



## **MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was held on Wednesday February 19, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Shared Services Centre, 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhill.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ropp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Brian Ropp

Deputy Mayor Adrian Cornelissen

Councillor Ward One – Doreen McLinchey

Councillor Ward Two – Joan Nichol

Councillor Ward Three – Gord Moir

Councillor Ward Four –John Keogh

Councillor Ward Five – Andrew Hemming (Absent)

CAO/Director of Operations – Jonathon Graham

Clerk Jackie Tiedeman

Director of Economic Development and Community Services – Mike Barnier

Infrastructure Supervisor, Jonathon Lampman -Absent

Treasurer, Tracy Johnson

#### **3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (in writing)**

None

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

##### **MOTION #034/2020**

**CORNELISSEN/MCLINCHEY:** That the February 5, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

#### **5. DELEGATION**

7:00 p.m. Glen Baillie, Huron Transit Committee Update

Mr. Baillie provided a recap and current status of this project. At this time, he is not requesting any financial commitment however wished to inform council that this proposed transit project, should North Middlesex wish to be included in the route, could be funded through the gas tax funding that is received by all municipalities. He suggested the formula of \$8.44/per capita as a basis for budgeting. The consultant for this project will be working on a final route and service plan. Due to different demographics from two urban areas there is two routes proposed: Grand Bend to London and Grand Bend to Sarnia. The intent is to run the routes 2 times/day – 7 days/week. The destination in London has been identified as Masonville Mall. The Steering Committee is currently being developed and will need municipal partners to be included early in the process especially if wishing to have pickup locations within their area. This committee will be making the decisions on all aspects of the project as well as marketing of this service. An ‘app’ will be utilized for pickup and payment in order to use the service. Mr. Baillie emphasized that this pilot project will require subsidy to be financially sustainable. The Steering Committee will be registering for Gas Tax Subsidy funding.

Several questions were asked by Council and responded to by Mr. Ballie. Mr. Barnier, Director of Economic Development & Community Services has offered to sit on the Steering Committee.

Mayor Ropp thanked Mr. Baillie for his presentation.

#### **6. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

##### **MOTION #035/2020**

**MOIR/KEOGH:** That the Regular Meeting adjourn to Public Meeting at 7:36 p.m. to consider the Draft 2020 Capital and Operations Budget.

Treasurer Tracy Johnson provided a brief recap of the 2020 Proposed Capital and Operations Budget. In response to questions from Council at the February 12, 2020 Special Meeting with respect to the farm rate tax ratio, some additional information was provided to Council via email. This included a breakdown of levies raised by Residential Tax and Farm Tax rates by wards as well as a spreadsheet applying two scenario's of farm tax rate at .23 and .22 as opposed to the current .25 and the impact it would have to each of these classes for informational purposes only. The Treasurer does not recommend changing the farm tax rate from its current .25 due to implications that would affect all tax classes.

The Mayor then asked if any members of the public wished to speak to the draft budget.

Bill and Marilyn Heaman – Mr. and Mrs. Heaman both presented a verbal presentation in response to the budget. It was noted that Mr. Heaman had been provided additional information through the Treasurers Office during the last couple of days as well.

Mr. Heaman suggested that \$1.4 million dollars has been collected since 2016 due to the increase of assessment through the four-year phase-in from farmland; he suggested that misinformation was quoted by the former CAO, Nandini Syed, in the London Free Press about farmland tax dollars. Other opinions included excessive staff within the Shared Services Building; restrict the amount of funding assistance through the CDFP by the farm tax limit; does not agree with the focus of development being just Parkhill; YMCA should be self-sustaining and should not be reliant on tax dollars; use farmland dollars to purchase 4<sup>th</sup> grader to match the resources of what we had at amalgamation. He expressed to Council that he expects decisions to be made in the best interest of the farming community.

Mrs. Heaman suggested that the changing demographics is seeing Councillors elected that do not have a farming background and are primarily 'urbanites'. Other Counties (ie Oxford, Lambton) have successfully changed their farm tax ratio. Younger farmers today have larger debt than ever before which is a result of 'Off Shore Buyers". Voting at County Council should be supportive of the farming community.

Mayor Ropp thanked Mr. & Mrs. Heaman for their input. He advised that he has asked staff for a report to council regarding the operational need for a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

Deputy Mayor Cornelissen requested clarification by the Treasurer on the amount of tax dollars retained by the Municipality and a response was provided.

No other members of the public were present.

**MOTION #036/2020**

**MCLINCHEY/KEOGH:** That the Public Meeting be closed and return to Regular Meeting at 7:57 p.m.

CARRIED

**MOTION #037/2020**

**CORNELISSEN/MOIR:** That Council approves the 2020 consolidated tax levy of \$8,505,340 and set the general residential tax rate for 2020 at 0.00829942 which is an increase of 0.00% from 2019.

CARRIED

**7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

a. Bill Menzie, Municipal Enforcement Unit – Report on suggested updates to Parking By-law and new Draft Nuisance By-law.

Mr. Menzie was in attendance to present two By-laws for council consideration. He highlighted some areas of concern he has observed with respect to use of boulevards for parking of personal vehicles throughout the municipality. This causes problems for plowing and traffic flow, blocking lines of site etc. Proposed changes to the parking by-law definitions and penalties are being recommended. A particular area of concern is the increase in vehicles parked along Mill Street, Parkhill from Main to Station Street on both sides of the road on the boulevard. The other significant change the proposal of an increase to the set fine amounts. He suggested that our By-law was very low and the purpose is to create a deterrent from the offence. Several other municipal parking by-laws were reviewed and his suggested amounts fall around the average of other areas.

He then introduced the need for a Nuisance By-law that both his unit and the OPP like to have in place to deal with several types of complaints. The By-law is very simple, self-explanatory, effective and court tested.

**MOTION #038/2020**

**NICHOL/MCLINCHEY:** That the report from Municipal Enforcement Unit be received and the By-laws considered later on the agenda.

CARRIED

b. Mike Barnier, Director of Economic Development & Community Services – Flower Watering Program

Mr. Barnier updated Council on the consultation that has taken place since the request to take over this service in Parkhill was received by the Parkhill Horticultural Society.

There was considerable discussion on the matter relating to the implications down the road should this be requested as a service in Ailsa Craig as well. It was suggested that the municipality could make the modifications to the watering unit in Parkhill to make it usable by one volunteer. It was further suggested that this be communicated to the Horticultural Society to see if they would have sufficient volunteers if this modification was done. It was agreed that the flowers make a beautiful addition to the Main street however there may be other ways beautification can be added such as Banners on street lights that do not require the manpower that the flower maintenance does.

The CAO recommended that Council consider whether they wish to take this service over as it would provide staff and the Horticultural Society with direction should other options need to be explored on maintaining this program.

**MOTION #039/2020**

**MOIR/KEOGH:** That Council does not undertake the flower watering program in Parkhill.

CARRIED

c. Mike Barnier, Director of Economic Development & Community Services – Acquisition of land from Hensall District Co-op

Mr. Barnier provided a formal update on recent discussions with Hensall Co-op about the donation of this land to the Municipality. Fire Chief, Greg Vandenheuvel, also extended his gratitude to the Co-op, which will allow for a future expansion opportunity to the existing fire hall in Parkhill.

**MOTION #040/2020**

**NICHOL/MCLINCHEY:** That Council proceed with the acquisition of 192 Parkhill Main Street in the Village of Parkhill legally described as part of Lot 3, east of Main Street, Plan 264 aka Plan 276 as in 932299 Municipality of North Middlesex, County of Middlesex being the whole PIN 09637-0009 (LT) Municipality of North Middlesex, County of Middlesex.

CARRIED

d. Jonathan Lampman, Infrastructure Supervisor – Municipal Drain Improvement Request – Dixon Drain.

**MOTION #041/2020**

**MOIR/CORNELISSEN:** That Council receive the request for Improvement to the Dixon Drain under Section 78 of the *Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990*.

CARRIED

e. Vic Stellingwerff, CBO – Building Activity Report for January 2020

**MOTION #042/2020**

**KEOGH/MCLINCHEY:** That Council receives the Building Activity Report for January 2020 as information only.

CARRIED

f. Jonathon Graham, CAO/Director of Operations – Community Safety and Well Being Plan

Mr. Graham provided background on this legislated requirement for municipalities to have prepared and adopted by January 1, 2021. The County has taken the lead on this initiative with the opportunity for the lower tier municipalities to be included which would result in a more economical approach. Several questions were asked regarding who would sit on the advisory committee. Mr. Graham advised that he will be providing more information to Council as it becomes available through this project as it is just in the beginning stages.

**MOTION #043/2020**

**CORNELISSEN/MOIR:** That the Council supports the collaborative efforts, as proposed, resulting in the municipality developing a joint Community Safety and well being Plan; and

That Council direct staff to identify and reserve \$4,312.50 +/- (not included HST) in the undertaking of this plan.

CARRIED

**8. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS**

Compilation of accounts from January 30 – February 12, 2020 in the amount of \$296,065.06.

**MOTION #044/2020**

**MOIR/KEOGH:** Be it resolved that the following Bills and Accounts be approved for payment:

General Cheques \$125,282.52

Direct Deposit \$107,785.68  
On-line/PAP \$62,381.01  
Cemetery Direct Deposit \$615.85

CARRIED

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Lake Huron Primary Water Supply Joint Mgmt Board (Cr. Hemming)
- b. ABCA (Deputy Mayor Cornelissen) - Flood Management Mtg was attended on Feb.11 along with CAO Jonathon Graham
- c. BWRA (Cr. McLinchey) Board Highlights January 16, 2020 (receive and file)
- d. EDAC (Cr. Moir)
- e. LSAC – (Cr. Nichol)
- f. Recreation Committee (Cr. Hemming)
- g. Water/Wastewater Committee (Cr. Moir)
- h. Policies Review Committee (Cr. Nichol)
- i. Fire Committee (Cr.Keogh) - upcoming appointment of a Deputy Chief for Fire Dept.
- j. Budget Committee (Mayor Ropp)
- k. OCWA Client Advisory Board (Jonathon Graham)

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Middlesex London Health Unit – Board of Health update January 2020  
(action: receive and file)
- b. Letters in support of Bill 156 (Enforcement for safety of family farms) from various municipalities  
(action: receive and file)
- c. Letters in support of Conservation Authorities –continuation of programs and services from various municipalities  
(action: receive and file)

d.Support of motion from Village of Merrickville-Wolford – updated provision of new and expanding Provincially Significant Wetlands designations  
(action: receive and file)

## **11.OTHER OR URGENT BUSINESS**

Rescheduled Special Budget Meeting for review of Water/Wastewater Rates –  
March 11 at 6:00 p.m.

## **12.COMMUNICATIONS (including County Council)**

County Council was provided a statistical report from Dr. Mackie at the London-Middlesex Health Unit.

Attendance at an OPP Roundtable Meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> – discussion on future structure of Police Services Board

## **13.CLOSED MEETING (UNDER SECTION 239 OF THE *MUNICIPAL ACT*)**

### **MOTION #45/2020**

**CORNELISSEN/KEOGH:** That the Regular Meeting adjourn to Closed Meeting at 8:36 p.m. to receive information under the following exception:

Labour Relations or employee negotiations – HR matter

CARRIED

## **14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED MEETING**

### **MOTION #046/2020**

**NICHOL/KEOGH:** That the Closed Meeting adjourn and return to Regular Meeting without recommendations for Open Meeting at 8:44 p.m.

CARRIED

## **15.READING OF BY-LAWS**

By-law #15 of 2020 – Parking By-law

By-law #16 of 2020 – Nuisance By-law

By-law #17 of 2020 – Acquisition of Land – Hensall District Co-op



By-law #18 of 2020 – Appointment of Deputy Fire Chief  
By-law #19 of 2020 - Confirming

**MOTION #047/2020**

**MCLINCHEY/NICHOL:** That By-laws # 15-19 of 2020 be read a first and second time

CARRIED

**MOTION #048/2020**

**KEOGH/MOIR:** That By-laws #15-19 of 2020 be read a third time and final time

CARRIED

**16.ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #049/2020**

**MCLINCHEY/KEOGH:** That the meeting adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

---

MAYOR

---

CLERK