Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

February 18, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Increasing Access to Free Online Resources](#)

10.1.31 Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

February 24, 2022 - NEWS RELEASE

[Ontario Requiring Employers to Disclose Electronic Monitoring](#)

10.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions for consideration for the March 2, 2022 meeting.

11. Consent Agenda

040-2022

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That the recommendations in the Administrative Reports listed as item(s) 11.1 and 11.2, on the Consent Agenda for March 2, 2022, be approved and further that the information item(s) listed as item(s) 11.3 on the said Consent Agenda be received.

Carried

11.1 Approval of Invoices – Legal/Consulting Services

Report number 2022-0302-CCS-R003-DS, Approval of Invoices - Legal and Consulting Services, dated March 2, 2022, from David Sundin, County Solicitor.

11.2 2021 Statement of Councilors’ Remuneration

Report number 2022-0302-FIN-R01-SZ, 2021 Statement of Councilors’ Remuneration, dated March 2, 2022 from Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

11.3 Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WEHC)

2021 Minutes of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation meetings.

- February 4, 2021 WEHC Special Board Meeting Minutes
- February 25, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes
- April 22, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes
- May 15, 2021 WEHC Annual General Meeting Notice - Resolutions
- June 24, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes
- August 26, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes
- September 23, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes
- November 25, 2021 WEHC Board Meeting Minutes

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Essex County Library Board

Minutes of the Essex County Library Board Meeting, dated January 26, 2022, Deputy Warden, Nelson Santos, Chair

Nelson Santos updated Council that the Board had received delegations and presentations from library members highlighting the value of online resources.

Mr. Santos also accented the opportunity to work with the Italian Heritage Donation Collection in Leamington. This group offered to transfer their heritage collection to the ECL. The Board supported this donation and the collection would be installed at the Roma Club in Leamington.

041-2022

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the Essex County Library Board for January 26, 2022 be received.

Carried

12.2 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated January 13, 2022, Gord Queen, Vice Chair

Gord Queen explained to Council that along with local tier Accessibility Advisory Committees, the ECAAC had been working on the development of a flag to be flown during AccessAbility Week in late-May, early-June each year.

Mr. Queen requested the support of Council, in accordance with the County Flag Protocol, to allow for the flying of this flag on County Property.

042-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee for January 13, 2022 be approved.

Carried

043-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Tom Bain

That Essex County Council approve, in accordance with Section 5.2 b) of SOP 2019-20, the County's Flag Flying Protocol, the raising and flying of an Accessibility Flag at County facilities during AccessAbility Week, being the first week of June annually.

Carried

12.3 Essex County Counts Campaign

Report number 2022-0302-CAO-R02-MG, Essex County Counts Campaign, dated March 2, 2022 from Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

Mike Galloway presented the Essex County Counts Campaign to Council and explained the communication plan had been designed to advocate for services under the care and control of the Provincial government during the upcoming election.

Six key themes were outlined including the Windsor-Essex Hospital system, the infrastructure deficit, affordable housing, reliable broadband, climate change and municipal liability and insurance costs.

044-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That Essex County Council support the Essex County Counts advocacy strategy for the 2022 Provincial election campaign.

Carried

12.4 2022 Tax Policy Discussion and Recommendations

Report number 2022-0302-FIN-R02-SZ, 2022 Tax Policy Discussion and Recommendations, dated March 2, 2022 from Sandra Zwiers, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Sandra Zwiers outlined the policy for the 2022 taxation year. The tax policy had been developed through collaboration with treasurer's and tax collector's in all seven local tier municipalities.

Ms. Zwiers informed Council that MPAC had continued their pause on reassessment of properties due to the pandemic. As a result, the Jan 1, 2016 current value assessment totals would continue to be used by municipalities to calculate property taxes for 2022 and 2023.

Ms. Zwiers explained some new tax policy tools the Province had made available to municipalities and the rationale behind choosing not to implement them at this time.

Discussion included a review of how pandemic relief measures related to payment of property taxes were applied locally. Ms. Zwiers explained that analysis of their use would depend on the availability of information retained by local tier municipalities.

045-2022

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council adopt the tax ratios as set out in Bylaw 2022-06, for the 2022 taxation year;

And further that the reductions for sub-classes for excess commercial, excess industrial and vacant industrial land be set at 30%, 35% and 35% respectively;

And further that the Essex County Tax Assistance Program for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities established under By-law 04-2004 and amended under By-law 2021-05 continue with no amendments;

And further that the Essex County Charity Tax Rebate Program established under By-law 16-2007 continue with no amendments.

Carried

12.5 Tender Summary – 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix over CIREAM

Report number 2022-0302-ISD-R06-AB, Tender Summary – 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix over CIREAM, dated March 2, 2022 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham presented the tender summary for the County Road segments to be completed in 2022. Mr. Botham explained that the cost of the work had been included in the approved 2022 Road Rehabilitation and CWATS Paved Shoulder budgets.

046-2022

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council approve the report Tender Summary - 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix Asphalt over CIREAM Program and award the contract to Coco Paving Inc. for a total tender amount of \$3,875,831.00 plus HST.

Carried

12.6 Tender Summary – 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix Overlay and Mill and Pave

Report number 2022-0302-ISD-R07-AB, Tender Summary – 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix Overlay and Mill and Pave, dated March 2, 2022 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided a tender summary for that phase of the 2022 Road Rehabilitation program.

Due to rising fuel costs, discussion included contingency plans within the contract to protect the County in the event of a rise in the price of asphalt.

047-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Leo Meloche

That Essex County Council approve the report for the Tender Summary, 2022 Rehabilitation, Hot Mix Overlay and Mill and Pave, and award the contract to Mill-Am Corporation, for a total tender amount of \$7,627,310.00 plus HST.

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

13.1 County Road 20 and County Road 23 Notice of Motion from February 16, 2022

Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, at the February 16, 2022 meeting, brought forward a Notice of Motion seeking consideration of a controlled intersection at County Road 20 and County Road 23.

Director of Infrastructure Service and Planning, Allan Botham, advised that he would work with his team and seek expert advice and guidance on the best options for this intersection and a report would be prepared on the subject and brought back to County Council for consideration.

048-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Steve Bjorkman

That Essex County Council direct County Administration to review the request from the Town of Kingsville, seeking a controlled intersection at County Road 20 and County Road 23 and report back to County Council with recommendations.

Carried

14. New Business

14.1 Guardrail at County Road 8 and 11

Leo Meloche reported seeing damage to a guardrail near the intersection of County Road 8 and County Road 11.

Allan Botham, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, advised he would send staff to investigate.

14.2 Level of Service being Provided by City of Windsor as Municipal Service Manager

Leo Meloche brought forward concerns regarding staff of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation being utilized for City of Windsor projects. Warden McNamara suggested that discussions needed to take place between the City and County CAO's regarding this matter. CAO Galloway committed to undertaking a further analysis on the issue and having further communication with the Service Provider.

Further discussion took place regarding the allocation of funding designated to address housing and homelessness programs within the County by the City of Windsor as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for the region. Multiple members of Council expressed disappointment with the level of service provided by the Service Manager within their municipalities when they are seeking help with solutions for people facing homelessness who wish to stay in their communities. Council further discussed the lack of investment in affordable housing projects within the County, despite additional funding being received by the Service Manager, from upper levels of government during the pandemic, to address affordable housing and homelessness concerns within the entire region. Council asked CAO Galloway to address the concerns raised with the City CAO.

Warden McNamara encouraged CAO Galloway to investigate with local Members of Parliament if the County could access Rapid Response Funding without having to go through the City of Windsor as the designated federal municipal entity.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

049-2022

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That By-laws 2022-06 and 2022-07, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2022-06

Being a By-law to establish tax policy and levy property taxes for the year 2022.

15.2 By-law Number 2022-07

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for March 2, 2022.

16. Notice of Motion

16.1 Funding for Isolation and Recovery Centre

Hilda MacDonald, brought forward a Notice of Motion as follows:

Whereas the City of Windsor provided notice that as of June 30, 2022 they will cease being responsible for the operation of the Isolation and Recovery Centre (IRC), and

Whereas at least four County municipalities are home to temporary foreign workers.

Be it Resolved That County Council discuss the IRC and which level of government should apply to the federal government to operate the IRC for the coming year.

17. Adjournment

That the Essex County Council meeting for March 2, 2022 be adjourned at 8:19 PM.

050-2022

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

Carried

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk