

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
INAUGURAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 10:00 AM  
Middlesex County Building  
399 Ridout Street North, London

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

**1. HONOUR GUARD PROCESSION**

The Honour Guard led County Council into Council Chambers.

**2. MEDWAY MADRIGAL CHOIR**

The Medway Madrigal Choir gave a performance and was thanked by Past Warden Aina DeViet.

**3. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by M. Ivanic, Legislative Services Manager / County Clerk at 10:11am.

Past Warden Aina DeViet 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.*

#### **4. INTRODUCTION OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

M. Ivanic introduced Council as follows:

- Susan Clarke, Mayor, Municipality of Adelaide Metcalfe
- Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Mayor, Municipality of Lucan Biddulph
- Aina DeViet, Mayor, Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- John Brennan, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Brian Ropp, Mayor, Municipality of North Middlesex
- Allan Mayhew, Mayor, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- Colin Grantham, Mayor, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Mike McGuire, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc
- Sharron McMillan, Mayor, Municipality of Thames Centre
- Michelle Smibert, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Thames Centre

#### **5. OUTLINE OF ELECTION PROCEDURE**

M. Ivanic provided an overview of the procedure to elect the Warden in accordance with Rules of Procedure By-Law #7264.

#### **6. ELECTION OF WARDEN**

Moved by Councillor Smibert  
Seconded by Warden DeViet

THAT Marigay Wilkins be appointed Chair of the Meeting to elect the Middlesex County Warden for the term of December 10, 2024 to November 27, 2025.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Ropp  
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT Joanne Vanderheyden and Jim Maudsley be appointed as scrutineers.

Carried

M. Ivanic exited the Chair. M. Wilkins assumed the Chair.

Moved by Councillor McGuire  
Seconded by Councillor Grantham

THAT the Rules of Procedure be suspended to allow Councillor McGuire to vote in the Warden's election electronically by notifying the Chair of his vote directly.

Carried

Nomination ballots were distributed to Council. The Chair announced the nominees in alphabetical order. Councillor John Brennan declined the nomination. Councillor Sue Clarke declined the nomination. Councillor Allan Mayhew accepted the nomination. Councillor Brian Ropp accepted the nomination. Councillor Michelle Smibert declined the nomination.

Councillor Mayhew addressed Council.

Councillor Ropp addressed Council.

Ballots were distributed to Council and collected.

The Chair congratulated the successful candidate, Councillor Brian Ropp.

Moved by Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT the ballots be destroyed by the County Clerk.

Carried

M. Ivanic resumed the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT Councilor Ropp be declared Warden, County of Middlesex for the term of December 10, 2024 to November 27, 2025.

Carried

**7. STATUTORY DECLARATION OF WARDEN ELECT**

Warden Elect Ropp subscribed to the Oath of Office.

**8. PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIN OF OFFICE**

Past Warden DeViet presented the Chain of Office to Warden Ropp.

**9. PRESENTATION OF THE GAVEL TO PAST WARDEN**

Warden Ropp presented Past Warden DeViet with her gavel.

Warden Ropp thanked his fellow members of Council.

**10. ADJOURNMENT AND O'CANADA**

Moved by Councillor Grantham  
Seconded by Warden DeViet

THAT the meeting adjourn at 10:32am.

Carried

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Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

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Brian Ropp, Warden