

ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 22, 2019

Council Present: Warden Duncan McPhail
Deputy Warden Grant Jones
Councillor Bob Purcell
Councillor Sally Martyn
Councillor Tom Marks
Councillor Dave Mennill
Councillor Dominique Giguère
Councillor Ed Ketchabaw
Councillor Mary French

Staff Present: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer
Jim Bundschuh, Director of Financial Services
Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services
Amy Thomson, Director of Human Resources
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services
Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services
Alan Smith, General Manager of Economic Development
Steve Evans, Manager of Planning (report only)
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Elgin County Council met this 22nd day of October, 2019 in the Council Chambers, at the County Administration Building, St. Thomas at 9:00 a.m. with Warden McPhail in the chair.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 8, 2019 be adopted.

- Motion Carried.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

4. PRESENTING PETITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Hospice of Elgin Update – Laura Sherwood, Director of Hospice Partnerships, St. Joseph’s Health Care Society

The Director of Hospice Partnerships, with members of the Elgin Hospice Planning Committee, provided an update on the recent Hospice of Elgin provincial announcement and requested support from Elgin County to assist in raising the necessary \$9.5 million to build the Hospice.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that Elgin County Council defer the request for \$2 million from the Elgin Hospice Planning Committee to the 2020 budget deliberations.

- Motion Carried.

5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that we do now move into Committee Of The Whole Council.

- Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, OUTSIDE BOARDS AND STAFF

6.1 Final Approval for a Plan of Subdivision – Kokomo Beach – Manager of Planning

The Manager of Planning presented the report advising Council that final approval was given on September 30, 2019 for a plan of subdivision in Port Stanley comprised of 30 lots for single detached dwellings in a multi-phase development.

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that the report titled “Final Approval for a Plan of Subdivision – Kokomo Beach” from the Manager of Planning dated October 8, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.2 Land Severances – Unsolicited Conveyance of Lands – Director of Engineering Services and Manager of Planning

The Director of Engineering Services presented the report recommending that Council maintain its policy to not accept unsolicited lands to accommodate Land Division Consent Applications.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that the report titled “Land Severances – Unsolicited Conveyance of Lands” from the Director of Engineering Services and Manager of Planning dated October 11, 2019 be received and filed; and that the County of Elgin policy to not accept unsolicited lands to accommodate Land Division Consent applications that have otherwise not been previously requested or required by the County be maintained while Bill 88, Planning Amendment Act, 2019 is under consideration; and that staff prepare a follow-up report which includes legal opinion as to potential repercussions on repealing the County’s current policy not to accept unsolicited lands to accommodate Land Division Consent applications, as well as a legal opinion and report which considers an exemption for Notice of Application For Consent Application No. E 21/19 made by Vanquaethem Farms Ltd.

- Motion Carried.

6.3 Phragmites Inventory Findings – Director of Engineering Services

The Director of Engineering Services presented the report updating Council on the inventory findings of invasive Phragmites colony locations within the County road network recently completed by Engineering Services staff.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

Resolved that the report titled “Phragmites Inventory Findings” from the Director of Engineering Services dated October 10, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.4 **King George VI Lift Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Construction Detour Plan – Director of Engineering Services**

The Director of Engineering Services presented the report detailing the proposed construction detour plan to be implemented for the duration of the King George VI Lift Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Marks

Resolved that the report titled “King George VI Lift Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Construction Detour Plan” from the Director of Engineering Services dated October 10, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.5 **Small-Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class – Director of Financial Services**

The Director of Financial Services presented the report recommending that the optional 75% tax reduction in the Small-Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class introduced by the province be included in the 2020 budget deliberations. The intent of this provincial initiative is to provide sustainable property tax treatment to farmers who diversify their operations by engaging in small-scale processing or retail activities as an extension of their farming business.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Marks

Resolved that the optional 75% reduction in the Small-Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class tax ratio be included in the 2020 budget deliberations for Council’s consideration; and that the report titled “Small-Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class” from the Director of Financial Services dated October 7, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.6 **2020 Manulife Benefits Renewal Forecast – Director of Human Resources**

The Director of Human Resources presented the report informing Council of the 2020 projected rates for the County of Elgin’s group benefit program, which is subject for renewal on March 1, 2020.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that the report titled “2020 Manulife Benefits Renewal Forecast” from the Director of Human Resources dated October 22, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

Council recessed at 10:04 a.m. and reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

6.7 **Ministry of Health – Organizational Realignment – Chief Administrative Officer**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the report outlining the highlights of the organizational realignment of the Ministry of Health.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Marks

Resolved that the report titled “Ministry of Health – Organizational Realignment” from the Chief Administrative Officer dated October 14, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.8 **Community Engagement – Strategic Plan Survey Distribution – Chief Administrative Officer**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the report outlining the methods that will be utilized to distribute a public survey that will help inform Council's Strategic Plan.

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that the report titled "Community Engagement – Strategic Plan Survey Distribution" from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated October 12, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

6.9 **Review of Draft Council Committee By-Law – Chief Administrative Officer**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented a draft "Committee By-Law – a By-Law to Define the Mandate and Meeting Procedures for Committees Established by the Corporation of the County of Elgin" for Council's review and future enactment.

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

WHEREAS pursuant to Procedural By-Law 18-38, Section 35 (b) which states that "Council shall adopt terms of reference and these terms of reference shall be reviewed with each term of Council and prior to any new Committee appointments"; be it therefore resolved that Council hereby review draft By-Law for enactment at a future meeting; and that this By-Law shall apply to Council's Committees and local boards where applicable; and that any sections of By-Law 18-38 inconsistent with this By-Law be removed and amendments be presented to Council at a future meeting; and further that the report titled "Review of Draft Council Committee By-Law" from the Chief Administrative Officer dated September 28, 2019 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

7. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 **Items for Consideration**

1. Municipality of Bayham requesting that Elgin County Council reconsider its policy of September 11, 2018 re Land Severances – Unsolicited Conveyance of Lands to facilitate rural economic development.

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that the correspondence from the Municipality of Bayham requesting Elgin to reconsider its policy regarding the unsolicited conveyance of lands as part of Land Division Consent Applications be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

7.2 **Items for Information (Consent Agenda)**

1. Kim Carder, Wallacetown Agricultural Society, thanking County Council for the grant funding and donations to the Ellis Sifton Pavilion.
2. The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks acknowledging receipt of Warden McPhail's letter regarding invasive Phragmites in Elgin County.

3. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health with an update on Public Health and Emergency Health Services Modernization.

Moved by: Councillor Mennill
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that Correspondence Items #1-3 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members

None.

8.2 Notice of Motion

None.

8.3 Matters of Urgency

The Chief Administrative Officer requested that three (3) additional items be added to the agenda, including two (2) additional items to be considered in closed session, as well as an additional report from the Director of Engineering Services recommending that the contract for the Chatham Street Slope Stability project be awarded to Birnam Excavating Ltd.

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that Birnam Excavating Ltd. be selected for the Chatham Street Slope Stability Project, Port Burwell tender Contract No. 2019-32 at a total price of \$420,129.47 exclusive of HST.; and that the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the contracts; and further that Council consider two (2) additional items in closed session regarding property matters and contract negotiations.

- Motion Carried.

9. CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that we do now proceed into closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss matters under Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

In-Camera Item #1

(k) 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 the municipality or local board

In-Camera Item #2

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board

In-Camera Item #3

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – HR Organizational Review

In-Camera Item #4

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – Organizational Review

In-Camera Item #5

(k) 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 the municipality or local board – Fire Training Officer/Community Emergency Management Coordinator Agreement (VERBAL)

- Motion Carried.

10. RECESS

None.

11. MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that we do now rise and report.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #1

Moved by: Councillor Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Mennill

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #2

Moved by: Councillor Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #3 – HR Organizational Review

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Martyn

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #4 – Organizational Review

Moved by: Councillor Purcell
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

In-Camera Item #5 – Fire Training Officer/Community Emergency Management
Coordinator Agreement

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor French

Resolved that staff proceed as directed.

- Motion Carried.

12. MOTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by: Councillor Martyn
Seconded by: Councillor Purcell

Resolved that we do now adopt recommendations of the Committee Of The Whole.

- Motion Carried.

13. CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

13.1 By-law No. 19-39 – Confirming all Actions and Proceedings

BEING a By-law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the October 22, 2019 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor French
Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

Resolved that By-law No. 19-39 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

- Motion Carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Marks
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Resolved that we do now adjourn at 11:56 a.m. to meet again on November 26, 2019 at the County Administration Building Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m.

- Motion Carried.

Julie Gonyou,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Duncan McPhail,
Warden.