

MARCH 23, 2021 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Chambers, County Building
London, 1:00 pm, Tuesday, March 23, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS

Warden Burghardt-Jesson addressed Council as follows:

"This weekend was certainly a wonderful kick off to spring. What a welcome treat Mother Nature provided us. I took the opportunity to begin cleaning up our place and did I ever get a good workout picking up all the sticks and branches we lost over the winter! I did have to run out for a couple of errands and did take notice of everyone taking advantage of the weekend...whether cleaning up yards, walking trails or sidewalks and in parks, or visiting patios that were able to open. It was a boost to the spirit to see everyone out. I know your municipalities are all coming to life and it is so welcome after winter and pandemic living. That being said, we still have to be incredibly mindful of respecting protocols and parameters still in front of us. We still have to remind our residents to please keep their bubble tight...as tempting as it is to expand it...we are still not out of the woods and your social circle needs to be a small one. Continue with the physical distancing and do not stop wearing masks—it is still mandated. While we see promises of making our way out of this, there is still work to be done. That being said, I'm proud of the efforts our residents and businesses are putting in. It's hard work, but it is clear we are in this together.

I have had the privilege to take on a few volunteer shifts at the Vaccination Clinic in Mt. Brydges. What a great experience it has been. I want to thank everyone involved in making the clinic come together as it has. It is a real team there and it is evident as soon as you walk through the doors. Much of this is due to the efforts of Bettina, John, Chris and the CERV team. We are fortunate to have this group under our umbrella and I know they have been excited to have been deployed at the clinic. Our commitment there is coming to an end...but our presence there has made a difference to the organization there. Again...thanks to everyone involved."

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 Budget Meeting of Middlesex County Council held on March 9, 2021 at 10:00 am

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That the minutes of the Budget Meeting Middlesex County Council held on March 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried.

- b) Minutes of the Middlesex County Council meeting held on March 9, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That the minutes of the Middlesex County Council meeting held on March 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS

- a) Enbridge Gas' London Lines Project
- Presentation by Steven Jelich, Director, Southwest Region Operations, Enbridge Gas Inc. Also part of the presentation were Brian Lennie, Darryl Arnold and Allison Chong of Enbridge Gas.
- b) MPAC
- Presentation by Brenda Slater, Account Manager, Zone 1, Municipal & Stakeholder Relations and Anne Haines, Regional Manager, MPAC

6. ENQUIRIES OR NOTICES OF MOTION

- a) Rail Safety Standards Improvement Plan
Councillor Vanderheyden inquired about the rail safety standards improvements.
The County Engineer will prepare a report for a future meeting.
- b) Housing
Councillor Vanderheyden addressed council with respect to housing as follows:
"Our municipalities are benefiting from an increased interest in development and demand for new homes. This increase has occurred in combination with a substantial rise in the cost of housing, which, like many municipalities across Ontario, appears to be associated with the corresponding decrease in affordable housing options available for either

rent or ownership. The lack of affordable housing options is threatening the growth and vibrancy of our community.

Strathroy-Caradoc staff and Council members have received concerns about housing affordability from a number of sources, including those: • who work with vulnerable populations; • who work to attract and retain employers in our community; • families who wish to stay in our community but are being priced out; and • who work in land development industries who are pivoting to respond to tightening lending conditions and new market demands.

The recent increase in housing construction has focused primarily on the development of single detached dwellings that are ownership tenure. There has been virtually no construction of ownership dwelling types other than single-detached dwellings / vacant land condominiums. While some rental housing have been constructed, much of it can be characterized as being high-end rental townhomes. As housing prices increase, it appears that many households are being moved out of, or away from, the single-detached home ownership market.

Households who are particularly vulnerable to the increasing price of houses include those with low and moderate incomes and those in households dependent on one income (with or without dependents).

The local housing market is missing several key housing types and tenures necessary to fill in this emerging housing gap, being affordable:

- apartment units;
- street-level multiple dwellings types that are both available for rent or ownership such as townhouses, semi-detached, link, duplexes; and
- low-rise multiple units such as four-plexes, six-plexes, etc.

While the task of encouraging missing middle housing is challenged by public perception and development costs, the need for new affordable housing stock is real and necessary to:

- 1) Accommodate an aging population living in households with fewer people;
- 2) accommodate households with incomes that are not keeping pace with housing price increases; and
- 3) attract and retain employees and youth for the benefit of a vibrant and financially sustainable community.

December 2019 the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc received a report highlighting growth management and housing. I have used parts of the report in my comments.

Middlesex County Women's Caucus has heard about housing need.

Last week I sent a note to the Warden, CAO and Treasurer to share how Lambton County as an upper tier government is taking a role with respect to a countywide housing initiative.

My request today is to receive a report on what plans Middlesex County has addressing attainable housing in Middlesex. Lambton County has spearheaded the development of 74 new units and I am curious to know whether the County has a plan to address this issue in any way?"

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That staff prepare a report on housing for a future meeting of County Council
Carried.

