



MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 01:00 PM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London

Members Present

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

Members Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Warden Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Councillor Burghardt-Jesson read the Land Acknowledgment as follows:

I want to begin by thanking the Warden for involving us all in recognizing our Land Acknowledgment. Truth and Reconciliation is something we are all responsible for. As a settler, the acts of Truth and Reconciliation can seem very daunting. We ask ourselves, what is my role and what can I do. At least I ask myself these questions. Reconciliation can be difficult. I have been fortunate in my lifetime to see reconciliation in action, before we were called to do so. I attended Saunders Secondary School. Our student population was made up of students from Oneida, Chippewa and Muncey. While I have fond memories of friends and acquaintances from that time, I also remember the pain of

integration and the racism it illuminated. During that time, Saunders staff worked hard to forge pathways—long before Calls to Action demanded that of us. I believe the Saunders I started out in Grade 9, was not the same as the one I graduated from in Grade 13. I travelled with my father when he was an MP. He was on a parliamentary committee that worked towards improving the access to rights and opportunities of Indigenous women across Canada. I saw firsthand with him, the importance of recognizing painful pasts and stepping forward with grace, openness and a commitment to do better.

It's these experiences that guide me in my truth and reconciliation journey in 2026. It all comes down to education and asking questions. At every opportunity I try to do so. Municipalities are on the front lines of community building. We must recognize that reconciliation is not a one-time event—it's a long-term commitment and something we must revisit regularly. Success lies in humility, consistent effort, and partnership with Indigenous peoples, rooted in mutual respect and shared goals.

A land acknowledgment may seem like a small, insignificant act. But the reality is a Land Acknowledgment is more than words—it is an opportunity to recognize the enduring presence, histories, and rights of Indigenous Peoples. As municipal leaders, we have a responsibility not only to serve our communities, but to understand the histories that shape the communities we call home. A land acknowledgment is a meaningful first step—one that recognizes Indigenous stewardship of this land and more importantly compels us to reflect on our shared responsibility in advancing truth and reconciliation in our communities.

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.

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL

NATURE THEREOF

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Resolution Number: CC-2026-039

Moved By: Councillor Grantham

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert

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 March 24, 2026 Meeting of County Council

4.b Closed Session Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Meeting of County Council

Resolution Number: CC-2026-040

Moved By: Councillor Mayhew

Seconded By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Regular Meeting be approved as presented;

THAT the Closed Session Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Regular Meeting be approved as presented;

AND THAT the recommendations made by the Committee of the Whole as set out in the Minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting be adopted.

Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a ACTION ITEMS

5.a.1 Council Compensation Review

Report from Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk & Paul Shipway, CAO

Presentation by Elizabeth Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Pesce & Associates

Resolution Number: CC-2026-041

Moved By: Councillor Brennan

Seconded By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the Council Remuneration Report be received for information;

AND THAT County Council approve the transition to an all-inclusive annual salary model for Council compensation, eliminating per diem payments for committee and board meetings, but retaining per diems for attendance at conferences, and incorporating the historical average committee/board per diem amounts into the base salary;

AND THAT the policy include provisions for providing a cell phone and laptop;

AND THAT staff be directed to bring forward a Council Remuneration By-law reflecting this framework for Council consideration.

Carried

6. INQUIRIES

None.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

8. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Warden Clarke congratulated Middlesex Centre Archives on the Heritage Fair.

Councillor Ropp congratulated Jeremy Hansen and the Hansen family for the successful Space Expedition.

9. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Resolution Number: CC-2026-041

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT Council convene in Committee of the Whole at 1:55pm.

Carried

9.a DELEGATIONS

9.a.1 Conservation Authorities Consolidation Update

Presentation by Brian Petrie, Chair of the UTRCA Board of Directors & Mayor of the Town of Ingersoll

Resolution Number: CW-2026-041

Moved By: Councillor DeViet

Seconded By: Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Conservation Authorities Consolidation Update presentation be received for information.

Carried

9.b REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS

None.

9.c ACTION ITEMS

9.c.1 2027 Budget Schedule

Report from Nikki Nourse, Director of Financial Services

Resolution Number: CW-2026-042

Moved By: Councillor Ropp

Seconded By: Councillor McGuire

THAT the 2027 Budget Schedule Report be received for information;

AND THAT the 2027 Budget Schedule be approved as presented;

AND THAT Council provide direction to staff to prepare the 2027 Budget in accordance with the outlined budget planning principles.

Carried

9.c.2 Investment Policy

Report from Nikki Nourse, Director of Financial Services

Resolution Number: CW-2026-043

Moved By: Councillor DeViet

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the Investment Policy report be received for information;

AND THAT the Investment Policy be approved.

Carried

9.c.3 Award of Request for Quotation # MC-2026-13 – Weed Spraying
Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor & Josh White,
Procurement Services Manager
Resolution Number: CW-2026-044
Moved By: Councillor Smibert
Seconded By: Councillor Ropp
THAT Award of Quotation # MC-2026-13 – Weed Spraying be received for
information;
AND THAT Council Award Quotation # MC-2026-13 to Veg-Tek Agri Inc.
in the amount of \$47,187.60 excluding taxes;
AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute the agreement
with Veg-Tek Agri Inc. in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

9.c.4 Award of Tender # MC-2026-15 – Latex Traffic Paint
Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor & Josh White,
Procurement Services Manager
Resolution Number: CW-2026-045
Moved By: Councillor Grantham
Seconded By: Councillor Smibert
THAT Award of Tender # MC-2026-15 – Latex Traffic Paint Report be
received for information;
AND THAT Council Award Tender # MC-2026-15 to Ennis Paint Canada
ULC;
AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute the agreement
with Ennis Paint Canada ULC in a form satisfactory to the County
Solicitor.

