



**Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

Members Present:

Mayor: Bernie MacLellan; Deputy Mayor: Alvin McLellan; Councillors: Raymond Chartrand, Brenda Dalton, Robert Fisher, Larry McGrath, Justin Morrison, Jeff Newell, John Steffler, and Gloria Wilbee

Absent:

Councillor Dianne Diehl

Staff Present:

CAO Brad McRoberts; Clerk Jessica Rudy; Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier; Public Works Manager Barry Mills; and Economic Development Officer Taralyn Cronin

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Mayor MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated June 20, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the following Council Meeting Minutes as circulated:

5.1 Regular Meeting – June 6, 2023**5.2 Committee of Adjustment Public Hearing – June 6, 2023**

Carried

6. Consent Agenda

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested to remove item 6.3, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury re: Motion regarding the Right to Repair from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Dalton and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That the Consent Agenda items be received for information and approved.

- Council Expenses for May 2023
- Seaforth Country Classics re: Thank You for Support

Carried

Deputy Mayor McLellan moved that Council support the motion from Bradford West Gwillimbury for the right to repair due to the importance in the agriculture community.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That the Municipality of Huron East support the motion from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding the Right to Repair.

Carried

7. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations**7.1 Delegation:** Bob Costello, Park Administrator, Seaforth & District Optimist Club re: Request for Funds for Roof Replacement and Playground Equipment

Bob Costello, Park Administrator for the Seaforth & District Optimist Club appeared before Council to inform them of some of the recently completed work which included tree trimming, sidewalk installation, and playground equipment repair on the swings and slides. It was noted that there this a need for a repair on the east side of the roof, and light replacement for the ball diamond. B. Costello noted he will continue conversations with staff on best approaches to address the needs for the park area and ways to work in conjunction with the municipality.

Mayor MacLellan thanked the delegation for his time and encouraged communication between the various service groups and staff.

It was noted that the municipality has recently implemented a new organization structure and that communication and policies will be implemented in the near future between the municipality and various service groups, such as the Optimist Club.

8. Planning

9. Municipal Drains

9.1 Petition for Drainage Works re: Grant Municipal Drain

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the petition from Elizabeth Cardiff (Concession 6, Lot 3, Grey Ward) for an extension of the Grant Municipal Drain;

And That the petition be forwarded to the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, as part of the Grant Municipal Drain project already underway.

Carried

10. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

10.1 CLK-23-15, Geiger Municipal Drain

The report was received for information.

10.2 CAO-23-18, Pay Equity Review

CAO Brad McRoberts provided an overview of the report noting that 6 submissions were received, explained the evaluation process and recommended the Request for Proposals (RFP) be awarded Gallagher Benefit Services (Canada) Group Inc.

Council discussed the pay equity review process, noting that they believe employees are satisfied with their wage and raised concerns on the use of a consultant to perform the review.

In response to Council, B. McRoberts explained the benefits of the pay equity review, stressing that the review was not a market check, however, it is ensuring that employees are receiving an equitable standard of pay, regardless of their gender, and noted that pay equity is mandatory under the Employment Standards Act.

B. McRoberts noted that the pay grid would be reviewed as part of the process, but at this point, there is no indication on how it would potentially be revised.

Moved by Councillor Newell and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East award the Pay Equity Review to Gallagher Benefit Services (Canada) Group Inc.

Carried

10.3 EDO-23-04, Brussels Fairy Wing Mural

Economic Development Officer Taralyn Cronin provided an overview of the report noting that the project has been in discussion around the community and the Economic

Development Committee recommended that it be supported through the remaining funds that were allocated to the Brussels street light decorations.

Council discussed the project, noting that it is a good initiative, however, it would be best if it could wait to be incorporated into the 2024 budget or held until there are possible grant opportunities or community partnerships available.

In response to Council, CAO Brad McRoberts noted that the project does not qualify as a capital expenditure and stressed the importance of adhering to the approved 2023 budget.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East support the recommendation from the Economic Development Committee to hire a local artist to paint a mural in downtown Brussels to promote the Fairy Door Trail and attract visitors to Brussels;

And That the project be funded through the remaining reserves allocated to the Brussels Streetlight Decorations.

Defeated

Mayor MacLellan noted that the recommendation could come back to Council if there the development of a community partnership to help with funding, and stated that otherwise the project could come forward as a 2024 budget request.

11. Correspondence

12. Unfinished Business

13. Council Reports

13.1 Council Member Reports

13.1.1 County Council Report

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the Seaforth Golf Course official plan amendment for the housing project has been approved along with an official plan amendment for a long-term care building in Exeter. It was noted that the County is undergoing a roadside pilot project called Enriching the Rural Roadside, creating pollinator corridors which will be on the Stevenson and Adams Tract.

Deputy Mayor McLellan announced that two Huron East organizations received Huron Heritage funding; Advanced Block Corporation received \$5,000 for Vanastra radar dome improvements and the Van Egmond House Museum received \$4,500 to update the electrical and replace the furnace.

In response to Councillor Chartrand, Mayor MacLellan noted that the CAO and himself have been in confidential meetings regarding the Seaforth long-term care facility and future options.

13.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Councillor Wilbee noted that she had the honour to represent Huron East, with a speech, at the opening ceremonies of the pride festival in Goderich on June 10, 2023.

Deputy Mayor McLellan noted that he had the pleasure to represent the Municipality at the Brussel's Optimist 50th anniversary on June 15, 2023.

13.2 Requests by Members

Councillor Fisher requested reports on the Brussels, Morris & Grey Community Centre (BMGCC) renovation, Brussels subdivision and electric vehicle (EV) charging station usage. In response to the request, CAO B. McRoberts stated that the BMGCC renovation update would be coming forward at the next meeting, the subdivision would likely come forward in August and explained that the EV unit in Seaforth has been vandalized and is not currently operational, therefore the usage report will have to be deferred until the unit is repaired.

Councillor Chartrand requested that department heads track their budgets and report to Council on the progress, before the 2024 budget process. In response to Councillor Chartrand, B. McRoberts noted that staff actively track their budgets and that a 6-month variance report will be coming to Council by the late summer, with the department heads available to speak to their respective service area, and that the status of the 2022 budget will be brought forward in August and actuals for 2023 will be available to Council during the 2024 budget discussions.

Mayor MacLellan reminded Council of the long-term forecast that was provided during the 2023 budget process, the importance of sticking to the approved budget and stressed that leaving money in reserves, when items come in under budget, allows Council to ensure that the tax levy does not continue to rise.

Council discussed the importance of communication between service groups and staff and the need to develop positive relationships as well as policies regarding financial management and responsibilities between the municipality and the various service groups.

13.3 Notice of Motion

13.4 Announcements

Mayor MacLellan announced his regrets for the July 4, 2023 Council meeting, due to a planned vacation.

14. Other Business

15. By-laws

16. Closed Session and Reporting Out

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:26 p.m., in Town Hall Council Chambers, in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

16.1 Adoption of May 16, 2023 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes

16.2 239(2)(h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Municipality by Canada, a province or territory or Crown Agency regarding an agreement with Saugeen Ojibway Nation

And That CAO Brad McRoberts, Public Works Manager Barry Mills, Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier and Clerk Jessica Rudy remain in closed session.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East resumes the regular Council meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported out from the Closed Session that Council to discuss an agreement with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and that the Clerk was directed to bring the following motion into open session.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the Agreement between the Municipality of Huron East and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation;

And That the Mayor and the Clerk be authorized to sign and seal all the necessary documents.

Carried

17. Confirmatory By-Law

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 047-2023, a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council, be given first, second, third and final reading and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

18. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

The time now being 7:42 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until July 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk