



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Brian Ropp
Deputy Mayor Paul Hodgins
Councillor Ward 1 Sara Nirta
Councillor Ward 2 Bill Irwin
Councillor Ward 3 Charles Daigle
Councillor Ward 4 John Keogh

Members Absent: Councillor Ward 5 Adrian Cornelissen

Staff Present: Facility Event Coordinator, Felicia Krista
Economic Development and Communications Coordinator
Natalie Core
Chief Administrative Office, Carolyn Tripp

Manager of Public Works Vance Czerwinski
Director of Community Services Brandon Drew
Director of Infrastructure and Operations Jaden Hodgins
Director of Corporate Services / Clerk Ashley Kwarciak,
Executive Assistant/HR Coordinator Donna Vanhooydonk

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was held under the provisions contained within the North Middlesex Procedural By-law and may be held in whole or in part without physically being present at 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhill.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ropp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Councillor Cornelissen was absent.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

(Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – Section 5 requires any member of Council to declare a pecuniary interest and general nature thereof, prior to any consideration on that matter. Where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the Act. The disclosures become part of a Public Registry as required under the Act.

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Moved By: C. Daigle

Seconded By: B. Irwin

Recommended Motion:

That the attached minutes from March 6th Council Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Ontario Provincial Police - Policing Summary 2023

Inspector Ross Stuart to present.

The Inspector was present in person. He provided an overview of the 2023 North Middlesex Policing statistics.

Total calls for service - 2023 - A notable increase was cited. The Inspector clarified that at the end of 2022, the OPP switched to a digital system of Provincial Offences. Now because there is an occurrence report for each traffic stop that they do. Otherwise, NM would have seen a decrease in calls for service. He reassured that in this case because the cause is proactive enforcement it is covered in the base service model of the expense and has no impact on the bill.

Violent crime summary was provided and the Inspector spoke to the 10 percent increase, accounted by domestic incidents.

Property crime summary was provided noting an improvement in the statistic.

Fraud summary cited a large increase consistent with trends across the province. Encouraged listeners to call the non emergent line to report this.

Drug crime, one instance in 2023 - ongoing investigation but search was very successful.

Traffic enforcement within the municipality has been present and successful - consistent with the rest of the County.

Impaired Driving statistics have seen a decrease in 2023 despite increased enforcement and increased ride programs.

Bail compliance - comprehensive review was taken on violent offenders on judicial release. There is a new program created by the Police and ensure compliance measures for individuals out on such a release.

Police Services Board in Middlesex will cease to exist and the new board will start. Inspector Stuart provided some initial names to the new board.

Questions from Council included Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, substance abuse link to impaired driving, occurrence vs. charges, frequent areas of collisions, use of non-emergent phone line, and Crime Stoppers, electronic speed signs.

Councillor Daigle asked for follow up for more information on calls for service numbers.

4.2 Huron Shores Transit Report

Susan Mills to present.

Susan was present in person and overviewed the ridership and bus usage for 2023. She provided Council with the goals for 2024 and cited a very successful past year.

Councillor Keogh asked for clarification on the rate hikes and the schedule. Susan provided an overview.

Mayor Ropp asked if the on-demand was operational, what the costs were going to be. Susan noted more information to come.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

5.1 Report from Manager of Public Works - 2025 Tandem Plow Truck (CANOE)

The Manager presented his report. Councillor Nirta asked for clarification on the timeline for purchase. Councillor Keogh asked if there was potential

to utilize the \$8500.00 purchase bonus. The Manager noted that could be added to the motion to ensure. True 10 year replacement?

Proceeds from sale of the truck go to general revenues.

Moved By: S. Nirta

Seconded By: C. Daigle

THAT Council authorizes staff to accept the Viking-Cives quotation and proceed with the purchase of a new 2025 Freightliner 114SD tandem axle cab and chassis equipped with Viking-Cives snowplow attachments and U-body dump box for \$411,325.00 excluding HST.

CARRIED

5.2 Report from Director of Corporate Services / Clerk - Preapproval Request By-Law Vehicle

The Director presented her report. Councillor Irwin asked for clarification on the lifespan of this vehicle. The Director confirmed that replacement would be considered according to the Tangible Capital Asset Policy. The Mayor asked if the vehicle budget was realistic and what kind of vehicle would be sourced. The Director confirmed that the budget was realistic and that the vehicle would be a four-door white car.

Moved By: P. Hodgins

Seconded By: B. Irwin

THAT Council accepts the report entitled, "Pre-Approval By-Law Vehicle";

AND THAT Council pre-approves \$30,000.00 as proposed in the Draft 2024 Budget for the purchase of a By-Law Enforcement vehicle.

CARRIED

5.3 Report from Director of Community Services - Preapproval Goal Frames and Basketball Nets

The Director presented his report. He spoke to each project and noted the time-sensitive nature of the projects. Councillor Nirta asked for the true cost of the basketball nets - the Director cited that it is 12 without funding.

Moved By: P. Hodgins

Seconded By: C. Daigle

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the purchase of 5'x8' soccer nets with a budgeted amount of \$5,000.00; AND

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the purchase of two adult rugby frames with a budgeted amount of \$10,000.00; AND

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the purchase of two basketball nets for the Parkhill Sports Park with a budgeted amount of \$12,000.00

CARRIED

- 5.4 Report from Economic Development and Communications Coordinator - Ailsa Craig Electronic Sign

Natalie presented her report. Councillor Keogh asked about the location from which the sign can be changed. Natalie noted that it was a remote software that could be edited from anywhere with Internet access.

Mayor Ropp asked if there is a consideration for height so that traffic can see appropriately.

The Deputy Mayor asked about the process for the content on the sign. Natalie noted that she would be responsible but there would be a similar process to the sign changes in Parkhill.

Councillor Daigle asked if the finished sign would be similar in design to the previously presented version. Natalie noted that it would be but branded consistently for North Middlesex.

Moved By: B. Irwin

Seconded By: C. Daigle

THAT Council direct staff to increase the project budget from \$40,000.00 to \$90,000.00. OR;

THAT Council direct staff to defer the increase of required funds in 2024 budget.

CARRIED

- 5.5 Report from Economic Development and Communications Officer / Facility Event Planner 2024 Community Guide

The Facility Event Planner presented the Community Guide.

Councillor Nirta asked if the calendar pages could be revised to support a more accessible format. The Facility Event Planner confirmed that this was also the recommendation of the Committee and that the revisions would be made prior to any circulation. The Councillor followed up and asked if the publication would be made available in bound booklets. The Economic Development department noted that in the first year the guide would be available virtually and this may be a possibility for the future

Councillor Daigle asked if there could be a month of overlap to create more flow between the documents.

Councillor Irwin commended the report. He also noted that in the future there could be potential for sponsorship opportunities within.

Moved By: C. Daigle

Seconded By: S. Nirta

THAT Council receives the 2024 Community Guide,

AND THAT Council approve the circulation/circulation cycle as proposed.

CARRIED

6. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

6.1 Report from Treasurer - Accounts Payable

Moved By: J. Keogh

Seconded By: S. Nirta

That council receive and accept the following accounts payable report as information only.

CARRIED

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 ABCA

7.1.1 February 15, 2024 - Board Meeting Minutes

7.1.2 March 21, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

7.2 BWRA

7.3 EDAC

7.4 LSAC

Upcoming meeting to review the upcoming presentation for the school board. Presentation to come before Council for comment in early April.

7.5 Recreation Committee

Councillor Daigle noted a successful last meeting and provided that there is upcoming information.

7.6 Policies Review Committee

7.7 Fire Committee

7.8 Budget Committee

7.9 Community Development Fund Committee

7.10 OCWA Client Advisory Board

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 North Middlesex Distribution System - Annual Drinking Report

Moved By: C. Daigle

Seconded By: P. Hodgins

THAT Council receive and accept the 2023 Annual & Summary Reports by OCWA as required by the Ontario Regulation 170/03 Section 11 & 12 Safe Drinking Water Act; 2002

CARRIED

8.2 City of Clarence-Rockland - National Suicide and Crisis Hotline

(Receive and Consider Support)

Filed.

8.3 Town of Plympton-Wyoming - Water and Wastewater System Affordability

(Receive and Consider Support)

Moved By: B. Irwin

Seconded By: S. Nirta

THAT the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex support the correspondence.

CARRIED

9. OTHER AND URGENT BUSINESS

9.1 Spring Ice - Parkhill Stars

Director of Community Services to speak.

Moved By: S. Nirta

Seconded By: C. Daigle

THAT the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex support the request to leave the ice in to accommodate the need for Spring Ice as described by the Director of Community Services.

CARRIED

9.2 Ailsa Craig Dog Park Opening

Councillor Irwin spoke about the upcoming grand opening for the Ailsa Craig Dennett Dog Park Saturday April 13 11:00 a.m.

9.3 Desk Signs - Update to Reflect Titles

Councillor Nirta asked if the name plates could be updated to reflect the approved title changes as part of the Organizational Review.

9.4 Construction Signs for Hamilton Rd.

Councillor Daigle asked that the Construction Signs for Hamilton Rd. be erected as soon as possible. The Director of Infrastructure and Operations noted that Staff would investigate and rectify this as soon as possible.

10. DEFERRED ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

10.1 Environment Committee

Deferred April 5, 2023

(Councillor Irwin to follow up)

10.2 Parkhill Lagoon Dredging Project Creation of Capacity Update

Deferred on February 7th 2024

(Director of Infrastructure and Operations to follow up)

10.3 Parkhill Main St. Cost Increase

Deferred February 21, 2024

(Director of Infrastructure and Operations to follow up)

11. COMMUNICATIONS (Including County Council Meeting Report)

11.1 Middlesex County Council Meeting Highlights - March 12 2024

11.2 Invitation to the Middlesex County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament

12. CLOSED MEETING (Under Section 239 of the Municipal Act)

Moved By: S. Nirta

Seconded By: C. Daigle

THAT the Open Meeting adjourn to Closed Meeting

To receive information under the following exception:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; (Personnel Matter)

(e) litigation, or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Zoning Compliance

Approval of past minutes

CARRIED

13. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED MEETING

Moved By: P. Hodgins

Seconded By: J. Keogh

THAT the Closed Meeting adjourn and return to Open Meeting without recommendations.

CARRIED

14. READING OF THE BY-LAWS

Moved By: C. Daigle

Seconded By: S. Nirta

That By-laws 024 and 025 of 2024 be read a first and second time

Provision for questions

CARRIED

Moved By: B. Irwin

Seconded By: P. Hodgins

THAT By-laws 024 and 025 of 2024 be read a third and final time

CARRIED

14.1 024 of 2024 - Authorize Agreement Shared Mail Board Ailsa Craig

14.2 025 of 2024 - Confirming

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: S. Nirta

Seconded By: J. Keogh

That the Meeting adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

CARRIED



MAYOR

CLERK