

MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

October 6, 2021

Lambton County Council was in session via electronic meeting at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

In-Camera

#1: Weber/Rombouts: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021, pursuant to s. 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive advice, including an associated report, subject to solicitor-client privilege regarding a proposed Council mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, in accordance with section 239(2)(f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

The Clerk noted that County Council adopted the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 and received advice from the legal counsel of the County regarding a proposed Council mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy.

Medical Officer of Health Update on COVID-19

Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Lambton County and responded to questions from County Councillors with respect to same. The [video stream](#) of the meeting can be watched on the Lambton County website.

Minutes of Council (Open Session)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 were presented.

#2: White/Ferguson: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

Affordable Internet

CC 10-04-21 A letter from Erin Kwarciak, Clerk, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, dated August 31, 2021 regarding a resolution that the Town of Plympton-Wyoming passed at its August 25th Council meeting to support Chatham-Kent Council's request that the Federal and Provincial Governments support affordable internet for all Canadians.

#3: Bradley/Stark: That Lambton County Council endorse correspondence CC 10-04-21 from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, regarding their support for the following resolution from Chatham-Kent Council, as passed at its August 9, 2021 meeting:

Whereas internet connectivity is a basic necessity and essential utility for the vast majority of Canadians;

Whereas too many Canadians struggle to afford reliable, high-speed internet services, or do not have access to broadband internet at all;

Whereas the need for high-speed and affordable internet is always critical, but is even more so now as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown it is required for education, work, and health care;

Whereas independent studies have consistently shown that Canadians pay some of the highest prices for internet in the world and that internet prices have increased year over year;

Whereas the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) 2019 Rates Order set wholesale internet prices that would facilitate greater competition and promote innovative broadband services and more affordable prices for consumers;

Whereas the 2019 Rates Order was based on a rigorous, evidence—based, 4-year long regulatory process, and was upheld on appeal by unanimous decision of the Federal Court of Appeal, while the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Cabinet declined to review it;

Whereas on May 27, 2021, the CRTC decided to reverse its 2019 Rates Order, effectively guaranteeing that internet prices will continue to rise for consumers;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Chatham—Kent call on the Federal Cabinet, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and ISED Minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne to overrule the CRTC's reversal and immediately implement the evidence-based 2019 Rates Order.

Be it further resolved that the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Industry, local MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all 444 Ontario municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be sent correspondence of Council's resolution along with the attached letter.

Carried.

Private Member's Bill - C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act

CC 10-05-21 A letter from Erin Kwarciak, Clerk, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, dated August 31, 2021 regarding a resolution that the Town of Plympton-Wyoming passed at its August 25th Council meeting to support the Council of the City of Kitchener's motion requesting that the Federal and Provincial Governments support MP Peter Julian's motion M-84 Anti-hate Crimes and Incidents and Private Member's Bill - C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act.

#4: Napper/White: That Lambton County Council endorse correspondence CC 10-05-21 from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, regarding their support for the following resolution from the City of Kitchener, as passed at its June 28, 2021 Council meeting:

WHEREAS racism and hate crimes in Kitchener have been on the rise since the start of the global pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener continues to seek opportunities to dismantle systemic racism; and,

WHEREAS the City's Strategic Plan has identified Caring Community as a priority, and the proposed motion M-84 Anti-hate crimes and incidents and private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act supports several of the bodies of work currently being moved forward under this strategic goal; and,

WHEREAS MP Peter Julian's motion M-84 Anti-hate crimes and incidents and private member's bill Bill—C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act is an opportunity to make all Canadians feel safer in the communities that they live;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener endorses MP Peter Julian's private member's motion, Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and his private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Parm Gill, to the local MP's and MPP's, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Association of Municipalities Ontario, and all other municipalities in Ontario.

Carried.

Increasing Problem of "Renovictions" in Ontario

CC 10-06-21 A letter from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, The City of Sarnia, dated September 17, 2021 regarding a resolution that was passed by The City of Sarnia at its September 13, 2021 Council meeting requesting the Ontario Government to address "Renovictions" in the province. Sarnia City Council is seeking consideration from Lambton County Council and possible endorsement on the following resolution:

That Sarnia City Council request that the Government of Ontario take additional and meaningful steps to address the ever increasing problem of "Renovictions" in the Province of Ontario. Citizens and communities are hurt by these unscrupulous practices which can and does directly impact the affordable housing crisis, as well as inflict damage (both financially and mentally) particularly on our most vulnerable citizens; and

That this correspondence also be sent to other Municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and possible endorsement.

#5: White/Bradley: That Lambton County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence CC 10-06-21 from the City of Sarnia.

Carried.

Covid-19 Proof of Vaccination for Council Members

CC 10-07-21 A letter from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, The City of Sarnia, dated September 17, 2021 regarding a resolution that was passed by The City of Sarnia at its September 13, 2021 Council meeting, which requires Sarnia City Council members and City Council committee appointees to provide proof of double vaccination to participate at in-person meetings. Sarnia City Council is requesting Lambton County Council to consider the following resolution:

That all members of Sarnia City Council, as well as all City Council committee appointees be required to provide proof of double vaccination for "Covid-19" by Oct. 31, 2021. Failing proof of said inoculation, members of all bodies will be forbidden from participating at in-person meetings until proof of immunization is provided; and

That the motion be forwarded to the County of Lambton requesting that they follow suit with a similar motion requiring proof of immunization for Covid-19 by their elected body.

#6: Stark/Loosley: That correspondence CC 10-07-21 be received and filed.

Carried.

Report Requiring a Motion

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated October 6, 2021 Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Policy - Council Members

#7: Hand/Weber: That the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Members attached hereto as Appendix "A" be adopted effective October 6, 2021.

A recorded vote starting with Councillor Loosley was requested by Councillor Bradley on motion #7 of this day's minutes.

Councillor	Vote
S. Arnold	Yes (3)
M. Bird	No (3)
D. Boushy	Yes (3)
M. Bradley	Yes (3)
A. Broad	Yes (1)
D. Cook	Yes (2)
D. Ferguson	Yes (1)
B. Hand	Yes (1)
B. Loosley	Yes (2)
K. Marriott	Yes (1)
S. Miller	Yes (2)
L. Napper	Yes (3)
J. Rombouts	No (2)
M. Stark	Yes (3)
I. Veen	No (1)
B. Weber	Yes (3)
B. White	Yes (3)

Yeas - 31; Nays - 6.

Motion Carried.

Committee Minutes

Ms. J. Rombouts presented the Committee A.M. minutes dated September 15, 2021.

#8: Rombouts/Bird: That the Committee A.M. minutes dated September 15, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Mr. B. White presented the Committee P.M. minutes dated September 15, 2021.

#9: White/Boushy: That the Committee P.M. minutes dated September 15, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Items Tabled from Previous Meetings

#10: Bradley/Weber: That motion #8 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 regarding the structure of the Lambton County Board of Health and tabled motion #8 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 2, 2020, and tabled motions #13 and #14 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated October 7, 2020 regarding Resuming Committee (A.M. & P.M.) Meetings In Person be lifted from the table.

Carried.

Structure of the Lambton County Board of Health

Re: Tabled motion #8 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 regarding the structure of the Lambton County Board of Health.

#11: Bradley/Hand: That tabled motion #8 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 1, 2021 regarding the structure of the Lambton County Board of Health be tabled to the first meeting of the new term of County Council in 2023.

Carried.

Resuming Committee (A.M. & P.M.) Meetings In Person

Re: Tabled motion #8 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated September 2, 2020, and tabled motions #13 and #14 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated October 7, 2020 regarding Resuming Committee (A.M. & P.M.) Meetings In Person. The motions were tabled due to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#12: Bradley/Napper: That County Council not resume in-person meetings until January 2022 unless there's a change in the Reopening Plan from the Province.

Carried.

Notice of Motion

Removing Proof of Vaccination Mandates

Councillor Rombouts gave Notice of Motion to be dealt with at the November 3, 2021 County Council session which reads as follows:

Whereas the vaccination rate in Ontario has surpassed the original target required by the provincial government to reopen Ontario; and

Whereas the Covid-19 vaccine is working to reduce hospitalizations and deaths in Ontario; and

Whereas the Covid-19 vaccine does not promise to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 virus; and

Whereas the Ontario governments requirement to produce proof of vaccination at select locations and places of employment is creating undue hardships to thousands of small businesses, municipalities, healthcare facilities and families across Ontario; and

Whereas the people of Ontario are intelligent and autonomous beings capable of researching and deciding what healthcare is right for themselves and their children

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of The County of Lambton request that the Provincial Government of Ontario remove all mandatory requirements to show proof of vaccination across all sectors in Ontario and return Ontario to a place where everyone is treated as equals.

By-Laws

#13: Boushy/Napper: That By-Law #20 of 2021, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#14: Napper/Boushy: That By-Law #20 of 2021, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Adjournment

#15: Veen/Napper: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned with the next regular meeting of County Council to be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Time: 10:53 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Stéphane Thiffeault
County Clerk