7. REPORTS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Tender for Acquisition of New Ambulances
- Report from Neal Roberts, Chief, MLPS

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Smith

That the tender submitted by Crestline Coach be approved; and that Middlesex-London Paramedic Service be directed to proceed with the purchase of ambulances through Crestline Coach.
Carried.

- b) Sixth Lease Amending and Extension Agreement for Ambulance Station Station 4, 1601 Trossacks Avenue, London
- Report from Neal Roberts, Chief, MLPS

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

That the Sixth Lease Amending and Extension Agreement between and the County of Middlesex for the leasing of the property at 1601 Trossacks Avenue, London be approved; and that the necessary by-law be presented to County Council to authorize the Warden and the County Clerk to sign the Lease Renewal Agreement.
Carried.

- c) South West Local Health Integration Network (SWLHIN) Long Term Care Home Service Accountability Agreement (L-SAA) – “Extending Letter”
- Report from Brent Kerwin, Strathmere Lodge Administrator

Moved by Councillor Cornelissen

Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

That the Extending Letter for the Long-Term Care Home Service Accountability Agreement be approved, and that the Warden and County Clerk be authorized to sign the Extending Letter on behalf of the County.
Carried.

- d) 2021 Tax Rates
 - Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services

Moved by Councillor Warwick

Seconded by Councillor Ropp

That the 2021 Tax Ratios for the County of Middlesex remain the same as 2020 as listed below:

Property Class	Tax Ratio
Residential/Farm	1.0000
New Multi Residential	1.0000
Multi Residential	1.7697
Farmlands	0.2500
Commercial	1.1449
Industrial	1.7451
Pipelines	1.0555
Managed Forests	0.2500
Landfill	1.1000

And that the Tax Ratio By-law be forwarded to County Council for approval.

Carried.

9. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- a) National Crossing Guard Day
Councillor Vanderheyden announced that National Crossing Guard Day is on Wednesday.
- b) FCM
Councillor Vanderheyden advised County Council that she had submitted her nomination papers for President of FCM

10. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Elliott

Seconded by Councillor DeViet

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

Carried.

- #7102 - A BY-LAW to adopt the 2021 Budget of the County of Middlesex
- #7103 - A BY-LAW to adopt tax rates and the payment schedule of the 2021 County levy by the lower-tier municipalities in the County of Middlesex
- #7104 - A BY-LAW to provide for remuneration payable to the Warden

- #7105 - A BY-LAW to provide for remuneration and expenses, including convention expenses, payable to Members of Council
- #7106 - A BY-LAW to enter into a Sixth Lease Amending and Extension Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Middlesex, the Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services Authority, and John Brotzel, with respect to leasing lands and property at 1601 Trossacks Avenue, London for the purposes of the Trossacks Ambulance Station 4
- #7107 - A BY-LAW to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute a Central Garage Tower Agreement between The Corporation of the County of Middlesex and the Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- #7108 - A By-Law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the County of Middlesex – March 23, 2021

Moved by Councillor Brennan

Seconded by Councillor Warwick

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

Carried.

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. DELEGATIONS / REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS

B. ACTION ITEMS

None.

C. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Letter from FCM advising that the County of Middlesex has been approved for a \$50,000.00 grant from the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP)
2. Poster from Infrastructure Canada announcing \$400 million for Canada's First Active Transportation Fund and the development of Canada's First National Active Transportation Strategy
3. Public Sector Salary Disclosure
 - Report from Cindy Howard, Manager of Finance and Community Services
4. Middlesex-London Board of Health Update for February 2021

5. Letter from the Municipal Engineers Association announcing the 2021 Bursary Awards Program
6. AMO Update entitled "Phase II of Vaccinations Plan, Bill 257 – Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, and Firefighter Training Modernization" dated March 5, 2021
7. AMO Update entitled "Municipal Councillor Code of Conduct Consultations" dated March 8, 2021
8. AMO Update entitled "More Social Services Relief Funding to Protect the Homeless during COVID-19 and Ontario Vaccine Rollout Update" dated March 10, 2021
9. Copy of minutes from the "Committee to Form a Middlesex County Archives", dated February 8, 2021
10. 2020 Remuneration and Expenses
 - Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance and Community Services
11. OGRA Alert entitled "Amendments to the Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure Regulation"

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

That Items C.1 – CW through C.11 – CW be received for information.

Carried.

12. INQUIRIES

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Next County Council Meetings:
 - Tuesday, April 13, 2021
 - Tuesday, April 27, 2021
 - Tuesday, May 11, 2021
 - Tuesday, May 25, 2021
 - Tuesday, June 8, 2021
 - Tuesday, June 22, 2021

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – Middlesex County Wardens Charity Golf Tournament (Tentative)


15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Richards

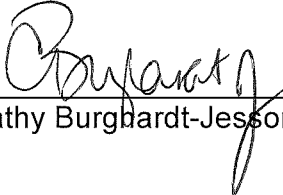
Seconded by Councillor Warwick

That the meeting adjourn at 2:32 p.m.

Carried.



Kathleen Bunting, County Clerk



Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden