



Elgin County Council

Minutes

**February 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Grant Jones
 Deputy Warden Ed Ketchabaw
 Councillor Dominique Giguère
 Councillor Mark Widner
 Councillor Jack Couckuyt
 Councillor Todd Noble
 Councillor Mike Hentz
 Councillor Richard Leatham

Members Absent: Councillor Andrew Sloan

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
 Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services
 Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services (virtual)
 Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services
 Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services
 Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development
 Andrea Loughlean, Manager of Emergency Management &
 Elgin-Middlesex Regional Fire School (virtual)
 Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development, Tourism &
 Strategic Initiatives
 Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative
 Services/Deputy Clerk
 Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator
 Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with Warden Jones in the chair.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Leatham

Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on January 28, 2025 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations

**4.1 Dawn Maziak, Board Chair and David James, Board Vice Chair - West
Elgin Community Health Centre Presentation**

Dawn Maziak, Board Chair, and David James, Board Vice Chair of the West Elgin Community Health Centre provided a presentation to County Council that provided an overview of the Centre's current challenges and advocacy efforts.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from the West Elgin Community Health Centre be received and filed; and

THAT Elgin County Council request a delegation with the Ministry of Health at the AMO Conference in August advocating for increased access to healthcare in rural communities.

Motion Carried.

5. Committee of the Whole

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT we do now move into Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

6. Reports of Council, Outside Boards and Staff

6.1 Warden Jones - Warden's Activity Report (January 2025)

Warden Jones presented the report that details his activities for the month of January 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Warden's Activity Report (January 2025)" from Warden Jones dated February 11, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

6.2 Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives - Elgincentives Application – Tax Increment Equivalent Grant for DHC Harris Enterprises

The Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives presented the report seeking Council's approval of a Tax Increment Equivalent Grant application submitted by DHC Harris Enterprises Inc.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Elgincentives Application - Tax Increment Equivalent Grant for DHC Harris Enterprises" from the Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives dated February 11, 2025 be received and filed; and

THAT the Elgincentives application submitted by DHC Harris Enterprises Inc. (Evelyn's Sausage Kitchen) for the Tax Increment Equivalent Grant be approved by Council; and

THAT the grant be applied only to the commercial and industrial assessment portion of the project (and not any other tax classes); and

THAT the grant be applied to 100% of the County portion of the tax increase, decreasing by 10% for a period of 5 years; and

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the financial agreement for the approved project as described in the application package for the applicant DHC Harris Enterprises Inc.

Motion Carried.

6.3 Director of Engineering Services - Transportation Master Plan – Phase 1 – Needs and Opportunities Update Report

Council recessed at 9:57 a.m. and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

The Director of Engineering Services presented the updated Transportation Master Plan Phase 1 report for Council's information.

Moved by: Councillor Widner

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Transportation Master Plan – Phase 1 – Needs and Opportunities Update Report” from the Director of Engineering Services dated February 11, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

7. Council Correspondence

7.1 Items for Consideration

None.

7.2 Items for Information (Consent Agenda)

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Item #7.2.1 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

7.2.1 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Media Release, January 29, 2024 - Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Chair to Take a Leave of Absence.

8. Other Business

8.1 Statements/Inquiries by Members

8.1.1 Warden Jones - Southwold Winterfest

Warden Jones extended an invitation to attend the annual Southwold Winterfest event that is being held on Saturday, February 15, 2025 in Shedden. The event begins around 4:00 p.m., with fireworks taking place at 7:30 p.m.

8.2 Notice of Motion

None.

8.3 Matters of Urgency

None.

9. Closed Meeting Items

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

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

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Labour Relations Matters

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Sunset Provincial Lands

(h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them; and (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.

Motion Carried.

9.1 Director of Community and Cultural Services - Labour Relations Matters

9.2 Director of Planning and Development - Sunset Provincial Lands

10. Motion to Rise and Report

Moved by: Councillor Giguère

Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT we do now rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Labour Relations Matters

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the confidential report from the Director of Community and Cultural Services be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Sunset Provincial Lands

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT staff proceed as directed.

Motion Carried.

11. Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT we do now adopt recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

12. Consideration of By-Laws

12.1 By-Law No. 25-06 Procedural By-Law

BEING a By-Law to Regulate the Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin.

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-06 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

12.2 By-Law No. 25-07 Confirmation

BEING a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the February 11, 2025 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-07 be now read a first, second and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 10:49 a.m. to meet again on February 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.