

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 1:00 PM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London

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

Members Absent Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

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

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

M. Ivanic, County Clerk read the Land Acknowledgement 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.

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

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT the Agenda be amended to add a Closed Session under section 4 to consider an Economic Development Staffing Matter;

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.a Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed at 1:03pm in order to consider the following:

Economic Development Staffing Matter. A personal matter pertaining to identifiable individuals, including municipal employees pursuant to subsection 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001.

Carried

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT Council rise from Closed Session at 1:16pm.

Carried

4.b 2025 Budget Presentation

Presentation by Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance & Community Services

Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT \$160,000 be added to the draft 2025 Budget for a staff member for the Housing Advocate to be funded through the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Grantham

THAT the 2025 Budget Presentation be received for information;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare a by-law to adopt the 2025 Budget, as amended, at the March 11, 2025, meeting of County Council;

AND THAT staff be directed to provide notice of Council intention to pass a By-Law to Adopt the 2025 Budget in accordance with the provisions of the Notice By-law.

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT consideration of the Draft 2025 Budget and the pending motion be deferred until following the Closed Session.

Carried

5. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed at 2:16 pm in order to consider the following:

5.a - Human Resources Matter. A personal matter pertaining to identifiable individuals, including municipal employees, and advice that is subject to solicitor-

client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, pursuant to subsections 239(2)(b) and (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Carried

5.a Human Resources Matter

5.b Rise and Report from Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT Council rise from Closed Session at 3:20 pm.

Carried

Warden Ropp reported that legal advice was received regarding a Human Resources Matter.

Council returned to consideration of the Draft 2025 Budget with the following motion pending:

Moved by Councillor Brennan

Seconded by Councillor Grantham

THAT the 2025 Budget Presentation be received for information;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare a by-law to adopt the 2025 Budget, as amended, at the March 11, 2025, meeting of County Council;

AND THAT staff be directed to provide notice of Council intention to pass a By-Law to Adopt the 2025 Budget in accordance with the provisions of the Notice By-law.

Moved by Councillor McGuire

Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

THAT the 2025 Budget Presentation be received for information;

THAT staff be directed to prepare a by-law to adopt the 2025 Budget, as presented, with the addition of:

- \$160,000 for a staff member for a Housing Advocate to be funded through Tax Rate Stabilization;

THAT it be confirmed that the funding contained in the draft 2025 Budget for Economic Development includes funding for an implementation strategy for the potential establishment of an Economic Development Corporation, but does not commit the County to the establishment of an Economic Development Corporation at this time;

THAT staff be requested to provide a report before the fall to present next steps on the matter of pursuing an Economic Development Corporation;

AND THAT staff be directed to provide notice of the intention to pass a By-law to Adopt the 2025 Budget in accordance with the provisions of the Notice By-law.

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT consideration of the draft 2025 Budget and the pending motions be deferred to the March 11, 2025 meeting of Council.

Carried

6. **BY-LAWS**

6.a #7319 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the February 18, 2025 Meeting of County Council

Moved by Councillor Mayhew
Seconded by Councillor Smibert

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

Carried

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Grantham

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

Carried

7. NOTICE

7.a Notice of Intention to Pass a By-Law to Adopt the 2025 Budget

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

That the meeting adjourn at 3:31pm.

Carried

Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

Brian Ropp, Warden