



Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

CAO Brad McRoberts; Clerk Jessica Rudy; Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier; Fire Chief Kent Readman; Drainage Superintendent Ken McCallum; and Director of Public Works Barry Mills

Others Present:

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll

1. Closed Session and Reporting Out

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 3:30 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:

- 1.1** 239(2)(b) – personal matters about identifiable individuals
- 1.2** Adoption of September 19, 2023 Closed Session of Council Minutes
- 1.3** 239(2)(b) – personal matters about identifiable individuals

And That CAO Brad McRoberts, Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier, Human Resources Coordinator Tricia Thompson (Item 1.1 only), Gallagher Benefit Services (Canada) Group Inc. Jane Mizanski (Item 1.1 only) and Clerk Jessica Rudy remain in closed session.

Carried

2. Call to Order and Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

Mayor MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Dalton and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 6:03 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported out from the Closed Session that Council discussed pay equity details and personnel matters.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

4. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated October 3, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

A. McLellan declared a conflict of interest in regard to Item 8.4, Committee of Adjustment Public Hearing for Minor Variance Application MV08-2023 due to his family member being involved in the application.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

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

6.1 Regular Meeting – September 19, 2023

Carried

7. Consent Agenda

8. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations

8.1 Delegation: Linda McLachlan and Joyce Ribey re: Seaforth Manor Long Term Care Home

Linda McLachlan appeared before Council requesting that Council lobby the Ministry of Long Term Care to meet with the residents of Seaforth, as prescribed on their website, to provide them the opportunity seek answers for their questions and requested that the Municipality pursue and obtain a provider of long term care in Seaforth.

Joyce Ribey appeared before Council requesting that they consider the concerns of the

residents and shared a letter emailed to Council. A copy of the email is [appended](#) to the original minutes.

Council discussed the logistics at length, noting that there is not much the Municipality can do and that there are not a significant amount of companies interested in operating long term care. It was stressed that the Municipality was not in a position to own and operate their own long term care facility.

Council discussed the statements of a potential of five (5) acres being donated by the Seaforth Hospital Trust, noting that it would be beneficial to have something in writing.

It was noted that the municipality could solicit potential companies, if in fact there was something in writing guaranteeing the donation of the five acres. Council requested an agreement be provided stipulating the conditions of the five acres.

In regards to a meeting with the province staff noted that they would contact the MPP and see if a meeting can be arranged with the community and stressed that employees of the Long Term Care Centre should contact their employer directly with their concerns

Mayor MacLellan thanked the delegation for their time and noted that they would follow up with any further information, once available.

8.2 Delegation: Huron County Libraries re: Library Services

Beth Rumble, County Librarian and Christa Lehen, East Team Branch Manager from Huron County Library provided a presentation regarding Huron County library statistics, accolades, provincial landscape, municipality partnerships, the libraries vision and key initiatives. Further details of special events and community involvement was provided for the Huron East library locations of Brussels and Seaforth.

8.3 Public Meeting re: Official Plan Amendment 16 and Zoning By-law Amendment Z09-2023

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East adjourn the regular meeting of Council at 7:07 p.m. to go into a Public Meeting to discuss the following:

- a) Official Plan Amendment 16 and Zoning By-law Amendment Z09-2023

Carried

Council reconvened at 7:13 p.m.

*A. McLellan left the meeting 7:14 p.m.

8.4 Committee of Adjustment Public Hearing re: Minor Variance Application MV08-2023

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East adjourn the regular meeting of Council at 7:14 p.m. to go into a Public Hearing of Committee of Adjustment to discuss the following:

- a) Minor Variance Application MV08-2023 for 42663 Graham Road, Brussels

Carried

Council reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

*A. McLellan returned to the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

9. Planning

9.1 Recommendation of Council re: Official Plan Amendment 16 and Zoning By-law Amendment Z09-2023

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

Whereas the Council of the Municipality of Huron East has held a public meeting pursuant to Sections 17 and 34(12) of the Planning Act, 1990 with respect to the proposed Official Plan Amendment By-law 071-2023 and Zoning By-law 072-2023;

And Whereas no public comments were received on this application;

And Whereas no agency comments were received on this application;

Now Therefore, pursuant to Sections 17(23) and 34(18) of the Planning Act, 1990, Council concurs with the September 27, 2023 Planning Report and recommends By-laws 071-2023 and 072-2023 for approval.

Carried

10. Municipal Drains

10.1 DRAINS-23-05, Geiger Municipal Drain Tender Results

Drainage Superintendent Ken McCallum provided an overview and factors contributing to the tender process.

Council considered the options that would be available and the likelihood of changes if the tender were to be reissued for 2024 construction.

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East direct staff to send notice to landowners of the Geiger Municipal Drain watershed to invite them to attend the October 17, 2023 Regular Council meeting regarding the Geiger Municipal Drain tender cost increase.

Carried

11. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

11.1 CLK-23-19, Privacy and Routine Disclosure Policies

Moved by Councillor Newell and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East adopt the Privacy and Routine Disclosure policies.

Carried

11.2 FD-23-04, Request for Proposal - Community Risk Assessment and Fire Service Review

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that Emergency Management Group Inc. take into consideration volunteer firefighter schedules, when gathering their input.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East award the Community Risk Assessment and Fire Service Review to Emergency Management Group Inc.

Carried

11.3 CAO-23-27, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing's Housings Affordability Task Force Recommendations

CAO Brad McRoberts provided an overview of the request from the Ministry regarding the Municipality's priorities in relation to the housing affordability task force recommendations.

Council reviewed the comments incorporated into the staff report and provided the following feedback:

- Recommendation 27(b): Council agreed that a third party appeal payment should be required, however, felt that the \$10,000 price a little too high.
- Recommendation C-5: Council was in favour, however felt it was not something that could be controlled.
- Recommendation 32: Council felt that the parkland fee is crucial to the municipality.
- Recommendations 16(a) and 16(b): Council was not in favour of the restrictions associated with these recommendations.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Huron County Planning re: Request to Remove Temporary Use Agreement

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the request to remove the Temporary Use Agreement from 45163 Moncrief Road and consider a By-law to repeal the authorizing By-law.

And That the Additional Residential Unit be recognized in a special zone recognizing the existing separate entrances in a future housekeeping item.

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

14.1.1 County Council Report

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that on September 20th they heard from Clean Energy Frontier which highlighted their program and issues. It was also reported that Julie Sawchuk appeared to address accessibility and the little things that can be done to improve accessibility throughout the County.

Deputy Mayor McLellan and Mayor MacLellan highlighted the upcoming changes to the 'Out of the Cold' program, noting that they will be using fourteen (14) rooms of an under used motel in Goderich to run the program.

In response to Councillor Chartrand's request for defibrillators in for the Seaforth Optimist Club, Mayor MacLellan reported that staff were directed to bring forward a report.

14.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Councillor Chartrand reported on a seminar hosted by South Huron regarding Municipal Fire Services, noting that the presenter offers smaller presentations that may be beneficial to Council. Fire Chief Kent Readman was directed to gather details regarding a future presentation to Council.

Councillor Fisher announced that Rick Wood and Murray Bennewies of the Seaforth Lawn Bowling Club won the championships in Edmonton recently and requested that the Recreation Advisory Committee look at various ways or programs in which the Municipality can recognize individual achievements throughout Huron East.

14.2 Requests by Members

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that Council be made aware of any communications with any proponents for battery farms.

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that the Fire Department contact Fire Marque to request a presentation to Council.

14.3 Notice of Motion**14.4 Announcements**

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested Fire Chief Kent Readman to provide details on the Brussels Open House. It was noted that it would take place on October 11, 2023 and that the event would include hot dogs, prizes and fire extinguisher training.

15. Other Business

Council discussed the delegation regarding Seaforth Long Term Care and agreed that a letter to solicit a potential long term care provider would be sent, once a letter of understanding is received in regards to the five (5) acre donation of land.

16. By-laws

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 070-2023, A By-law to Repeal By-law 51-2018, Being a By-law to Authorize a Temporary Use Agreement on 45163 Moncrief Road be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 071-2023, A By-law to Amend the Official Plan (OPA 16) be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 072-2023, A By-law to Amend By-law 52-2006, Being the Zoning By-law (Z09-2023) be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

17. Closed Session and Reporting Out**18. Confirmatory By-Law**

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 073-2023, 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

19. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

The time now being 8:17 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until October 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk

Honorable Mayor Bernie, Bradley McRoberts and Huron East Council Members

I ask that you consider my concerns which are too lengthy to communicate to you at the October 3, 2023 council meeting when we address all of you.

It is a recognized fact that the building which houses our LTC and Retirement Community is an aging infrastructure and needs to be replaced with an updated building. There is ample land to relocate and build in our community. It's something that was discussed in 2020 and should have had a concerted effort by all parties to make an offer that Sunbridge couldn't refuse.

The fact that it has progressed without residents, their families, Seaforth Long-Term-Care and Retirement Living staff council members and community members having knowledge of the future plans of the nursing home and retirement home is concerning. This violates the Ministry of Long Term Care's protocol which states that all of the above stakeholders are to be given an opportunity to voice their concerns and have their questions answered Prior to the ministry approving of any transfer of the Long Term Care beds.

With an opportunity to build close to our Hospital and other amenities and ample land to use, it would seem like our town would be a perfect place for a new facility. It would afford increased employment opportunities while in construction as well as an opportunity to meet the government's plan to build facilities with 190 beds.

I have huge concerns about the residents of this home being relocated elsewhere.

I agree with others that this is a huge economic blow to our community.

We have 55-60 people on staff at the Seaforth Long Term Care Home and Retirement Community. They contribute to the well being of our seniors at the home as well as use the services of our business community. 63 LTC beds and 34 retirement living beds in this facility according to their website. Their occupants use the services of our Hospital, and Doctors' clinic as well as other health related services in our community. Their absence will directly affect the viability of all our health care. Visitors coming to see these people are in all likelihood going to use services of our business district. Family visits to their loved ones in LTC/Retirement Living are valued for the support they provide for immediate needs as well as emotional ones.

Facebook posts show the extra activities that residents enjoy. Kudos are to be extended to the hard working staff for their enthusiastic participation. I also love that they encourage community involvement in many of their activities. It's heart warming! i.e. band concerts on the lawn, BBQ and bake sale on town-wide yard sale Saturday, Grandparents Day festivities on the lawn and more

There are 24 staff who live in the immediate area of this town because they have employment here. High school students are employed by this facility. Co-operative education students have the opportunity to experience a variety of roles while at Seaforth Long Term Care and it's been

known to help them make a decision on a future career. With the harsh economy families face, what family can afford an additional vehicle to travel out of this area for employment, let alone cover the high price of fuel? There are households who have no means of transportation and shift work can make it difficult to work outside of the community. There is NO established transportation service that would be available and AFFORDABLE for anyone to travel outside our town for employment. Some people say perhaps our society will have to return to caring for their elderly family members in their homes. That is not feasible when the economy drives the need of both adults leaving their home to make a reasonable living.

I fail to understand how anyone cannot understand that this has a detrimental impact on our community? It is unfathomable to think that we are expected to just throw our hands up and contact our local MPP and that there is nothing we can do because it's private business!

We care about our senior population. Our town is thought of as a retirement haven. sometimes spouses or family members seek residence here so that they are close to a loved one who requires the support of a LTC home. Seniors dwelling in a facility such as the Manor are more settled when they can have frequent visits from their families and neighbours. I and fellow community members are proud of the excellent care given to the residents of Seaforth Long-Term Care and Retirement living. We care about the future of our town.

The thought that this esteemed part of our community could be ripped right out of the heart of our town is devastating! That would be dishonoring the very people who worked so hard to build our fine community. They DESERVE better!

Joyce Ribey