



Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

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

- Council:
- Michael Akpata, Deputy Mayor - Town of LaSalle
 - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden / Deputy Mayor - Town of Tecumseh
 - Tracey Bailey, Mayor - Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Sherry Bondy, Mayor - Town of Essex
 - Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor - Town of Kingsville
 - Chris Gibb, Deputy Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
 - Hilda MacDonald, Warden / Mayor - Municipality of Leamington
 - Gary McNamara, Mayor - Town of Tecumseh
 - Crystal Meloche, Mayor - Town of LaSalle
 - Michael Prue, Mayor - Town of Amherstburg
 - Dennis Rogers, Mayor - Town of Kingsville
 - Rob Shepley, Deputy Mayor - Town of Essex
 - Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor - Municipality of Leamington
 - Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor - Municipality of Lakeshore
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator - Sun Parlor Home
 - Adam Craig, CEO and Chief Librarian - Essex County Library
 - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
 - Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
 - Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
 - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer
 - David Sundin, County Solicitor
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services

Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development
Dee Blais, Administrative Assistant to the CAO
Kyla Pritiko, Director, Human Resources

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 5:30PM on July 17, 2024.

184-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (a), (b), (c), (f) and (3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons:

(a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

*(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

*(3.1) A meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.

2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

185-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the minutes from the Closed meeting dated June 5, 2024 be approved.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

186-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Council adjourn and rise from the Closed meeting of July 17, 2024 at 6:07 PM.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

5. Recording of Attendance

Warden MacDonald and members of Council attended the meeting at the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers. All members of Council were present.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the County of Essex celebrated its 232nd anniversary, marking a long history since its establishment on July 16, 1792. Over the years, Essex County has grown significantly and is renowned for its agricultural and manufacturing excellence.

The Warden shared news of the federal government investment of \$2.7 million from the Active Transportation Fund to create paved shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians along County Road 50 in the Town of Essex.

Essex County Council welcomed two new senior leadership team members: Director of Human Resources Kyla Pritiko and Director of Information Technology Darrel Laurendeau.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the June 19, 2024 Essex County Council, Regular Meeting

187-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That the minutes of the June 19, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations scheduled for July 17, 2024

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

188-2024

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for July 17, 2024 be received and any noted action approved.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- AMO [Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- AMO [Policy Updates](#)
- AMO Calendar - [Education Events](#)

- July 2, 2024 New Policy Paper: [Homeless Encampments in Ontario: A Municipal Perspective](#)

10.1.2 Hydro One

Longwood to Lakeshore Project Update – [June 2024 - Public Consultations](#)

10.1.3 Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC)

[June 2024 Newsletter](#)

10.1.4 Tourism Windsor-Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

2024-06-20: [W.E. Keep You Informed: AGM Recap, Ontario Tourism Awards, Experience Development, & MORE!](#)

10.1.5 Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

Letter to County of Essex RE Advanced Warning Systems for Highway 3 Signalized Crossings

10.1.6 County of Frontenac

Resolution regarding Supporting Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities.

10.1.7 Town of Essex

Resolution regarding Mobile Parks and Land Leased Communities

10.2 Resolutions

There were no resolutions listed for July 17, 2024

11. Consent Agenda

189-2024

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the items listed as 11.1 through 11.5 on the Consent Agenda for July 17, 2024, be received and approved as required.

(Vote Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

11.1 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)

Minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC), dated May 2, 2024

11.2 Essex County Library

Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Essex County Library Board dated April 24, 2024

11.3 2024-2025 Comprehensive Insurance Program Renewal

Report Number 2024-0717-FIN-R14-MR, 2024-2025 Comprehensive Insurance Program Renewal, dated July 17, 2024 from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

11.4 Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WECHC)

Minutes of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation for:

- February 16, 2023 Board Meeting
- April 27, 2023 Board Meeting
- June 22, 2023 Board Meeting
- August 24, 2023 Board Meeting
- September 28, 2023 Board Meeting
- November 23, 2023 Board Meeting
- December 14, 2023 Board Meeting
- June 22, 2023 Annual General Meeting

11.5 Summary of Outstanding Reports

Report number 2024-0717-LCS-R23-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports, dated July 17, 2024 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Allocation of CCBF (Gas Tax) to Local Municipalities and By-law

Report number 2024-0717-FIN-R13-MR, Allocation of CCBF (Gas Tax) to Local Municipalities and By-law, dated July 17, 2024, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan provided an update regarding the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) payments from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the redistribution of these funds to local municipalities, adhering to the 80/20 local/County sharing directive. The CCBF provides funding for local infrastructure, with allocations calculated for 2024-2028 based on the 2021 census.

190-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council approve the 2024 Canada Community-Building Fund Distribution Schedule and accompanying By-Law; and

That Essex County Council authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute the Municipal Funding Agreement covering the program term of April 1, 2024 up to and including March 31, 2034 and pass the accompanying By-Law.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.2 Mid-Year Status Update - Essex-Windsor EMS

Report number 2024-0717-EMS-R08-JL, Mid-Year Status Update - Essex Windsor EMS, dated July 17, 2024, from Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Justin Lammers provided an overview of the historical and current ambulance call response activity in the Essex-Windsor region up to May 31, 2024. The report highlighted tools, programs, effort and resources deployed to address operational and circumstantial issues, which impact availability, response times and quality of service of the EWEMS program. It was noted that initiatives like the Designated Offload Nurse Program, Paramedic Aides, and the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) program, coupled with staff enhancements and additional ambulances, continue to improve the region's ambulance availability and service quality.

191-2024

Moved By Kirk Walstedt

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0717-EMS-R08-JL Mid-Year Status Update – EWEMS as information.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.3 Moving to CityWide Maintenance Manager and Ending CityWorks Contract

Report number 2024-0717-IPS-R18-AB, Moving to CityWide Maintenance Manager and Ending CityWorks Contract, dated July 17, 2024 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided an overview of the report which outlined for Council the rationalization for the proposed change from the use of *Cityworks* to an expanded use of *Citywide* and the *Maintenance Manager* module of the *Citywide* suite. This change in software use will integrate the data and tracking of maintenance operations with existing tools which meet the requirements of the new Public Sector Accounting Board Standards for reporting on tangible capital assets.

192-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0717-IPS-R18-AB, Citywide Maintenance Manager as information, and award a contract to PSD Citywide Inc. for a total amount of \$419,700 (plus applicable taxes).

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (10): Michael Akpata, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Hilda MacDonald, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Opposed (4): Joe Bachetti, Chris Gibb, Gary McNamara, and Michael Prue

Carried

12.4 Council Remuneration - Alternate Members Compensation

Report number 2024-0717-CAO-R09-SZ, Council Remuneration - Alternate Members Compensation, dated July 17, 2024 from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Sandra Zwiers provided an overview of the Council Remuneration - Alternate Members Compensation report. This report was requested by Council at the June 5, 2024 meeting, to bring forward options for Council to review compensation level for Alternate Members of Council.

The CAO presented the data collected in preparation of the report, as well as options for Council consideration.

Considerable discussion took place among members of Council as to which option, if any, would be most appropriate.

193-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council approve the following changes to Alternate Pay:

1. That Alternate Pay be adjusted using the same inflationary percentage applied, from time to time, to Council Base Pay;
2. That Alternate Pay be paid with no deduction to Council Base Pay;
3. That for 2024, Alternate Pay be adjusted from \$110.77 to \$151.64 per meeting; and
4. That the effective date of the Alternate Pay Model be retroactive to January 1, 2024.

In Favour (4): Joe Bachetti, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, and Larry Verbeke

Opposed (10): Michael Akpata, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, and Kirk Walstedt

Lost

194-2024

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Essex County Council approve the following changes to Alternate Pay:

1. That Alternate Pay be adjusted using the same inflationary percentage applied, from time to time, to Council Base Pay;
2. That Alternate Pay be paid with deduction to Council Base Pay;
3. That for 2024, Alternate Pay be adjusted from \$110.77 to \$260.00 per meeting; and
4. That the effective date of the Alternate Pay Model be retroactive to January 1, 2024.

In Favour (8): Michael Akpata, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, and Rob Shepley

Opposed (6): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.5 River Canard Bridge Plaque Update

Report number 2024-0717-IPS-R15-AB, River Canard Bridge Plaque Update, dated July 17, 2024 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham updated County Council on the proposed installation of commemorative plaques for the River Canard Bridge and an application to the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT). Previously, Council approved the submission of this application and the installation of bilingual signs on both sides of the bridge. The deadline for submission to the OHT is July 31, 2024, with installation and unveiling set for 2025.

195-2024

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0619-IPS-R15-AB, River Canard Bridge Plaque Update as information, and

That Essex County Council direct Administration to make application to the Ontario Heritage Trust by July 31, 2024, for the supply of two plaques at the Bowstring Bridge over River Canard with a proposed financial contribution from the County of Essex totaling \$16,000.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.6 Tecumseh School Safety Zones

Report number 2024-0717-IPS-R16-JB, Tecumseh School Safety Zones, dated July 17, 2024, from Jerry Behl, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Jerry Behl provided County Council with information regarding Tecumseh's request for the County of Essex to amend School Safety Zones on County Roads within Tecumseh to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Tecumseh's report recommended removing the Community Safety Zone (CSZ) on County Road 34, standardizing CSZ effective times for easier enforcement, and relocating a CSZ to align with the new Beacon Heights Public School. Tecumseh requested the County revise the traffic by-law language for the identified areas to match that of the Town of Tecumseh's updated by-law for standardization.

196-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0717-IPS-R16-JB, Tecumseh School Safety Zones as information and direct administration to amend Schedule I of County By-Law 51-2013.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.7 Traffic Signal Installation at the Intersection of County Road 9 and County Road 10

Report number 2024-0717-IPS-R17-AB, Traffic Signal Installation at the Intersection of County Road 9 and County Road 10, dated July 17, 2024 from Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Allan Botham provided an update to the intersection project as a result of a Notice of Motion to examine the feasibility of a traffic signal at this location. Allan explained that the investigation did support the addition of a traffic signal be installed and the costs associated with such be included in the 2025 budget.

197-2024

Moved By Michael Prue

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0717-IPS-R17-AB, Traffic Signal Installation at the Intersection of County Roads 9 and 10 as information, and

That construction of the traffic signal system at the intersection of County Roads 9 and 10 be pre-approved for the 2025 Budget at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.8 Discretionary Regional Shared Services – Survey Results

Report number 2024-0717-CAO-R10-SZ, Discretionary Regional Shared Services – Survey Results, dated July 17, 2024 from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Sandra Zwiers reviewed the data that was gathered through a survey of Local Municipal Partners to assess awareness and satisfaction with support received from Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI) and Invest WindsorEssex (IWE).

198-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0717-CAO-R10-SZ, Discretionary Regional Shared Services – Survey Results as information.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business for July 17, 2024.

14. New Business

14.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held prior to the Regular meeting of Council on July 17, 2024, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (a), (b), (c), (f) and (3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

During the closed meeting, County Council was presented with information regarding subjects relating to the security of the property of the municipality and a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality.

Council was also provided with a presentation and information regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Council further received information for education purposes and advice on a matter of solicitor client privilege.

14.2 Signalization of Intersection at County Road 9 and County Road 10

On June 19, 2024, Michael Prue brought forward a notice of motion as follows:

That Council approve the signals at CR 9 and CR 10 during the construction phase of that project, and that monies be found in the existing construction budget.

Withdrawn proposal based on 12.7.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

199-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That By-laws 2024-34 through 2024-36, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2024-34

A By-law to Authorize the Allocation of Funds to the Lower Tier Municipalities in the County of Essex, being the Towns of Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville, LaSalle, Tecumseh and the Municipalities of Lakeshore and Leamington, in Accordance with Section 5.3 of the Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Canada Community-Building Fund

15.2 By-law Number 2024-35

Being a By-law to authorize the execution of a Municipal Funding Agreement between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Corporation of the County of Essex, for the purpose of Administering the Canada Community-Building Fund

15.3 By-law Number 2024-36

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for July 17, 2024

16. Notice of Motion

16.1 County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road

Deputy Mayor Chris Gibb to introduce a Notice of Motion regarding County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road

Preamble:

Whereas the intersection at County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road are owned by the County of Essex, but located within the Town of Amherstburg;

And whereas the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road requires improvements to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety;

Be It Resolved that Council support Mayor Prue and Deputy Mayor Gibb in their efforts to introduce a motion at County Council requesting improvements and changes to the County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road intersection in an effort to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Given local observations and changes in property usage in the area, the Town of Amherstburg is requesting;

Motion:

That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic, bicycle and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and

That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and,

That the County of Essex consider installing (signage at) cross walks across County Rd 20 at Lowes Side Rd.; and,

That County of Essex Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review.

17. Adjournment

200-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the Essex County Council meeting for July 17, 2024 be adjourned at 8:20 PM.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine Hebert,
County Clerk