

JUNE 9, 2020 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Chambers, County Building
London, 1:00 pm, Tuesday, June 9, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Council met with all members present electronically. Warden Burghardt-Jesson presided.

Warden Burghardt-Jesson addressed County Council:

We certainly live in interesting times. 2020 will certainly be one for the record books. Just when we think the news of the day cannot get any more fascinating, concerning or troubling...we witness the events that we have all watched in the 2 weeks since we have met. At my local council meeting last week, I shared my personal thoughts on what I was witnessing. And while the protests seem to have become quieter and somewhat more subdued, the messaging of these protests cannot be ignored. Some of you would have seen my opening remarks through social media and while I don't want to revisit my remarks in its original form, I do want to share some of it with you. I'm sure my reflections are similar to yours and how you have addressed your communities.

It all comes from the question...as a municipal leader of a small rural Ontario municipality—what is my role? I see it as sharing with you my truth and humbly hoping it resonates with you as you grapple with what our neighbours are dealing with.

We witnessed this past weekend peaceful protests in Strathroy and the City of London. What a difference in imagery from protests we watched early on last week. The one thing in common was the passion of those protesting. It only confirmed that the concerns about suppression and bigotry are in our community. One could argue we are one improperly handled incident away from the violent experiences that as of now, we are only watching from afar. When someone believes they do not have a voice, stifling and not listening to that voice only provokes them to find other means to be heard. Without respectful conversation we cannot learn, we cannot change. As a municipal leader, it is my role...our role to ensure those respectful conversations can happen in our communities.

Every day when I wake up, I have a choice. I choose how I'm going to take on whatever the day is going to present me—some days it is easier than others—but every day I wake up and choose the way of love.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a Christian lesson—it is a lesson that goes across and beyond faiths. The story of the Good Samaritan challenges us to treat our neighbour as ourselves. It challenges us to ask ourselves—who is our neighbour? Racial prejudices or a prejudice of others, different in any way from us has always been a divider. We tend to distrust those that don't look or sound like us. Yet, the Samaritan didn't care about that. He showed us that racism/prejudice has no place when it comes to common decency—that at the end of the day we all belong to the same race—the human race.

And so I challenge you—to remind you—that every day is a choice; we must live and work together as equals, as brothers and sisters. Sometimes the choice is made for us. Georgia Representative John Lewi is quoted for saying -“We may not have chosen the time-but the time has chosen us.” While we are not front and center to the racial and prejudicial injustices facing many, we are community leaders and we must always set the tone for our communities.

*If we don't, then we choose chaos over community. In my office, I have this sign that says “DO BETTER.” As Maya Angelou said -“**Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.**”*

So while I know for all of us sitting around the virtual horseshoe community is the choice, we can always do better. I know I can. We must always work together for the good.

It all starts with a choice...

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the Province’s announcement of a Phase 2 opening. Middlesex County is part of that announcement and will be able to open under those directives. I would encourage our residents to read carefully through the county’s website and local social media what this means. But...it cannot go unnoticed or unrecognized, congratulations to our residents and businesses for adhering to restrictions imposed on us. Without that respect, we would not be participating in Phase 2. While the bulk of the COVID cases have been in the city, with the amount of travel between the county and the city, had we not respected the restrictions, this could have been a far different story. As more things open...remember..shop and support local...

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

4. MINUTES

- a) Minutes of the Middlesex County Council meeting held on May 26, 2020
The minutes were previously approved at the end of the May 26th meeting

5. DEPUTATIONS

- a) Strategic Plan Update
 - Presentation by Consultant, Jennifer Kirkham, Mischievous Cat Products Inc. on Strategic Plan.

6. ENQUIRIES OR NOTICES OF MOTION

- a) **Gypsy Moths**
Councillor DeViet inquired whether Mark Brown, Forestry Officer could provide Council with a report. She noted that there are infestations in Middlesex Centre municipal parks. A report will be presented at a future meeting of County Council.
- b) **TVDSB – Light Up Municipal Buildings for Graduates**
Councillor Elliott noted that the TVDSB is promoting lighting up municipal buildings in gold lights to celebrate the graduates this year on June 25, and inquired if the Middlesex County Building could participate. Chris Traini, County Engineer noted that he would work with the County's Building Maintenance Manager on this.
- c) **Brownfields**
Councillor Mayhew inquired whether the County would take an inventory of Brownfields. He noted that Southwest Middlesex has a few of them and they are challenging to remediate them. Staff will look into this and get back to Councillor Mayhew.

7. REPORTS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **2019 Middlesex-London Paramedic Service Annual Report**
 - Report and presentation from Neal Roberts, Director of Emergency Services and Chief, Middlesex-London Paramedic Service

Moved by Councillor Warwick
Seconded by Councillor Smith

That Middlesex County Council receive this report for information and direct the County Clerk to forward a copy of this report to the City of London Clerk for distribution to London City Council.

Carried.

- b) 2020 Property Tax Capping Parameters
 - Cindy Howard, General Manager Finance and Community Services/Treasurer

Moved by Councillor Vanderheyden

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

That Middlesex County Council approve the 2020 Property Tax Capping By-law to:

- 1) Maintain the exclusion of the multi-residential and industrial classes from capping; and
- 2) Exclude the commercial property class from capping for the 2020 and subsequent tax years

And that the 2020 Property Tax Capping By-law be presented to Middlesex County Council for final approval at the June 9, 2020 meeting.

Carried.

- c) Web Services, Support and Maintenance Cooperative Procurement Service Agreement
 - Report from Morgan Calvert, Director of ITS

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Richards

That the Corporation of the County of Middlesex approve the Web Services, Support and Maintenance Agreement with Digital Echidna; and that the necessary by-law be forwarded to County Council to authorize the Warden and the County Clerk to execute the Web Services, Support and Maintenance Agreement.

Carried.

- d) 2020/2021 Insurance Renewal
 - Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services and Chris Traini, County EngineerTony Commisso was available to answer questions.

Moved by Councillor Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Councillor DeViet

That the proposed 2020/21 insurance program as submitted by the Frank Cowan Company Limited with a premium of \$761,018 for twelve months plus applicable taxes to June 30, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

Staff will prepare a report for a future meeting on different options to reduce our insurance costs

9. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Virtual Books by Mayors

Each Mayor of each local municipality was invited to record a video of themselves reading a story. Library staff provided each Mayor with a kit – a book, instructions for filming, and a library device (iPad or iPod). When the mayors finished recording, staff would arrange to pick up the kit, and then the video would be edited and scheduled to air on YouTube. A new storytime is scheduled to run each Saturday at 9 am. Warden Burghardt-Jesson's reading ran on June 6th. Councillor Vanderheyden's story will run on June 13th.

10. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Warwick
Seconded by Councillor Cornelissen
Carried.

That first and second reading of the By-laws be given:
Carried.

#7055 - A BY-LAW to Adopt Municipal Options Related to Part IX of the Municipal Act, 2001; "Limitation on Taxes for Certain Property Classes

#7056 - A BY-LAW to Authorize the Execution of a Web Services, Support and Maintenance Cooperative Procurement Service Agreement between The Corporation of the County of Middlesex and

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

That third and final reading of the preceding By-laws be given.
Carried.

Note: The Confirming By-law will be approved at the end of the meeting

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. DELEGATIONS / REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Integrity Commissioner, Closed Meeting Investigator and Ombudsman
 - Report from Kathy Bunting, County Clerk

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

That Middlesex County Council approves the two (2) year contract extension with Independent Resolutions Inc. as the Integrity Commissioner/Closed Meeting Investigator/Ombudsman, and that the necessary by-law be forwarded to County Council to authorize the Warden and County Clerk to execute the agreement for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

Carried.

C. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. General Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$562,960.28
2. Planning Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$748.55
3. Electronic Payments for the month of May 2020 totalling \$2,188,618.19
4. Social Services Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$316,890.42
5. Strathmere Lodge Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$145,964.13
6. Road Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$526,697.06
7. MLPS Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$1,235,135.97
8. ITS Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$64,614.98
9. Economic Development Payables to June 1, 2020 totalling \$6,109.53

Moved by Councillor Elliott

Seconded by Councillor Ropp

That Items C.1 – CW through C.9 – CW, (Payables) be received for information.

Carried.

10. Strathmere Lodge - Family, Friend and Responsible Party Newsletter - June 2020
11. Third Report of the Middlesex County Library Board meeting held on May 26, 2020
12. AMO Updates on COVID-19 from May 27 to June 1, 2020

13. Letter from Dillon Consulting with respect to the Highway401/Westchester Bourne Underpass Replacement and Interchange Improvements in Thames Centre
14. Copy of the Ontario Renovates Program – Homeowners Application Form which is administered by City of London Housing Division. Middlesex County residents can apply if they meet the eligible criteria. This information has been posted on the County’s web site
15. Copy of the County/City Liaison Committee Report from its meeting held on May 20, 2020
16. Social Service Update
 - Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services
17. “Good News Alert” Karen Vecchio, MP for Elgin-Middlesex-London is seeking stories or photos that demonstrate incredible community spirit due to the COVID-19 pandemic
18. Minutes of the Middlesex Economic Resiliency Task Force meeting held on May 13, 2020 and the Middlesex Economic Resiliency Task Force Survey Summaries

Moved by Councillor Warwick

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That Items C.10 – CW through C.18 – CW be received for information.

Carried.

12. INQUIRIES

- a) Social Housing Management Oversight Committee
Bill Rayburn, CAO, noted that we sent a letter to the City of London requesting a meeting of the Social Housing Management Oversight Committee be convened.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Next County Council Meetings:
 - Tuesday, June 23, 2020
 - Tuesday, July 14, 2020
 - Tuesday, August 11, 2020
 - Tuesday, September 8, 2020
 - Tuesday, September 22, 2020
 - Tuesday, October 13, 2020
 - Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Tuesday, November 24, 2020
Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm - Inaugural
Tuesday, December 15, 2020

10. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Deferred from earlier in the meeting

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Warwick

That first and second reading of the Confirming By-law be given:

Carried.

#7057 - A By-Law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation
of the County of Middlesex – June 9, 2020

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That third and final reading of the Confirming By-law be given.

Carried.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, November 14, 2020 – Middlesex County Warden's Banquet

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Smith

Seconded by Councillor Brennan

That the meeting adjourn at 2:40 p.m.

Carried.

Kathleen Bunting County Clerk

Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden