

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:00 PM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London

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

Members Absent Councillor Smibert

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 Mayhew
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

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 February 11, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.b Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.c Minutes of the February 27, 2025 Special Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.d Closed Session Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.e Closed Session Minutes of the February 27, 2025 Special Meeting of Middlesex County Council

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT the Minutes of the February 11, 2025 Meeting, February 17, 2025 Meeting and February 27, 2025 Special Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the Closed Session Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Meeting and February 27, 2025 Special Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Grantham

THAT the recommendations made by Committee of the Whole as set out in the Minutes of the February 11, 2025 Meeting be adopted.

Carried

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.a ACTION ITEMS

5.a.1 2025 Middlesex County Budget

The following main motion and amending motion were pending from the February 18, 2025 meeting of County Council:

Main Motion

Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

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;

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

Motion to Amend

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 Bylaw 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 proposed.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT the motion as amended be approved.

Carried

The motion as amended and passed by Council reads 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 Bylaw to Adopt the 2025 Budget in accordance with the provisions of the Notice By-law.

5.a.2 Tender for Hot Mix Asphalt Contract - MC-2025-03

Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT the Tender for Hot Mix Asphalt Contract - MC-2025-03 report be received for information;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized and directed to award Tender MC-2025-03 Hot Mix Asphalt to Branco Construction. in the amount of \$5,645,518.40 before taxes;

AND THAT 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.3 Tender for Cold in Place Asphalt Recycling Contract - MC-2025-04

Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

Seconded by Councillor Grantham

THAT the Tender for Cold in Place Asphalt Recycling Contract MC-2025-04 be received for information;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized and directed to award Tender MC-2025-04 Cold in Place Recycling to Lavis Contracting Co. in the amount of \$4,063,068.50 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

Councillor Burghardt-Jesson inquired about whether the County's Procurement Policy speaks to purchasing local, Canadian or other options and whether staff has considered any changes to the policy in light of the tariffs introduced by the US.

J. White, Procurement Manager advised that the province is expected to provide direction on this and that such direction will likely result in a temporary amendment to the County's Procurement Policy.

Councillor Grantham advised that a shop local campaign in Strathroy-Caradoc has been launched.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

8. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT Committee of the Whole convene at 1:18pm.

Carried

9.a DELEGATIONS

None.

9.b REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS

9.b.1 Partnerships for Municipal Innovation Women in Local Leadership
(PMI-WILL) Cambodian Delegation

Presentation by Marcia Ivanic, Manager of Legislative Services /
County Clerk

Moved by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation Women in Local
Leadership (PMI-WILL) Cambodian Delegation presentation be
received for information.

Carried

9.b.2 Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) Agreements

Verbal Update from Paul Shipway, General Manager of Strategic
Initiatives & Innovation

Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM)
Agreements verbal update be received for information.

Carried

9.b.3 Social Services Update

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

Moved by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the Social Services Update be received for information.

Carried

9.c ACTION ITEMS

9.c.1 Award of Hot Mix Asphalt Paving & Cold Asphalt Recycling Contracts

Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor McMillan
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the Award of Hot Mix Asphalt Paving & Cold Asphalt Recycling Contracts report be received for information;

THAT the Middlesex County construction schedule proceed as per the approved budget;

AND THAT any surplus or deficits for capital works be transferred to or from capital reserves for future road and bridge projects, as per the County's accounting practices in accordance with PSAB requirements.

Carried

9.c.2 Quotation for Roadside Weed Spraying Contract - MC-2025-06

Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the Quotation for Roadside Weed Spraying Contract MC-2025-06 report be received for information;

AND THAT the County Engineer be authorized and directed to award Tender MC-2025-06 Roadside Weed Spray to Green Stream in the amount of \$86,231.02 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

9.d CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9.d.1 Electronic Payments - January 2025
- 9.d.2 Electronic Payments - February 2025
- 9.d.3 General Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$1,001,183.84
- 9.d.4 Information Technology Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$104,383.08
- 9.d.5 Library Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$35,280.25
- 9.d.6 MLPS Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$1,429,958.56
- 9.d.7 Planning Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$13,293.24
- 9.d.8 Roads Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$2,777,594.98
- 9.d.9 Social Services Payable January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$1,185,695.68
- 9.d.10 Strathmere Lodge Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$331,268.81
- 9.d.11 Economic Development Payables January 31, 2025 to February 27, 2025 totaling \$20,280.98
- 9.d.12 Enbridge Gas Inc. - Notice of Study Commencement and Public Information Sessions Southwold Pipeline Project
- 9.d.13 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus - Media Release - Statement from the Vice Chair of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus on Tariffs

- 9.d.14 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus - Media Release - Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Releases Regional Priorities for Provincial Election Candidates
- 9.d.15 Ministry of Long Term Care Compliance Inspection (Inspection No. 2025-1622-0001)
Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator
- 9.d.16 Final Approval of Southgrove Meadows (Phase 5), Plan of Subdivision File No. 39T-SC1302, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Report from Teresa Hill, Planning & Development Coordinator
- 9.d.17 Correspondence from Middlesex-London Health Unit - Introducing Community Health Status Resource Dashboards
- 9.d.18 Strathmere Lodge Monthly Census Report - January 2025
- 9.d.19 South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC) - ROMA Conference Follow-up Report
- 9.d.20 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Monthly Update - February 2025
- 9.d.21 Uncontested Official Plan Amendment; Municipality of North Middlesex; File No. 39-NM-OPA16; Gokstorp Farms
Report from Teresa Hill, Planning and Development Coordinator
- 9.d.22 2024 Council Remuneration and Expenses
Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance & Community Services / Deputy CAO
- 9.d.23 Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act Report for Calendar Year of 2024
Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance & Community Services / Deputy CAO
Moved by Councillor Grantham
Seconded by Councillor McGuire
THAT items 9.d.1 to 9.d.23 be received for information.
Carried

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson
THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 1:57pm.
Carried

10. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed at 1:58pm in order to consider the following:

10.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, with respect to the human resources matter, in accordance with subsections 239(2)(b) and (f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

Carried

10.a Human Resources Matter

10.b Rise and Report from Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT Council rise from Closed Session at 2:43pm.

Carried

Warden Ropp reported that direction was provided with respect to a Human Resources Matter.

11. BY-LAWS

11.a #7321 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the March 11, 2025 Meeting of County Council

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

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

Carried

Moved by Councillor Brennan

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

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

Carried

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.a Next Meetings

- Tuesday, March 25, 2025
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Tuesday, April 22, 2025

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor DeViet

Seconded by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:45pm.

Carried

Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

Brian Ropp, Warden