

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 1:00 PM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London

Members Present Warden Burghardt-Jesson
 Councillor Smith
 Councillor DeViet
 Councillor Brennan
 Councillor Ropp
 Councillor Cornelissen
 Councillor Mayhew
 Councillor Vanderheyden
 Councillor Richards
 Councillor Warwick
 Councillor Elliott

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WARDEN'S REMARKS**

Warden Burghardt-Jesson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Warden Burghardt-Jesson addressed Council as follows:

"Today marks the last day I will be in front of you as Warden of Middlesex County. I hope you will indulge me a few minutes of your time as I reflect on the past two (2) years.

It has been said over and over, who could have predicted when I was first elected in December of 2019, that we would be facing such a time a mere 3 months later. For you around the horseshoe that have been Warden and to the Past Wardens that have reached out to me from time to time, the common sentiment has been shared about the feeling of regret of not experiencing a "typical Wardenship." And while I appreciate the remarks and where they have come from, I have to tell you, I'm ok with it not being a "typical Wardenship."

While I would not wish another pandemic or crisis on any Warden to come, leading through this time has been both personally challenging and gratifying.

I have been beyond proud of the work that we at the County have accomplished during my term. As I have noted many times, from the outside looking in, work never stopped and we continued on. Our employees rose to the challenge of working from home—for those whose jobs allowed for it and the unique demands it required of them. We couldn't have done that without our stellar IT department.

I do want to acknowledge our team at Strathmere Lodge. There is no question, in the early days, LTC was the face of the pandemic. It was incredibly stressful times for everyone, residents, families and of course our staff. To this day, we are still experiencing the effects of burnout and exhaustion. I want to extend to Brent and his group that it never went unnoticed. If you work in LTC, you have a calling that many of us don't have. You certainly showed us why you work where you do. Thank you.

To our Middlesex London Paramedics. You became an integral part of the COVID-19 response. The bus sure came in handy when you brought testing out to communities across Middlesex. And of course I don't have to remind anyone of how involved you were with vaccinations. Paramedics were part of the mass vaccination clinics but most importantly the team bought into this idea of mine when I approached them asking, how could we be part of bringing vaccinations TO people. Without a waiver, MLPS supported my idea and I couldn't be prouder of the clinics that were hosted in our communities and the many workplaces across the County and City.

Every department experienced its own challenges and I can't speak to all of them, but our staff should know that the work put in to everything you faced, everything that was asked of you was appreciated by all of council. I am proud of the work that was done in Economic Development, highlighting all that Middlesex has to offer. In Social Services, creative ideas came to the table supporting our most vulnerable during these times. I think this council will go down as the council of strategic planning. The work we accomplished with many departments puts us on a path for great work to continue.

I can't let the work of the Women's Caucus go unmentioned. I am so excited with the connections we are making across the County. We will continue to advocate for the issues facing rural women and families and I know we will see results because of this work. I can't thank our male colleagues around the horseshoe enough for your unanimous support of this initiative

I want to take this time to thank all of our senior department staff. You are incredible ambassadors for Middlesex and I know with all of you at the helm, we will continue to move Middlesex forward. Bill, it has been quite the ride. I would

dare say we have both learned and grown with having worked with each other as we have. Thanks for always putting Middlesex first.

And to all of you around the virtual horseshoe. How fortunate am I to work with you? You lead in your communities and continue to inspire me with your passion for our Middlesex. I have faith in every one of you and know that Middlesex is on the map because of you and your commitment.

So what have I learned through all of this? Well, first of all I've learned when things seem so big and unsurmountable, when you have a team, the work doesn't seem nearly so daunting. I have learned that when you thought things couldn't be, well actually when they have to be...they will be. When you have incredible employees, you can accomplish much.

I have also learned a little more about leadership. I have had many conversations with my brother during this time. He is one person who I can banter back and forth with, who I use as a sounding board. He shared with a scene from the Sopranos, between Tony and his most loyal confident Sylvio. The scene has Sylvio challenging Tony on his decision making; that he is acting out of pride, to which Tony replies, what do you know about it? Tony reminds him that in making decisions he is responsible for all the decisions and how he has to think about how one decision affects everything else. That is he is in charge and in the end he is alone with the decision. I've gone back to watch the scene many times and I am fascinated by it. There is so much to take away from it and this is what I have taken. As leaders, yes, we are ultimately responsible...but we cannot be alone in our decision making. We must be mindful that in leadership decisions, paths cannot be forged in isolation. In determining how the effects of a certain decision will filter down we have to have voices at the table. We have to park our ego at the door. If pride ever gets in the way, judgement is clouded and the very reason we find ourselves at this table will have been lost.

I am proud of the table at Middlesex. I have every optimism that the future is bright for our community. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve it as I have."

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

None.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

4. MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the November 9, 2021 Meeting of County Council

4.b Minutes of the November 9, 2021 Visioning Session of County Council

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Warwick

THAT the Minutes of the County Council meeting held on November 9, 2021 and the Minutes of the Visioning Session of Council held on November 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

5. DEPUTATIONS

None.

6. ENQUIRIES OR NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

7. REPORTS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a EMS Offload Delay Nurse Program

Report from Neal Roberts, Chief, MLPS.

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT a renewed annual Agreement between the London Health Sciences Centre, the County of Middlesex and the Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services Authority for the EMS Offload Delay Nurse Program be approved; and that the Warden and the County Clerk; and the Chief, Middlesex-London Paramedic Service be authorized to execute the attached agreement, subject to agreement by London Health Sciences Centre, and that the necessary by-law be forwarded to County Council for approval.

Carried

9. COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Cornelissen briefed Council on the London Middlesex Community Housing (LMCH) meeting held on November 18, 2021. At the meeting the Committee considered a \$40 million project in partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Company for the regeneration of properties in the City of London. Councillor Cornelissen was advised that there would be no investment in the County of Middlesex as part of this project as there were no properties that met the project criteria. Staff will be meeting with the City on this issue in the coming weeks and will report back to Council.

10. BY-LAWS

10.a #7140 - A BY-LAW to Authorize signing of an Agreement for an Offload Delay Nurse Program

10.b #7141 - A BY-LAW to Confirm the Proceedings of the November 23, 2021 meeting of County Council

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor DeViet

THAT the by-laws be given first and second reading.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the by-laws be given third and final reading.

Carried

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11.a DELEGATIONS / REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS

11.a.1 Middlesex County Connect - Update to Middlesex County Council
Presentation from Taylor Mooney, Project Coordinator.

11.b ACTION ITEMS

11.b.1 2022 Budget Timetable
Report from Cindy Howard, General Manager Finance and Community Services/Treasurer.

Moved by Councillor Cornelissen
Seconded by Councillor Vanderheyden

THAT the following members of Council be appointed to the Budget Committee for 2022: the 2022 Warden, the Immediate Past Warden, and Councillors Ropp and DeViet; and that the proposed 2022 budget timetable, be approved.

Carried

11.b.2 Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, 2022-2024

Report from Chris Traini, County Engineer.

Moved by Councillor DeViet
Seconded by Councillor Brennan

THAT Council approve the agreement with Guild Electric Ltd. for the emergency and routine maintenance on electrical traffic control devices for a term of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 and that the necessary by-law be forwarded to Council for approval.

Carried

11.c CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

11.c.1 Budget Variance Report - October 2021

Report from Cindy Howard, GM Finance and Community Services/Treasurer.

11.c.2 Final Approval of Garden Grove Condominium, Plan of Condominium; File 39T-SC-CDM1901, Strathroy-Caradoc

11.c.3 Final Approval of 2638477 Ontario Limited (Palumbo Developments Inc.), Plan of Condominium; File 39T-MC-CDM1901, Middlesex Centre

11.c.4 Strathmere Logde Census Report for October 2021

11.c.5 Monthly Board of Health Update - October 2021

11.c.6 OEB Notice to Customers of Enbridge Gas - Rate Change 2022

11.c.7 AMO Policy Update - November 4, 2021

11.c.8 2021-2022 Invest in Middlesex Business Profile Videos - Media Release

11.c.9 Spotlight on Four Counties Health Services - Media Release

Moved by Councillor Richards

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

THAT Items 11.c.1 through 11.c.9 be received for information.

Carried

12. INQUIRIES

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.a Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Mayhew

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed to the public at 1:59 pm in order to consider labour relations or employee negotiations with respect a Tentative Collective Agreement with CUPE Local 2018; and a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of Council with respect to Land Ambulance Operations, pursuant to subsection 239(2)(d) and (k), respectively, of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried

13.a.1 Tentative Agreement with CUPE Local 2018

Report from Jessica Ngai, Human Resources Manager.

13.a.2 Land Ambulance Operational Review

Report from Bill Rayburn, CAO

Moved by Councillor Ropp

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

THAT Council resume from its Closed Session at 2:24 pm.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Warwick
Seconded by Councillor Richards

THAT County Council ratify the Memorandum of Settlement dated November 2, 2021 and authorize the Warden and the Clerk to sign a new Collective Agreement effective July 1, 2021 to expire June 30, 2025.

Carried

13.b Next Meetings

Thursday, December 2, 2021 - 4:00pm (Inaugural)

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 4:00pm (Inaugural)

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.a Warden's Banquet - Saturday, November 27, 2021

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Smith

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

That the meeting adjourn at 2:28 pm.

Carried



Marci Ivanic, County Clerk



Warden