



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, November 19, 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 Community Services Lissa Berard; and Director of Public Works Barry Mills

Others Present:

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll

1. Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:30 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 Adoption of November 5, 2024 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes
- 1.2 239(2)(e) – potential litigation affecting the Municipality

And that CAO Brad McRoberts, Fire Chief Jay Arns (Item 1.2) 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.

Mayor MacLellan provided remarks on the success of the BMGCC grand opening and his attendance of the ribbon cutting for the Seaforth Hospital's new kitchen.

3. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 6:01 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported that Council went into closed session to receive an update on potential litigation affecting the Municipality.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

5. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated November 19, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Chartrand declared a Conflict of Interest to Items 12.3, FIN-24-12, SCBA Financing Agreement with the Seaforth Community Development Trust and 17.3, By-law 095-2024, A By-law to Authorize a Financing Agreement with the Seaforth Community Development Trust due being the Chair of the Seaforth Community Development Trust.

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

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

7.1 Regular Meeting – November 5, 2024

Carried

8. Consent Agenda

There were no requests to remove any items from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

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

8.1 City of Cambridge re: Lithium-Ion Importation and Safe Use

8.2 The County of Huron re: Huron Housing and Homelessness Monthly Share-Out

8.3 October 2024 Council Expenses**8.4** The Township of Papineau-Cameron re: Ontario Building Code

Carried

9. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations**10. Planning****10.1** Planner's Report re: New Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll provided an overview of the new PPS changes impacting Huron East and noted that changes will be made through Official Plan conformity updates, likely to occur over the next year.

The report was received for information.

11. Municipal Drains**12. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers****12.1** CLK-24-20, Council Remuneration Policy

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve Policy CLK-03, Council Remuneration Policy.

Carried

12.2 CLK-24-22, Council Composition – Council Review Advisory Committee Comments

Council thanked the Council Review Advisory Committee for their well written and detailed letter.

Mayor MacLellan provided an option to reduce Council to 7 members, which would entail one representative from each ward, Deputy Mayor and Mayor. Councillor Fisher agreed to the reduction of members but noted that he would like to see the removal of wards and all Councillors being elected at large.

Council discussed the proposed options and remaining status quo. Those in favour of remaining status quo noted the benefits of shared workload, education from an experienced ward counterpart, and the larger ward size, specifically regarding Tuckersmith. Benefits to reducing the size of Council consisted of the potential of an active election and candidate pool and cohesiveness of Huron East, while noting that any member of Council can learn from a more experienced member, regardless of the ward they represent.

Council noted that next steps could include a referendum on the ballot, although it pushes a decision to the next term or adding something with the next tax bill asking residents to pick on their preference.

It was noted that any further engagement would need to be concise and non-bias, with wording approved by Council. Due to the next tax bill not being issued until March 2025, it was suggested that this could push the decision too close to the end of Term.

Councillor Steffler motion that Council composition remain status quo and requested a recorded vote.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East make no changes regarding Council composition.

Carried

Yay: R. Chartrand, B. Dalton, D. Diehl, L. McGrath, A. McLellan, J. Morrison, J. Newell, J. Steffler, G. Wilbee

Nay: R. Fisher, B. MacLellan

12.3 FIN-24-12, SCBA Financing Agreement with the Seaforth Community Development Trust

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East consider the By-law to authorize the Municipality to enter into a financing agreement with the Seaforth Community Development Trust for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment for the Huron Eat Fire Department.

Carried [Conflict: R. Chartrand]

12.4 HR-24-04, New and Revised Employee Policies

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the updated Occupational Health and Safety Policy, Attendance and Absenteeism Policy and the new Code of Conduct, as outlined in report HR-24-04.

Carried

13. Correspondence

13.1 Seaforth Business Improvement Area (BIA) re: 2025 List of Directors

Moved by Councillor Dalton and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the appointment of the following 2024-2025 BIA Directors, as determined at the October 30, 2024 BIA Annual General Meeting:

Shelly Stanly, The Looking Glass and Spa, 2025-2026

Shannon Craig, McKillop Mutual Insurance Company, 2024-2025

Randy Nixon, Orr Insurance Brokers Inc., 2024-2025

Kelly Miller, Degree Fitness Seaforth, 2024-2025

Maureen Agar, Member at Large, 2025-2026

Justin Phelam, Seaforth Foodland, 2025-2026

Bevin Witmer, Robinson Chevrolet Inc., 2025-2026

Annette Scarrow, Beyond the Vines, 2024-2025

Carried

13.2 Brussels Santa Claus Parade Committee re: Parade Road Closure Request

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East temporarily close portions of George Street, Turnberry Street, Ellen Street and Ainley Street, in Brussels on December 7, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Carried

14. Unfinished Business

15. Council Reports

15.1 Council Member Reports

15.1.1 County Council Report

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that County Council approved a tender for a new walk-in fridge/freezer for Huronlea Home and that there is one submission for Huron County Warden election, with submissions ending November 20th.

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the Mayor and he attended an event for 85 years of service to the community for The Majestic Women's Institute on November 13th and the Warden's Banquet on November 14th.

Deputy Mayor McLellan report that he attended the Source Water Protection meeting where they discussed successes, ongoing projects, the Perth County Stewardship program and the Green Legacy program with Wellington County.

In response to Mayor MacLellan's inquiry on if the Conservation Authorities provide free trees, such as Poplar or Willow for a large plantation, Councillor Chartrand and Deputy Mayor McLellan confirmed that both Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) no longer provide free trees but rather offer help to find grants to lessen the cost.

15.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Councillor Fisher noted that the Seaforth Santa Claus parade will be held on Friday, November 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The Clerk will forward details to Council if they wish to participate.

15.2 Requests by Members

In response to Councillor McGrath, CAO Brad McRoberts noted that the previous request for budget impacts, such as OPP billing and preapproved items was provided at the Budget Workshop on November 18th.

15.3 Notice of Motion

15.4 Announcements

Councillor Wilbee invited Council to a play, she wrote, at the Egmondville Untied Church, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., noting that entry is a request for a free will offering.

16. Other Business

17. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Dalton:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 093-2024, A By-law to Temporarily Close Portions of George Street, Turnberry Street, Ellen Street and Ainley Street in 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 Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 094-2024, A By-law to Appoint an Acting Treasurer, 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 Diehl:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 095-2024, A By-law to Authorize a Financing Agreement with the Seaforth Community Development Trust 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 [Conflict: R. Chartrand]

Moved by Councillor Newell and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 096-2024, A By-law to Establish the Rates for Remuneration for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council 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 Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 097-2024, A By-law to Abandon the Keffer Municipal Drain 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 Dalton and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 098-2024, 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 McGrath and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

The time now being 6:49 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried