



Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, December 5, 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; Director of Public Works Barry Mills and Clerk Jessica Rudy

1. Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 4:30 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 in relation to employee matters
- 1.2 Adoption of November 21, 2023 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes

And That County of Huron Director of Human Resources Lara Vanstone (Item 1.1), CAO Brad McRoberts and Clerk Jessica Rudy remain in closed session.

Carried

2. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Mayor MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor MacLellan remarked on the success and positive feedback from the Seaforth Santa Claus Parade and requested that consideration be given to using the alternate route as the main route for future parades.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

4. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session and Reporting Out from Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported that Council went into closed session to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals relating to employee matters.

5. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated December 5, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed.

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

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

7.1 Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023

Carried

8. Consent Agenda

Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that Council support Item 8.5, Township of Coleman regarding Support for the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCA) for Conservation Officer Resolution.

Mayor MacLellan requested follow up and further information in regard to Item 8.3, The County of Prince Edward re: Request to Stop the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Proposal to Expand the use of the Permit-by-Rule to Waste Management Systems, Storm Water Management Systems and Certain Water Taking Activities.

Councillor Fisher requested further information on the grant from the County of Huron in relation to Item 8.4, Huron Clean Water Project Review Committee re: HCWP Helps Support Phragmites Management; in response Mayor MacLellan noted that the question would be brought forward at the next County Council meeting.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That the Municipality of Huron East supports the motion from the Township of Coleman

regarding Support for the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCA) for Conservation Officer Resolution.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That Consent Agenda items 8.1 to 8.4 and 8.6 to 8.7 be received for information and approved.

- Water and Sewer Committee re: Minutes from September 6, 2023
- Water and Sewer Committee re: Minutes from November 14, 2023
- The County of Prince Edward re: Request to Stop the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Proposal to Expand the use of the Permit-by-Rule to Waste management Systems, Storm Water Management Systems and Certain Water Taking Activities
- Huron Clean Water Project Review Committee re: HCWP Helps Support Phragmites Management
- Economic Development Committee re: Minutes from September 12, 2023
- CAO-23-34, July to September 2023 Building Maintenance

Carried

9. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations

9.1 Delegation: Cassidy Svetek, FlashVote re: FlashVote Presentation

Cassidy Svetek, FlashVote appeared before Council to present the FlashVote system, why governments need the representative input, how public input can be limited to select few, how FlashVote can work for government and the various filters for trends and analytics that can be utilized.

In response to Council, C. Svetek explained only five survey questions are needed and written in a way to gather as much data as possible; how the program is volunteered based and preference on contact method is gathered upon sign up i.e. call, text, online; and how an individuals information is only used to register for FlashVote and not to associate their information to their responses. It was noted that the public trust to use the program is gained by the municipality promoting the program to its residents.

C. Svetek confirmed that FlashVote has been recently purchased by Saugeen Shores and Kincardine.

10. Planning

11. Municipal Drains

12. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

12.1 CAO-23-35, Resident Surveys & Engagement

Council discussed the program and noted that there are other communication and survey tools available to the municipality such as the website, H.E.A.R engagement platform and social media and requested further information on the amount of registrants in enrolled with the H.E.A.R engagement platform.

Council noted that program would need the trust of the residents to complete the sign-up process and noted that the current tools available could be better utilized to gather public input, especially for the perceived amount of surveys the municipality would undertake.

Mayor MacLellan requested that information and feedback be gathered from the municipalities currently using the system, to see if they have been satisfied and seeing a change in the public input they receive.

CAO Brad McRoberts confirmed that the recommendation is not seeking approval of the program but rather asking that Council consider it during the 2024 budget discussions and process.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East agree to consider FlashVote License services to support the gathering of statistically valid community input for a 3-year engagement as part of the 2024 budget.

Defeated

12.2 CAO-23-36, Workforce Strategy Policies

B. McRoberts provided an overview of the report, noting that the policies were previously discussed for implementation in 2024.

In response to Council, B. McRoberts provided the details of the employee recognition policy, noting the importance and timeliness of monthly recognition opposed to a semi-annual or annual basis at year end.

B. McRoberts confirmed that the vacation policy aligns with current trends and reminded Council that the policies are being enacted in a proactive measure for staff recruitment and retention.

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the following workforce strategy policies:

- Compensation Policy;

- Vacation Policy;
- Flexible Work Policy (8 month trial);
- Employee Volunteer Policy; and
- Employee Recognition Policy

Carried

13. Correspondence

14. Unfinished Business

15. Council Reports

15.1 Council Member Reports

15.1.1 County Council Report

Deputy Mayor McLellan noted that County Council has not met since the last update.

Councillor Steffler noted that the location of the Heart to Home Homeless Shelter is not available online and requested that issue be brought to County Council.

15.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the last Bluewater Recycling Association meeting discussed the Christmas tree chipping program and reported a lack of recycle bins for new apartment builds after April 1, 2024 due the producers taking on responsibility for recycling, it was noted that the Association is continuing discussions and working on solutions.

15.2 Requests by Members

In response to Councillor Chartrand, B. McRoberts noted that confirmation has not yet been received in regards to the ROMA delegation request.

In response to Deputy Mayor McLellan, Director of Public Works Barry Mills reported that the bagged leaf collection saw an approximate 80% success rate and the over all program ran smoothly.

Councillor Diehl reported that Cranbrook Hall was successful in a recent grant application, providing \$17,000 in upgrades to the hall.

15.3 Notice of Motion

15.4 Announcements

Deputy Mayor McLellan announced that the Ethel Christmas Parade will be held on December 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

16. Other Business

16.1 Motion from Water and Sewer Committee re: Jacobs Contract Renewal

Moved by Councillor McGrath and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East waive the procurement process and accept the renewal of the Jacobs Contract for a 10-year term.

Carried

17. By-laws

Council discussed the details of the delegation and requested that the bylaw be revised to ensure that any purchase and sale agreements have Council approval prior to execution from the CAO and Treasurer.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That the Municipality of Huron East defer By-law 084-2023, A By-law to Delegate Authority to the CAO and Treasurer for Purchase and Sale of Land Agreements.

Carried

18. Confirmatory By-Law

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 085-2023, 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 7:47 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk