

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 1:00 PM  
Middlesex County Building  
399 Ridout Street North, London

Members Present      Warden Burghardt-Jesson  
                                 Councillor Brennan  
                                 Councillor Clarke  
                                 Councillor DeViet  
                                 Councillor Grantham  
                                 Councillor Mayhew  
                                 Councillor McMillan  
                                 Councillor McGuire  
                                 Councillor Ropp  
                                 Councillor Smibert

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS**

Warden Cathy Burghardt-Jesson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and addressed Council as follows:

*We acknowledge that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run), Anishinabeg (Ah-nish-in-a-beg), Haudenosaunee (Hoden-oh-show-nee), and Lunaapeewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) peoples who have long standing relationships to the land, water and region of Southwestern Ontario. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.*

*We acknowledge the treaties that are specific to this area: Treaty 2 (McKee Purchase), Treaty 3 (Between the Lakes Purchase), Treaty 6 (London Township Purchase), Treaty 21 (Long Woods Purchase) and Treaty 29 (Huron Tract Purchase). We value the significant contributions, both in the past and the present of local and regional first nations of Turtle Island.*

*We acknowledge historic and ongoing injustices that indigenous peoples endure in Canada and we affirm our commitment to honouring indigenous voices, nations and cultures, and to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.*

*As you can see, I am not wearing my County jacket today. November 15 is Wear Purple Day in support of the Shine-A-Light on Woman Abuse campaign. I would ask that you put that in your calendar, wear purple on the 15<sup>th</sup> and encourage conversations with the people that you are with that day! We have all seen the statistics of the rise of intimate partner violence and femicide. These are troubling numbers and trends. We saw this during the pandemic when resources available to women were limited. The number of high-risk women seeking shelter increased though the pandemic as home situations became more and more abusive. The ability to seek out support was compromised with partners being at home and having more control of comings and goings as well as controlling virtual access. We had hoped that as pandemic restrictions eased, so would these trends, that is not the case. Women are incredible creatures, it has been well documented and studied that in the midst of crisis, women can cope quite well balancing and managing many demands – better with healthy supports—but we cope. As the crisis subsides the influences of the increased stressors begin to surface, and we see the fallout on mental health and the need for ongoing support to navigate the many emotions and impacts of abuse.*

*In Middlesex, women can be and are supported by the Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy. At the WRRRC, during the pandemic, they saw a 50% increase for the Women's Counselling program. In the children's counselling program that can be accessed by kids and caregivers, demand has increased by 45%. WRRRC offers transition support as well. They are seeing demands on housing, legal and one on one supports with community clients, increasing upwards of 50%. WRRRC for the most part runs at full capacity and is having to refer women to other shelters outside of their home community as requests for shelter space is far above their capacity. This is just at WRRRC in Strathroy, Middlesex County.... but it is the same story across our region, our province and our country. Middlesex County through our Social Services and Library departments manages community supports through our Community Navigator program. Our Community Navigator Josh Smith is an expert on all the services and programs around the county, and can be your first step in finding which service could be the best fit for you. As we know, Josh works out of Middlesex County Library branches, which are safe, welcoming spaces for all. Please note you are always welcome to go to any library branch and our staff would help you make that connection to Josh – if that is a more comfortable option for you. So, what can you do...you can support the women in your life. When speaking with our Provincial and Federal colleagues, ask them what is being done to invest in the safety of women and children. Demand that of them. If you believe a woman or a girl is in an unsafe environment, speak with her. Reach out and let her know she is not alone and there is help. Share local resources with her. Understand*

*the complexities of being in an abusive relationship. If you believe that a woman is in immediate danger, call 911. If you are in need of support or assistance, please reach out at [communitynavigator@middlesex.ca](mailto:communitynavigator@middlesex.ca) or (519) 245-8237 ext. 4030. The Women's Rural Resource Centre is in Strathroy at 145 Beech Street. To access information on resources available, please call 519-245-1526 or email [info@wrrcsa.org](mailto:info@wrrcsa.org). If you are in crisis, please call 1-800-265-5390. Always know, there are resources out there and you will always be supported!*

*November also provides opportunity to focus on men's health, both physical and mental. As the mother of 4 boys, now men, I am keenly aware of this focus. As I have mentioned many times during the stressful times, we find ourselves living in, added attention to our mental health and well-being is paramount. Especially for men. It seems there is added pressure for men to have it all together and all figured out. Quite often the struggles with anxiety and depression are battled alone. As the mother of a son who struggles daily with depression, I implore you to reach out to the men in your life, check in on them to ensure they are looking after their mental well-being. There are many resources available online through many organizations. Please take the time to do the research and find local resources to support your male loved ones. At the very least, check in with them so they know they have a safe and supportive sounding board. Men must be aware of their physical health. My father passed not from, but with prostate cancer. I would encourage men to have frank discussions with their health care providers. While there is controversy out there about the testing for prostate cancer—it is evident that prostate cancer can be cured, when detected and treated early. When prostate cancer is detected early, tumors are more likely to respond to treatment. You are always your own health advocate, so men or to the men in your life, pick up the phone and speak to your provider about your health and health concerns.*

**2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Smibert  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**4.a Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting of County Council**

Moved by Councillor DeViet

Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT the Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting of County Council be approved as presented; and

THAT the recommendations made by Committee of the Whole as set out in the Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting be adopted.

Carried

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.a ACTION ITEMS**

**5.a.1 Award of Request for Tender - T-28-2023 - Supply and Delivery of One Two-Wheel-Drive Three-Quarter Ton Pickup Truck**

Report from Chris Traini, County Engineer/Deputy CAO and Josh White, Procurement Services Manager

Moved by Councillor Grantham

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the County Engineer be authorized and directed to award the Request for Tender # T-28-2023 to Oxford Dodge Chrysler (1992) Ltd. in the amount of \$76,987.00 before taxes;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Middlesex, all agreements and other documents necessary to implement this award on confirmation that such agreements and other documents be in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

**5.a.2 Award of Request for Tender - T-33-2023 - Supply and Delivery of One 4x4 Three-Quarter Ton Pickup Truck**

Report from Chris Traini, County Engineer/Deputy CAO and Josh White, Procurement Services Manager

Moved by Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the County Engineer be authorized and directed to award the Request for Tender # T-33-2023 to Haliburton Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM Ltd. in the amount of \$67,777.00 before taxes;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Middlesex, all agreements and other documents necessary to implement this award on confirmation that such agreements and other documents be in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

**6. INQUIRIES**

None.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**8. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Ropp spoke to Remembrance Day and encouraged members of the Middlesex County community to take a walk in their communities to see the banners honouring veterans and their service.

Councillor Ropp invited County Council to the grand opening of the new fire hall and ambulance station in Parkhill on November 18, 2023.

**9. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT Committee of the Whole convene at 1:13pm.

Carried

**9.a DELEGATIONS**

9.b REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS

9.b.1 Decentralization Strategy - Governance & Administration Centre

Verbal Report from Bill Rayburn, CAO

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Decentralization Strategy - Governance & Administration Centre report be received for information.

Carried

9.b.2 MLPS Service Overview and Operating Pressures

Report from Bill Rayburn, CAO and Neal Roberts, Chief, MLPS

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the MLPS Service Overview and Operating Pressures report be received for information.

Carried

9.c ACTION ITEMS

9.c.1 Thames Centre Official Plan Amendment No. 27; General Official Plan Update; File No. 39-TC-OPA27

Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning and Development

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT Middlesex County Council strike the following words from the preliminary decision with respect to Amendment No. 27 to the Thames Centre Official Plan:

- save and except the following which is deferred for further consideration, under Section 17(34)(b) of the Planning Act:  
1. Lands lying within Part of Lots 23 and 24, Concession 1 S.R.T. east of Westchester Bourne as shown on "Figure One" attached.

THAT Amendment No. 27 to the Thames Centre Official Plan be approved with amended modifications and that staff be directed to circulate a Notice of Decision as required by the Planning Act, and that the Notice of Decision indicate that Middlesex County considered all written submissions received on this application; the effect of which helped to make an informed recommendation and decision.

Carried

9.c.2 Proposed Plan of Subdivision, Municipality of Thames Centre, File No. 39T-TC2201; Donnybrook Industrial Subdivision

Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning & Development

Moved by Councillor Grantham

Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT the proposed Plan of Subdivision (File No. 39T-TC2201) be granted draft plan approval subject to conditions and that a Notice of Decision indicate that all written submissions received on the application were considered; the effect of which helped to make an informed recommendation and decision.

Carried

9.c.3 CGLCC – Rainbow Registered Program

Report from Cara A. Finn, Director of Economic Development

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the CGLCC – Rainbow Registered Program Report be received for information;

AND THAT staff be directed to register Middlesex County in the CGLCC – Rainbow Registered Program.

Carried

9.d CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9.d.1 Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal of Middlesex Centre Official Plan Amendment No. 59: Municipal Comprehensive Review and General Official Plan Update; File No. 39-MC-OPA59

Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning and Development

- 9.d.2 Final Approval of 48 Carroll Street West, Plan of Condominium; File 39T-SC-CDM2301, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

Report from Teresa Hill, Planning and Development Coordinator

- 9.d.3 Final Approval of Timberwalk (Sifton), Plan of Subdivision Phase 5; File 39T-MC1901, Municipality of Middlesex Centre

Report from Teresa Hill, Planning and Development Coordinator

- 9.d.4 City of London Staff Report to Community and Protective Services Committee, October 24, 2023 - Housing Stability Services - Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Waitlist Placement Ratio

- 9.d.5 Assessment of Bill 134, Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act

- 9.d.6 Letter from WOWC dated October 20, 2023 to MMAH regarding Strong Mayor Powers

- 9.d.7 Minutes of the October 23, 2023 Meeting of the MLPS Authority Board

- 9.d.8 Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting of the Library Board

Moved by Councillor McGuire

Seconded by Councillor Ropp

THAT items 9.d.1 to 9.d.8 be received for information.

Carried

9.e CLOSED SESSION

9.f RISE AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor McMillan

Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 1:59pm.

Carried

## **10. BY-LAWS**

10.a #7255 - A BY-LAW Designating Prescribed Rates of Speed on County Roads No. 1 to 81 Inclusive

10.b #7256 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the November 7, 2023 meeting of County Council

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the by-laws be given a first and second reading.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the by-laws be given a third and final reading.

Carried

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11.a Next Meetings

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - Inaugural Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor McGuire

Seconded by Councillor Ropp

That the meeting adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Carried

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Paul Shipway, County Clerk

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Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden