

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 1:00 PM
MLPS Headquarters
1035 Adelaide St S, London, ON N6E 1R4

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

Members Absent Councillor Grantham

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

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

M. Ivanic 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 Smibert
Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

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 25, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.b Closed Session Minutes of the March 11, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

4.c Closed Session Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting of Middlesex County Council

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting be approved as presented;

THAT the Closed Session Minutes of the March 11, 2025 and March 25, 2025 Meeting be approved as presented;

AND THAT the recommendations made by Committee of the Whole as set out in the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting be adopted.

Carried

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a ACTION ITEMS

5.a.1 Community Transportation Grant Program Transfer Payment Amending Agreement

Report from Cara A. Finn, Director of Economic Development and Tourism & Anum Maqsood, Community Transportation Project Manager

Moved by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the Community Transportation Grant Program Transfer Payment Amending Agreement be received for information;

AND THAT a by-law be introduced at the April 8, 2025, Council meeting to:

- i. Authorize and approve Amending Agreement No. 3 to the Community Transportation Grant Program Transfer Payment Agreement; and
- ii. Authorize the Warden and the County Clerk to execute the agreement.

Carried

5.a.2 CAO Recruitment & Selection Process

Report from Jessica P. Ngai, Director of Human Resources

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the CAO Recruitment & Selection Process Report be received for information;

THAT staff be directed to solicit proposals from the OECM list for an external search firm to conduct the CAO recruitment and that a recommendation be forwarded to County Council for consideration and decision.

Carried

6. INQUIRIES

Councillor Smibert raised that the June 10, 2025 meeting of Council conflicts with the 2025 AMCTO Conference. GM of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, Paul Shipway, is the President of AMCTO.

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the June 10, 2025 meeting of County Council be cancelled.

Carried

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

8. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Burghardt-Jesson congratulated County Engineer, Chris Traini, on receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2025 Good Roads Conference.

9. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

THAT Committee of the Whole convene at 1:26pm.

Carried

9.a DELEGATIONS

9.a.1 2025 Employee Benefits Renewal Highlights

Presentation by Kevin Routley, Partner, Employee Benefits and Pension Advisor, Selectpath

Moved by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the 2025 Employee Benefits Renewal Highlights presentation be received for information.

Carried

9.b REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS

None.

9.c ACTION ITEMS

- 9.c.1 Proposed Plan of Condominium (File No. 39T-TC-CDM2304);
Municipality of Thames Centre; 21829 Nissouri Road; Thorndale;
1732435 Ontario Limited

Report from Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning & Development

Moved by Councillor DeViet

Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT the Proposed Plan of Condominium (File No. 39T-TC-CDM2304); Municipality of Thames Centre; 21829 Nissouri Road; Thorndale; 1732435 Ontario Limited report be received for information;

THAT the proposed Plan of Condominium (File No. 39T-TC-CDM2304) be granted draft plan approval subject to conditions;

THAT a Notice of Decision be circulated as required by the *Planning Act*;

AND THAT the 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.2 Use of Social Media for Business Purposes Policy

Report from Marci Ivanic, Manager of Legislative Services / County Clerk

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Use of Social Media for Business Purposes Policy report be received for information;

AND THAT the revisions to the Social Media for Business Purposes Policy (Legislative Services Policy 6.01) be approved.

Carried

9.c.3 Middlesex County Warden's Activity Report - Q1

Report from Brian Ropp, Warden

Moved by Councillor McGuire

Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT the Middlesex County Warden's Activity Report - Q1 be received for information.

Carried

9.c.4 General Overview of Middlesex County Tariff Impacts & Procurement Considerations

Report from Joshua White, Procurement Services Manager & Cara Finn, Director of Economic Development & Tourism

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT The General Overview of Middlesex County Tariff Impacts & Procurement Considerations Report be received for information;

THAT Council direct staff to bring forward Temporary Procurement By-law amendments for County Council consideration when permissible, to mitigate the financial and operational impacts of potential U.S. tariffs;

AND THAT Middlesex County continue working with procurement networks, municipal partners, and senior levels of government to mitigate the financial and operational impacts of potential U.S. tariffs.

Carried

9.d CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

9.d.1 Road Closures 2025

Report from Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor

9.d.2 Benefit Renewal - April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Report from Jessica Ngai, Director of Human Resources

- 9.d.3 Middlesex-London Board of Health Update - March 2025
- 9.d.4 Enbridge Gas - Notice of Second Virtual Information Session - Southwold Pipeline Project
- 9.d.5 Correspondence from Thames Valley District School Board - Accommodation Plan 2024-2025
- 9.d.6 Western Ontario Warden's Caucus Monthly Update - March 2025
- 9.d.7 Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting of the Library Board

Moved by Councillor DeViet

Seconded by Councillor Smibert

THAT items 9.d.1 to 9.d.7 be received for information.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor Clarke

THAT Committee of the Whole rise at 2:04pm.

Carried

10. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Burghardt-Jesson

Seconded by Councillor McGuire

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed at 2:05pm in order to consider the following:

10.a - Cyber Security Update. The security of the property of the municipality or local board; a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board in accordance with subsections 239(2)(a) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

10.b - Interim Chief Administrative Officer. A personal matter pertaining to identifiable individuals, including municipal employees in accordance with subsection 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended.

Carried

10.a Cyber Security Update

Report from Chris Bailey, Director of Information Technology Services

Councillor Mayhew exited the meeting at 2:07pm and returned at 2:15pm.

10.b Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Report from Warden Ropp.

10.c Rise and Report from Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Smibert

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT Council rise from Closed Session at 2:53pm.

Carried

Moved by Councillor McGuire

Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT the Closed Session Interim CAO Report be received for information;

THAT Durk Vanderwerff be appointed Acting CAO effective April 8, 2025;

THAT a by-law be brought forward to the April 22, 2025 meeting of County Council to appoint Durk Vanderwerff Interim CAO until such time that such by-law is repealed;

AND THAT the Warden and County Clerk be authorized to execute any agreements or other documents necessary to give effect to Council's direction.

Carried

11. BY-LAWS

11.a #7325 - A BY-LAW to Adopt the 2025 Middlesex County Asset Management Plan

11.b #7326 - A BY-LAW to Authorize the Amending Agreement No. 3 to the Community Transportation Grant Program Transfer Payment Agreement

11.c #7327 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the April 8, 2025 Meeting of County Council

Moved by Councillor Smibert
Seconded by Councillor McMillan

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

Carried

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

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

Carried

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.a Next Meetings

- Tuesday, April 22, 2025
- Tuesday, May 13, 2025
- Tuesday, May 27, 2025

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the meeting adjourn at 3:00pm.

Carried

Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

Brian Ropp, Warden