Carried

9.c.5 Award of Tender # MC-2026-16 – Traffic Paint Reflectoring Glass
Beads
Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor & Josh White,
Procurement Services Manager
Resolution Number: CW-2026-046
Moved By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert
THAT Award of Tender # MC-2026-16 – Traffic Paint Reflectoring Glass Beads Report be received for information;
AND THAT Council Award Tender # MC-2026-16 to QONTRAC Services Ltd;
AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized to execute the agreement with QONTRAC Services Ltd. in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

9.c.6 Middlesex County Connect – 2025 / 2026 Dedicated Gas Tax Funds
Report from Demetri Makrakos, Community Transportation Project Manager & Cara Finn, Director of Economic Development and Tourism
Resolution Number: CW-2026-047
Moved By: Councillor DeViet
Seconded By: Councillor McGuire
THAT the Middlesex County Connect – 2025 / 2026 Dedicated Gas Tax Funds report be received for information.
AND THAT the Warden and the County Clerk be authorized to execute the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program Letter of Agreement.

Carried

9.c.7 Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Campaign Policy
Report from Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services / County Clerk
Resolution Number: CW-2026-048
Moved By: Councillor Smibert
Seconded By: Councillor Brennan
THAT the Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Campaign Policy report be received for information;
AND THAT Legislative Policy 11.01 – Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Campaign, attached as Appendix A, be approved.

Carried

9.c.8 MLPS Creation By-law Review

Report from Paul Shipway, CAO, Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk & Adam Bennett, Director of Paramedic Services

Resolution Number: CW-2026-049

Moved By: Councillor Ropp

Seconded By: Councillor Smibert

THAT the MLPS Creation By-law Review Report be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to bring forward a MLPS Creation By-law and a By-law to amend By-law #7203 to appoint Members to Committees and Boards for the 2022-2026 term of Council at the April 28, 2026 meeting of Council.

Carried

9.c.9 Connecting Journey's Homelessness Prevention Program Update 2026

Report from Joe Winsler, Director of Human Services

Resolution Number: CW-2026-050

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the Connecting Journey's Homelessness Prevention Program Update 2026 report be received for information;

AND THAT the Director of Human Services be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor.

Carried

9.c.10 Bill 98 - Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026

Report from Abby Heddle-Jacobs, Senior Planner (Policy & Special Projects)

Resolution Number: CW-2026-051

Moved By: Councillor Grantham

Seconded By: Councillor DeViet

THAT the Bill 98 – Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026 Report be received for information;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare and submit comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario in response to Bill 98 consultations;

AND THAT such submissions be guided by the principles and considerations outlined in this report and in alignment with applicable Middlesex County policies, plans, and strategic documents.

Carried

9.d CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9.d.1 2026 Ontario Provincial Budget
Report from Nikki Nourse, Director of Financial Services
- 9.d.2 Better Regional Governance Act, 2026
Report from Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk & Paul Shipway, CAO
- 9.d.3 Status Update – Council Inquiries and Direction to Staff for Period ending March 24, 2026
Report from Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk
- 9.d.4 2026 Municipal Election – Joint Candidate Information Session
Report from Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk
- 9.d.5 FCM Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) Project Update – February 2026 Exchange
Report from Councillor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson & Rebecca Glavin, Deputy Clerk
- 9.d.6 Update to Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal of Thames Centre Official Plan Amendment No. 27; General Official Plan Update; File No. 39-TC-OPA27
Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning & Development
- 9.d.7 Letter to the Ministry of Transportation re: Proposal No. 26-MTO003 - Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act
- 9.d.8 Letter to the Ministry of Transportation re: Proposal No. 26-MTO005 -

Proposed regulations related to issuing administrative penalties for select commercial and passenger offences in the Highway Traffic Act

- 9.d.9 Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Meeting of the Library Board
- 9.d.10 Middlesex County Library Board Meeting Highlights - March 24, 2026
- 9.d.11 London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) Trustee Determination & Distribution 2026
Resolution Number: CW-2026-052
Moved By: Councillor Smibert
Seconded By: Councillor McGuire
THAT Items 9.d.1 to 9.d.11 be received for information.

Carried

10. RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Resolution Number: CW-2026-053
Moved By: Councillor DeViet
Seconded By: Councillor Mayhew
THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 2:55pm.

Carried

11. CLOSED SESSION

- 11.a Closed Session Minutes - March 24, 2026

12. RISE AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

13. BY-LAWS

- 13.a #7399 - A BY-LAW to Authorize an Employment Lands Readiness Program Funding Agreement with the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
- 13.b #7400 - A BY-LAW to Amend By-Law #6670 to Appoint Mark Brown as the By-Law Enforcement Officer

13.c #7401 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the April 14, 2026 Meeting of County Council

Resolution Number: CC-2026-042

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the By-Laws be given a first and second reading.

Carried

Resolution Number: CC-2026-043

Moved By: Councillor McGuire

Seconded By: Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the By-Laws be given a third and final reading.

Carried

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.a Next Meetings

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026
- Tuesday, May 26, 2026

15. ADJOURNMENT

Accessible formats and communication supports are available up request. Please contact Marcia Ivanic, County Clerk to make a request at clerk@middlesex.ca

Resolution Number: CC-2026-044

Moved By: Councillor Smibert

Seconded By: Councillor Grantham

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:57pm.

Carried

Sue Clarke, Warden