



Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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; Director of Community Services Lissa Berard; and Economic Development Officer Taralyn Cronin

Others Present:

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll

1. Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:00 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 Adoption of the April 16, 2024 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes
- 1.2 239(2)(f) – advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege
- 1.3 239(2)(b)(d) – personal matters about identifiable individuals and labour relations – employee matters

And that 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 6:00 p.m.

3. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported that Council went into closed session for a matter subject to solicitor-client privilege and personal information about identifiable individuals and labour relations in relation to employee matters.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

Mayor MacLellan provided highlights on his attendance at the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference regarding gravel road paving, tree conservation, and the overall employment issues across the country in both private and public sectors.

5. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated May 7, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Fisher declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 12.2. FIN-24-07, Lions Club Pools Comparison, due to being a Lions Club Member.

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

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

7.1 Regular Meeting – April 16, 2024

Carried

8. Consent Agenda

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Deputy Mayor McLellan commented on Item 8.6, Ontario Federation of Agriculture re: Agriculture at a glance stating how important agriculture is to Huron East and the County of Huron.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Consent Agenda items 8.1 to 8.11 be received for information and approved.

- 8.1 The Town of Plympton-Wyoming re: Securing Access to Natural Gas for our Community and Ontario
- 8.2 Conservation Ontario re: Update on Conservation Authority Exceptions for the Drainage Community
- 8.3 Nuclear Innovation Institute re: Leadership Change
- 8.4 Municipality of St. Charles re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- 8.5 Municipality of St. Charles re: Household Food Insecurity
- 8.6 Ontario Federation of Agriculture re: Agriculture at a Glance
- 8.7 Municipality of Huron Shores re: Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle
- 8.8 Bluewater Recycling Association re: 2023 BRA Annual Report
- 8.9 City of St. Catharines re: Provincial Regulations Needed to Restrict Keeping of Non-native Wild Animals
- 8.10 CAO-24-12, Huron East Fire Services Update
- 8.11 Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region re: Municipal Newsletter

Carried

9. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations

9.1 Presentation: Linton Consulting re: Strategic Plan

Kelly Linton, Linton Consulting provided an overview of the strategic plan, highlighting the project objectives, key success factors, consultants approach, engagement feedback, strategic goals/priorities/actions, and next steps.

In response to Council, CAO Brad McRoberts confirmed that Council will receive quarterly updates on the progress of the strategic plan and that staff will be working together to assign departmental responsibilities.

9.2 Committee of Adjustment Public Hearing re: Minor Variances MV02-2024 and MV03-2024

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East adjourn the regular meeting of Council at 6:29 p.m. to go into a Public Hearing of Committee of Adjustment to discuss the following:

- a) Minor Variance Applications MV02-2024 and MV03-2024

Carried

Council reconvened at 6:43 p.m.

10. Planning

10.1 Planner's Report re: Bill 185, Cutting the Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 and Revised Draft Provincial Planning Statements

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll provided an overview of the proposed changes noting that the Huron County Planning Department is satisfied with the changes and have no concerns.

The report is received for information.

10.2 Huron County Planning Fees Working Group re: Planning Application Fees Review

In response to Council, Clerk Jessica Rudy confirmed that the new fees do not equate to a full cost recovery and that the review was done, prior to 2026, due to legislation changes, amount of staff time spent on applications, and the introduction of the central permitting system. It was confirmed that annual increases year over year were adjusted to reflect the October Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), as it is the common standard across the municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the report from the Planning Fees Working Group and are in support of the proposed fee changes to come into effect on July 1, 2024.

Carried

11. Municipal Drains

12. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

12.1 CAO-24-13, Huron East Strategic Action Plan

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept and endorse the Huron East Strategic Action Plan, as presented.

Carried

12.2 FIN-24-07, Lions Club Pools Comparison

In response to Council, B. McRoberts clarified that staff will be meeting with the Seaforth Lions Club to determine the amount of funding that should be provided in the 2025 budget.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East support the recommendation from the Huron East Recreation Advisory Committee and direct staff to consider additional operational funding for the Seaforth Lions Pool operation for the 2025 budget;

And That the operational funding be determined based upon audited financial statements from the Seaforth Lions Club and agreed upon through a formal operational

Carried [Conflict: R. Fisher]

12.3 CS-24-08, 2024 Rates and Charges By-law Fees and the Effects on Community Service Groups

An overview of the discussion at the Huron East Recreation Advisory Committee was provided and Council offered various cost saving solutions for consideration, including, reduced fees for set up, Council foregoing conferences to offset the costs, reduced rental fees for service clubs included in the fees and charges by-law and seasonal rates.

Director of Community Services Lissa Berard confirmed that all rates increased by the cost of living and that the Brussels area was increased to match the fees of the rest of the municipality. It was confirmed that although the Brussels community was mostly impacted, it is a result of ensuring all groups are treated the same and aligns with best practices such as having staff present when individuals are utilizing the facilities. Council requested that staff investigate insurance liability in the event someone is injured while staff are not present.

Staff confirmed that solutions will be presented to the Committee for discussion and their recommendation will be brought forward to Council in July or August 2024.

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East agree with the recommendation from the Huron East Recreation Advisory Committee and direct that the Fees and Charges By-law remain the same, as approved on January 23, 2024 that reflects report CS-24-02, approved on January 9, 2024 approving the unification of rates;

And That Council, in support of the recommendation from the Huron East Recreation Advisory Committee, directs staff to prepare a report regarding alternative approaches to support the local service groups.

Carried

12.4 CS-24-09, Purchase of a Zero Turn Lawn Mower for the Parks and Recreation Department

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the quote from Arva Grain Corporation of \$27,741.50, including HST, for the purchase of a 2024 3574 KW XCALIBER DIXIE CHOPPER for use by the Parks and Recreation staff for municipal grass cutting services.

Carried

12.5 EDO-24-07, 2024 Community Improvement Program

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approves the 2024 Community Improvement Program, as described in report EDO-24-07;

And Further That Council establishes a Community Improvement Program Committee utilizing the Economic Development Committee for this purpose, to develop the program guidelines and administer the program.

Carried

12.6 CBO-24-02, Repeal of Heritage Designation under By-law 18-1985 re 31 Goderich Street West, Seaforth

As Chair of the Heritage Committee, Councillor Wilbee, provided an overview of the discussion at the Heritage Committee and the reasoning behind the recommendation to accept the de-designation request and reported on the various efforts the Heritage Committee is taking to improve relationships and communications within the community.

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approves the recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee to accept the request for de-designation of 31 Goderich Street West, Seaforth and Repeal of By-law 18-1985;

And that the Clerk be directed to issue a Notice of Intention to Repeal By-law 18-1985, as prescribed in the Ontario Heritage Act.

Carried

13. Correspondence

14. Unfinished Business

15. Council Reports

15.1 Council Member Reports

15.1.1 County Council Report

In response to Councillor Steffler's request to the County on the movement of the location for the 'out of the cold' program, Mayor MacLellan confirmed that the location had changed to a new location, however, no explanation was available at the time.

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that County Council discussed the traffic lights in Blyth, noting that they operate on battery power for up to four hours and the County Engineer is currently investigating an extended battery life. It was reported that County approved improvements to County owned housing units; a Memorandum of Understanding with the G2G for the tunnel under a County Road West of Blyth; and that tenders for the tunnel replacement and Dashwood reconstruction were awarded.

15.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the Mayor, himself and several staff partook in a County wide emergency planning training session in Clinton, alongside all local municipalities and emergency response groups.

Councillor Wilbee noted she attended an event for Big Brothers and Sisters, as a representative for Huron East.

15.2 Requests by Members

15.3 Notice of Motion

15.4 Announcements

16. Other Business

17. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 040-2024, A By-law to Stop Up and Close Part of Bryans Drive and Anderson Drive, Brussels 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 Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 041-2024, A By-law to Dedicate Part of Block 34 on Plan 596 Brussels as a Public Highway forming Parts of Bryans Drive and Anderson Drive 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

18. Confirmatory By-law

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 042-2024, 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 Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

The time now being 8:12 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk