



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

7:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

<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 Tony Gaffan, Alternate Member - Town of Kingsville Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington Crystal Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg Richard Meloche, Mayor, Town of Essex Gord Queen, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
Absent:	Morley Bowman, Alternate Member - Town of Essex
Administration:	Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home Jeanie Diamond Francis, Manager, Community Services Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Services Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development David Sundin, County Solicitor

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 6:00PM on September 21, 2022.

205-2022

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Aldo DiCarlo

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (e) and (i) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason(s):

- litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality;
- financial information, supplied in confidence to the municipality, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons or organization.

Carried

207-2022

Moved By Tom Bain

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Council rise from the closed meeting at 6:46 PM.

Carried

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 and members of Council attended the meeting at the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers.

Tony Gaffan attended as the alternate member for the Town of Kingsville.
(Nelson Santos – resigned as Mayor of Kingsville July 17, 2022)

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:

"This week, we said a solemn and final farewell to Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Second. At the County of Essex, we paused after the Queen's funeral on Monday for a moment of silence to reflect on her legacy and remarkable life of service.

She was our Queen for over 70 years and the longest reigning British monarch. She came of age during the Second World War, took the throne at age 25 and over her lifetime saw tremendous change. She was a calming, steady presence who reassured us in times of crisis, and who was always there to help us celebrate landmark occasions and accomplishments.

She charmed us with her warmth, kindness, intelligence and extraordinary sense of duty. She spoke thoughtfully and listened attentively.

In upholding her duties, the Queen carried on traditions that go back hundreds of years, but she also helped us set out on a road to a better future by participating in historic changes.

We now look to King Charles the Third as he takes up the royal torch. Life will go on and we will continue to change with the times, but we will not forget our past.

Next week, on September 30th, we will reflect on another historic event as we mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We will honour the survivors and the children who never returned from residential schools. We will honour them by taking a hard look at the truth of their experiences. We will honour them by continuing to walk the path toward reconciliation.

At the County of Essex, we will honour them by encouraging staff and residents to wear orange on September 30th. Indigenous communities across Canada have led the way by commemorating Orange Shirt Day to raise awareness of the devastating impact of residential schools. They are showing us the path to reconciliation and urging us to walk it with them.

Finally, on behalf of council, I want to thank the County of Essex Employee Engagement Committee and staff for raising and donating \$1,557 to Habitat for Humanity. Yesterday, I had the privilege of participating in a cheque presentation at the site of a pivotal Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex project at The Bridge Youth Resource Centre in Leamington.

Participants are building the first 3-D printed residences in Canada. It was inspiring to see County of Essex and Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority staff members contribute by painting and doing other interior work. It was also heartening to hear that the staff donation will be matched to double its impact.

I encourage all Essex County residents to help create affordable housing in our region by supporting Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex."

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Special Public Meeting and Regular Meeting of Essex County Council, dated September 7, 2022.

208-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the minutes of the September 7, 2022 Special Public Meeting and Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations for September 21, 2022.

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

209-2022

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for September 21, 2022, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

10.1.1 Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Resolution RE Strong Mayors Building Homes

10.1.2 Municipality of Brighton

Resolution RE Support for Changes to the Healthcare Connect System for Members of the Canadian Armed Forces

10.1.3 Township of McGarry

Resolution RE Removal of Councillors

10.1.4 Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Event - [2022 Windsor Mayoral Debate](#)

10.1.5 Ontario Premier's Office

September 8, 2022 - [Statement, Premier Doug Ford Marks the Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#)

10.1.6 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

September 16, 2022 - [ROMA Insider Online, Rural Attainable Housing: Task Force Offers Solutions](#)

10.1.7 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

September 8, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.1.8 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

September 12, 2022 - [AMO Conference Highlights](#)

10.1.9 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

September 15, 2022 - [AMO Watchfile Online](#)

10.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions for Council's consideration for September 21, 2022.

11. Consent Agenda

210-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Steve Bjorkman

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item 11.1 on the Consent Agenda for September 21, 2022 be approved.

Carried

11.1 Approval of Invoices – Legal and/or Consulting Services

Report number 2022-0921-LCS-R23-DS, Approval of Invoices - Legal and/or Consulting Services, dated September 21, 2022, from David Sundin, County Solicitor

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

Minutes of the August 10, 2022 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Board meeting, Mayor, Aldo DiCarlo, Vice Chair

211-2022

Moved By Aldo DiCarlo

Seconded By Marc Bondy

That the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority meeting held August 10, 2022 be received.

Carried

12.2 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)

Minutes of the July 14, 2022 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, Deputy Mayor, Gord Queen, Vice Chair

212-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Richard Meloche

That the minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting for July 14, 2022 be approved.

Carried

12.3 2023-2027 County of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review and Annual Accessibility Status Report for 2022

Report number 2022-0921-LCS-R22-KH, 2023-2027 County of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review and Annual Accessibility Status Report for 2022, dated September 21, 2022, from Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk

Katherine Hebert provided the report highlighting the activities of the of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) over the last year. The committee remained committed to promoting accessibility and inclusion through the use of social media and had continued to meet virtual and streaming their meetings through their Facebook page. Ms. Hebert highlighted:

- The committee planned a Summer Speakers Series featuring Julie Sawchuk and Michael Jacques, which provided insight into the lives of those with disabilities and the barriers they experience.
- A joint project with all Essex County Accessibility Committees brought forward the introduction of the Essex County Accessibility Flag. The flag was designed by Kingsville native, Kristine Verbeek and would continue to be raised each year during National AccessAbility Week.
- Through a partnership with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and the County Wide Active Trails Systems (CWATS) teams, the ECAAC continued their involvement in the WE Check the Trails projects. A program developed to allow for users to report back issues encountered for accessibility or general use of the trail system thorough out the County. The ECAAC provided benches to allow for rest areas in the trail system.

Ms. Hebert also reviewed the training and tools employed by the County of Essex throughout the last five years that allowed the municipality to advance the accessibility goals prescribed by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) by 2025. She completed her report with a review of the County Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2023-2027 that was prepared in consultation with all department heads of the County of Essex and was endorsed by the ECAAC.

ECAAC Vice Chair, Gord Queen, applauded the committee for their activism and achievements within the community over the last four years.

213-2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council receive the 2023-2027 County of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review and Annual Accessibility Status Report for 2022 as information, and that the 2023-2027 County of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan update be approved.

Carried

12.4 Essex County Homelessness Hub Update

Report number 2022-0921-LCS-R21-JDF, Essex County Homelessness Hub Update, dated September 21, 2022 from Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services

Jeanie Diamond-Francis provided Council with updated information regarding the Essex County Homelessness Hub.

The Homelessness Hub was located in the South Essex Community Council building on Talbot Street in Leamington and was a two-year pilot project with Family Services Windsor Essex to develop and deliver service to people experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Diamond-Francis indicated that the hub was being visited by residents and they were engaging with various programs to provide support. The continued goal was to engage community partners and evaluate need based on data collected over time.

In response to a Council question, Essex-Windsor EMS Chief Bruce Krauter updated Council on the Temporary Shelter Project intended to relieve the pressure of finding affordable housing for specific groups. Chief Krauter explained that sub working groups had been developed and consultations with local tier municipalities had taken place to identify areas of greatest need. Through the consultations it was identified that homelessness was a priority at the time.

Various funding opportunities were available including private and provincial funding however the group would continue to seek funding streams to sustain the project.

In addition to homelessness, the program could focus on agri-food sector workers being provided temporary housing at Isolation and Recovery Centre and could also serve as emergency shelter for disaster related needs.

214-2022**Moved By** Leo Meloche**Seconded By** Hilda MacDonald

That Essex County Council receive report number 2022-0921-LCS-R21-JDF, Essex County Homelessness Hub Update as information.

Carried

12.5 Approval of 2023 Conferences

Report number 2022-0921-LCS-R20-MB, Approval of 2023 Conferences, dated September 21, 2022, from Mary Birch, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

215-2022**Moved By** Joe Bachetti**Seconded By** Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2022-0921-LCS-R20-MB, Approval of the 2023 Conferences, and approve for attendance by the members of Essex County Council for the year 2023, the conferences identified and attached as Appendix B to this report, in accordance with Policy 2022-003: Travel, Meetings and Conferences – Council, Committees, Agencies and Boards.

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

Joe Bachetti brought forward an inquiry regarding the timeline for opening the easterly extension of Manning Road (County Road 19) extension at Lanoue Street in Tecumseh.

It was confirmed by Tom Bain that the project was the responsibility of the Municipality of Lakeshore and not the County of Essex. Mr. Bain explained there was an outstanding issue with the traffic control signal and the intersection would be open once it was resolved.

14. New Business**14.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 6:00 PM, prior to the regular Council meeting September 21, 2022, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (e) and (i) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

Council was provided with information regarding a matter that could result in potential litigation.

Council was also provided with a report that contained financial information, supplied in confidence at this time, which if disclosed, could interfere with contractual negotiations. Council provided Administration direction on how they wished to proceed.

14.2 Homelessness Support and Resources

Richard Meloche brought forward a concern regarding the report presented to Council on August 10, 2022 by the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee. The report indicated that 7.4% of people experiencing homelessness in the region were county residents; Mr. Meloche felt that number had been understated.

Mr. Meloche's requested administration to approach the Executive Director of the City of Windsor Housing and Children's Services department to request information regarding the avenues available for County organizations to contribute data to the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) database.

This information would allow county organizations the opportunity to more fully participate in getting the names of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness on the Bi-names list.

216-2022

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Hilda MacDonald

That Essex County Council request the Executive Director, Housing and Children's Services, City of Windsor, to provide a list of County located organizations and service providers, including the location of their offices within County municipalities , who are authorized to add people experiencing homelessness to the Bi-names list

Carried

14.3 Jour des Franco-ontariens, Franco-Ontarian Day

Leo Meloche reminded Council that Franco-Ontarian Day is Sunday, September 25, 2022. Many schools across the County would raise the Franco-Ontarian flag on Thursday, September 23, 2022. The Warden and other members of Council attended events in their respective communities.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

217-2022

Moved By Marc Bondy

Seconded By Tracey Bailey

That By-law 2022-29, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2022-29

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, for September 21, 2022

16. Notice of Motion

17. Adjournment

218-2022

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Tony Gaffan

That the Essex County Council meeting for September 21, 2022 be adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Carried

Gary McNamara

Warden - County of Essex

Mary Birch

Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk