



**Elgin County Council  
Regular Council Meeting  
Minutes**

**March 24, 2026, 9:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers  
450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas ON**

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

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services  
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services  
Jennifer Ford, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services  
Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development  
Holly Hurley, Director of People & Culture  
Joe Anne Holloway, Director of Homes and Seniors Services  
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

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**1. Meeting Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the March 24, 2026 County Council Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

**3. Introductions, Recognitions, Memorials**

None.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones  
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2026 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

**5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None.

**6. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations**

**6.1 Mary Lou Tanner, Senior Partner, NPG Planning Solutions - Update on Hospital Lands Development**

Mary Lou Tanner, Senior Partner, NPG Planning Solutions, presented the update on the Central Elgin Hospital Lands Development.

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Jones

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from Mary Lou Tanner, Senior Partner of NPG Planning Solutions, be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**6.2 Danielle Nielsen, Acting Director of St. Thomas - Elgin Social Services, and Brandon Sloan, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator - Draft St. Thomas - Elgin 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2026-2036**

Danielle Nielsen, Acting Director of St. Thomas - Elgin Social Services, and Brandon Sloan, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator, presented the Draft St. Thomas - Elgin 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2026-2036.

Moved by: Councillor Widner

Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from St. Thomas - Elgin Social Services be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**6.3 Gary De Bock, Member of the Public - Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act**

Gary De Bock, a member of the public, presented his concerns on Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act.

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT the delegation from Gary De Bock, member of the public, regarding Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**7. Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole**

**7.1 Warden Giguère - ADM 26-11 - Recommendations from Committee of the Whole – March 10, 2026**

Councillor Couckuyt left the Council Chambers at 9:44 a.m. and returned to the Chambers at 9:46 a.m. Councillor Couckuyt did not participate in the vote for item 7.1 Recommendations from Committee of the Whole.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT items CW26-25-CW26-28 from the Committee of the Whole meeting dated March 10, 2026, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

Motion Carried.

**8. Committee Recommendations**

None.

**9. Reports for Information and Immediate Consideration**

None.

**10. Council Correspondence**

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Item 10.1 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**10.1 Resolution from the Regional Municipality of York re: Circular Materials Ontario**

**10.2 Flag Raising Request from the YWCA St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership (STELIP) for Welcoming Week 2026**

Moved by: Councillor Widner

Seconded by: Councillor Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the flag raising, proclamation, and building lighting request from the YWCA St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership (STELIP) for Welcoming Week 2026 be approved for September 22, 2026.

Motion Carried.

**10.3 Flag Raising Request from Childcan for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2026**

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the flag raising, proclamation, and building lighting request from Childcan for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2026 be approved for September 8, 2026.

Motion Carried.

**10.4 Proclamation and Building Lighting Request from Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario**

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT March 26, 2026 be proclaimed Epilepsy Awareness Day in the County of Elgin and that the Elgin County Administration Building be lit in recognition of this day.

Motion Carried.

**11. Statements/Inquiries by Members**

**11.1 Councillor Ketchabaw - North Shore Resilience Project Open Houses**

Councillor Ketchabaw welcomed all to attend the upcoming North Shore Resilience Open Houses on March 24, 2026, at the Birds Canada Event Room in Port Rowan, at the Port Stanley Arena on March 25, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and at the Rodney Community Centre on March 26, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**12. Closed Meeting Items**

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

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 - Closed Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2026

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Human Resources Matter (verbal)

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

Motion Carried.

**12.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2026**

**12.2 Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Human Resources Matter (verbal)**

**13. Motion to Rise and Report**

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones  
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT we do now rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Closed Meeting Minutes - March 10, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT the March 10, 2026 closed meeting minutes be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Human Resources Matter (verbal)

Moved by: Councillor Noble  
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the confidential report from the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be received and filed; and

THAT staff proceed as directed.

Motion Carried.

**14. Consideration of By-Laws**

**14.1 By-Law No. 26-13 County Road System**

BEING a By-Law Adopting a Plan of County Road Improvement and Establishing a County Road System in the County of Elgin and to Repeal By-Laws 10-10, 17-27, 17-28, 17-29 and 17-30.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones  
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 26-13 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

#### **14.2 By-Law No. 26-14 Reduced Load Limits**

BEING a By-Law to Authorize Reduced Load Limits on County of Elgin Roads, and to Repeal By-Law 98-10.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz  
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 26-14 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

#### **14.3 By-Law No. 26-15 Confirmation**

BEING a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the March 24, 2026 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt  
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 26-15 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

#### **15. Adjournment**

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Sloan

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 10:55 a.m. to meet again on April 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion Carried.

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Blaine Parkin,  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

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Dominique Giguère,  
Warden.