

OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 13, 2024

Council Present	Warden Marcus Ryan Deputy Warden Mark Peterson Councillor Bernia Martin Councillor Brian Petrie Councillor David Mayberry Councillor Deb Gilvesy Councillor Deborah Tait Councillor Jerry Acchione Councillor Jim Palmer Councillor Phil Schaefer
Council Absent	N/A
Staff Present	B. Addley, Chief Administrative Officer M. Abercrombie, Acting Director of Public Works L. Buchner, Director of Corporate Services M. Dager, Director of Woodingford Lodge R. Hall, Director of Paramedic Services L. Mansbridge, Clerk P. Michiels, Director of Community Planning A. Smith, Director of Human Resources R. Smith, Acting Director of Human Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Oxford County Council meets in regular session this thirteenth day of November, 2024 in the Council Chamber, County Administration Building, Woodstock at 9:30 a.m. with Warden Ryan in the chair.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Moved By: Mark Peterson

Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the Agenda be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Moved By: Mark Peterson
Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that the motion to adjourn the Council meeting of November 13, 2024 be extended to 2:30 p.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

NIL

4. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 October 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Moved By: David Mayberry
Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the Council Minutes of October 23, 2024 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

4.2 October 23, 2024 Workshop

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Moved By: David Mayberry
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the Minutes of Homelessness Response Strategy Workshop dated October 23, 2024 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

5. PUBLIC MEETINGS

NIL

6. DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND CONSIDERATION THEREOF

6.1 Ben Lampkin

Re: Proposal to Address Homelessness in Ingersoll

Ben Lampkin, a resident of the Town of Ingersoll, joins the meeting in the Council Chamber. B. Lampkin shares information on his personal background and suggests that Council utilize funds already attributed to homelessness initiatives to address the homelessness issues within the Town of Ingersoll.

Warden Ryan opens the meeting to comments and questions from members of Council. B. Lampkin responds to questions from Councillor Mayberry and Warden Ryan.

Councillor Petrie leaves the Council Chamber at 9:33 a.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that the information provided in Delegation 6.1 on the Open meeting Agenda of November 13, 2024, be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Ministry of Energy and Electrification

October 23, 2024

Re: Integrated Energy Resource Planning

7.2 Good Roads

October 29, 2024

Re: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

7.3 City of Woodstock

October 31, 2024

Re: Opportunities for Increasing Childcare Spaces in Woodstock

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Moved By: Deborah Tait

Seconded By: Jim Palmer

Resolved that correspondence items 7.1 to 7.3 inclusive on the Open meeting agenda of November 13, 2024, be received.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Councillor Petrie returns to the Council Chamber at 9:42 a.m.

8. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

8.1 COMMUNITY PLANNING

8.1.1 CP 2024-323 Phase 1 Comprehensive Review – Updates to County and Area Municipal Growth Forecasts (Presentation)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Oxford County Council receive Report CP 2024-323 and the proposed population, household and employment forecasts and municipal growth allocations, prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., dated October 22, 2024, for information purposes;
2. And further, that Oxford County Council authorize Planning staff to circulate the planning report and draft findings to the Area Municipalities for their information and proceed with the next steps in the study process, including external consultation, on the basis of the proposed forecasts and municipal allocations outlined in Report CP 2024-323.

Deputy Warden Peterson in the Chair at 9:43 a.m.

Jamie Cook of Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. joins the meeting via WebEx and proceeds through a presentation which formed part of the Agenda.

Councillor Mayberry leaves the Council Chamber at 9:54 a.m.

Councillor Mayberry returns to the Council Chamber at 9:56 a.m.

J. Cook responds to questions and comments from members of Council following the presentation.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Moved by: Marcus Ryan

Seconded By: David Mayberry

That the recommendations in Report CP 2024-323 be adopted; and,

Whereas Oxford County residents are already experiencing consequences of the current high rate of growth such as:

Homelessness

Mental health supports

Addiction supports

Encampment responses

Housing availability and attainability

Lack of primary medical care

Lack of adequate school spaces

Growth pressure on green space and agricultural land; and,

Whereas many of our partners in service delivery are struggling with demand that is increasing faster than resources; and,

Whereas this continued growth pressure, combined with insufficient resources and Provincial support is diminishing the safety and well-being of residents; and,

Whereas Oxford County is already struggling to continue to provide services at a level residents expect without unsustainable property tax increases, such as a 2024 10% increase in ambulance calls with only 2% population growth; and

Whereas the tax increases necessary to maintain service levels and accommodate further growth, as directed by the Province of Ontario per section 2.1 of the Provincial Planning Statement 2024, is unsustainable;

Therefore, be it resolved that staff return a report on the current and projected costs of direct and indirect services delivered by Oxford County, and the cost of services financed by Oxford County; and,

That Staff return a report on what level of growth Oxford can sustainably be accommodated; and,

That the Warden write to the Province indicating that: Oxford cannot continue to accommodate the rate and level of growth directed by the Province of Ontario per Section 2.1 of the Provincial Planning Statement 2024, without adequate/increased Provincial support and funding and will inform the Province of the growth it can sustainably accommodate at a future date; and,

That this resolution be forwarded to Oxford's area municipal partners, the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Oxford MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Finance (with above directed letter), and the Premier.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Warden Ryan returns to the chair at 11:02 a.m.

Councillor Mayberry leaves the Council Chamber at 11:02 a.m.

8.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

8.2.1 CS 2024-39 2025 Water and Wastewater Rates

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Report CS 2024-39 presenting preliminary 2025 water and wastewater rates for the County systems, be received and considered during 2025 budget deliberations;
2. And further, that the Water and Wastewater Rates Policy 6.22 as amended in Attachment 1 to Report CS 2024-39 be approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Moved By: Phil Schaefer

Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CS 2024-39 titled "2025 Water and Wastewater Rates", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.2.2 CS 2024-40 2025 Business Plans and Budget (Presentation)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the 2025 Draft Business Plan and Budget be received for discussion purposes.

Councillor Mayberry returns to the Council Chamber at 11:05 a.m.

Lynn Buchner, Director of Corporate Services provides a high-level overview relating to the Budget process as well as highlights of the proposed 2025 Budgets and Business Plans using a presentation which formed part of Council's agenda.

L. Buchner responds to questions and comments from members of Council following the presentation.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-40 titled "2025 Business Plans and Budget", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Councillor Gilvesy leaves the Council Chamber at 11:25 a.m.

8.2.3 CS 2024-41 2025 Oxford County Library Business Plan and Budget

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the recommendation of the Oxford County Library Board dated October 15, 2024, that County Council approve the draft Oxford County Library Business Plan and Budget to provide a levy of \$5,744,951, as adjusted for minor interdepartmental charges, be referred to budget deliberations.

Councillor Gilvesy returns to the Council Chamber at 11:27 a.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy

Seconded By: Deborah Tait

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-41, titled "2025 Oxford County Library Business Plan and Budget", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.2.4 CS 2024-42 2025 Court Security Grant Special Tax Levy

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That a special tax levy for a Court Security Grant for Woodstock Police Services in the amount of \$123,430, determined on the same basis as the 2019 to 2024 annual special tax levies, be considered during budget deliberations.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Moved By: Deborah Tait

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-42, titled "2025 Court Security Grant Special Tax Levy", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.2.5 CS 2024-43 2025 Preliminary Assessment and Tax Analysis

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Report CS 2024-43 entitled "2025 Preliminary Assessment and Tax Analysis", be considered during 2025 budget deliberations.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Moved By: Deborah Tait

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-43, titled "2025 Preliminary Assessment and Tax Analysis", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.2.6 CS 2024-44 Oak Park Special Services – Internal Long-term Debt Issue - Tillsonburg

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That By-law No. 6677-2024, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of funds from the Landfill and Waste Diversion Reserve Fund in the amount of \$959,729.26 for the purposes of financing property owners' charges for capital costs related to Oak Park Special Services in Tillsonburg, be presented to Council for enactment.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Moved By: Deb Gilvesy

Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS 2024-44 titled "Oak Park Special Services - Internal Long-term Debt Issue - Tillsonburg", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3 HUMAN SERVICES

8.3.1 HS 2024-12 Municipal Housing Facilities Agreement Amendment – 785 Southwood Way, Woodstock

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That County Council authorize the allocation of up to \$465,000 from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to Woodstock Non-Profit Housing Corporation (WNP), to include four additional affordable rental units within the previously approved 52-unit residential development at 785 Southwood Way, Woodstock;
2. And further, that County Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Acting Director of Human Services to execute an amendment to the existing Municipal Housing Facilities

Agreement, and all other necessary documents related to the proposed additional funding, for the affordable housing project at 785 Southwood Way, Woodstock.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Phil Schaefer

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report HS 2024-12 titled "Municipal Housing Facilities Agreement Amendment - 785 Southwood Way, Woodstock," be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Pending Items List

No discussion takes place regarding the Pending Items List.

10. MOTIONS

Deputy Warden Peterson in the Chair at 11:35 a.m.

10.1 Warden Ryan

Whereas the 2024 Business Plan and Budget Review – 3rd Quarter states “The total estimated exemptions for 2024 are approximately \$13.7 million, as illustrated in Table 1, compared to the final 2023 exemptions of just under \$2.1 million. Of the \$13.7 million forecast, approximately 85% or \$11.6 million is the estimated non-statutory exemptions with the remaining 15% or \$2.1 million representing the estimated statutory exemptions.”; and,

Whereas development charge exemptions are required to be funded by sources of revenue other than development charges placing the cost burden on all County taxpayers; and,

Whereas based on development charge exemptions projected in 2025, the draft budget includes an estimated \$5.4 million or approximately 5.8% increase in the 2025 tax levy; and,

Whereas without the non-statutory exemptions industrial developments would still receive statutory exemptions; and,

Whereas Oxford County residents are already experiencing consequences of the current rate of growth such as:

Homelessness

Mental health supports

Addiction supports

Encampment responses

Housing availability and attainability

Lack of primary medical care

Lack of adequate school spaces

Growth pressure on green space and agricultural land; and,

Whereas non-statutory industrial development charge exemptions are incentivizing more of that growth and exacerbating those pressures and already inadequate services;

Therefore be it resolved that staff be directed to take all necessary steps to amend the development charge policy and by-law at the earliest possible date to remove the non-statutory exemption related to industrial buildings, recognizing the statutory exemption for a maximum of 50% of the gross floor enlargement of the existing building will continue to apply, and will allow for the funding provision for the non-statutory exemption to be removed from the draft 2025 budget; and,

Further, that staff be directed to review the County's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and the Area Municipal Community Improvement Plans and report back to Council in the first quarter of 2025 regarding the use and effect of the current CIP policies in terms of supporting shared community development objectives and associated fiscal implications to assess ongoing and future effectiveness.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Moved By: Marcus Ryan

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Whereas the 2024 Business Plan and Budget Review – 3rd Quarter states “The total estimated exemptions for 2024 are approximately \$13.7 million, as illustrated in Table 1, compared to the final 2023 exemptions of just under \$2.1 million. Of the \$13.7 million forecast, approximately 85% or \$11.6 million is the estimated non-statutory exemptions with the remaining 15% or \$2.1 million representing the estimated statutory exemptions.”; and,

Whereas development charge exemptions are required to be funded by sources of revenue other than development charges placing the cost burden on all County taxpayers; and,

Whereas based on development charge exemptions projected in 2025, the draft budget includes an estimated \$5.4 million or approximately 5.8% increase in the 2025 tax levy; and,

Whereas without the non-statutory exemptions industrial developments would still receive statutory exemptions; and,

Whereas Oxford County residents are already experiencing consequences of the current rate of growth such as:

Homelessness

Mental health supports

Addiction supports

Encampment responses

Housing availability and attainability

Lack of primary medical care

Lack of adequate school spaces

Growth pressure on green space and agricultural land; and,

Whereas non-statutory industrial development charge exemptions are incentivizing more of that growth and exacerbating those pressures and already inadequate services;

Therefore be it resolved that staff be directed to take all necessary steps to amend the development charge policy and by-law at the earliest possible date to remove the non-statutory exemption related to industrial buildings, recognizing the statutory exemption for a maximum of 50% of the gross floor enlargement of the existing building will continue to apply, and will allow for the funding provision for the non-statutory exemption to be removed from the draft 2025 budget;

Further, that staff be directed to review the County's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and the Area Municipal Community Improvement Plans and report back to Council in the first quarter of 2025 regarding the use and effect of the current CIP policies in terms of supporting shared community development objectives and associated fiscal implications to assess ongoing and future effectiveness; and,

That this resolution be forwarded to Oxford's area municipalities.

DISPOSITION: A Recorded Vote is requested by Warden Ryan with the following results:

Those in Favour of the Motion	Those Opposed to the Motion
Councillors Martin, Schaefer, Tait, Warden Ryan, Councillors Palmer, Gilvesy, Mayberry, Acchione and Deputy Warden Peterson	Councillor Petrie
Total 9	Total 1

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

12. ENQUIRIES

Deputy Warden Peterson calls for recess at 12:02 p.m.

Council, with the exception of Councillor Tait, and Staff return to the Council Chamber at 12:45 p.m. with Warden Ryan in the Chair.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Regarding labour relations or employee negotiations, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including County or local board employees, and 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

That Council rise and go into a Closed Session to consider Reports HR (CS) 2024-04, CS (CS) 2024-45, CS (CS) 2024-46, PW (CS) 2024-43, WDFL (CS) 2024-08 and By-law No.6678-2024 regarding labour relations or employee negotiations, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including County or local board employees, and 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.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 12:46 p.m.

Oxford County Council meets in Closed Session in Room 129 as part of a regular meeting, this thirteenth day of November, 2024.

12:48 with Warden Ryan in the Chair

All members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor Tait.

Staff Present:

- B. Addley, Chief Administrative Officer
- M. Abercrombie, Acting Director of Public Works
- P. Antonio, Supervisor of Waste Management
- L. Buchner, Director of Corporate Services
- M. Dager, Director of Woodingford Lodge
- F. Gross, Manager of Transportation and Waste Management
- R. Hall, Director of Paramedic Services
- L. Mansbridge, Clerk
- P. Michiels, Director of Community Planning
- A. Smith, Director of Human Resources
- R. Smith, Acting Director of Human Services

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

NIL

CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE:

NIL

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

1. HR (CS) 2024-04
2. CS (CS) 2024-45
3. CS (CS) 2024-46
4. PW (CS) 2024-43
5. WDFL (CS) 2024-08

BY-LAWS:

1. By-law No. 6678-2024

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

NIL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NIL

TIME OF COMPLETION OF CLOSED SESSION:

2:20 p.m.

Councillor Acchione leaves the Council Chamber at 2:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: David Mayberry

Resolved that Council reconvene in Open Session.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 2:21 p.m.**14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION**

- 14.1 HR (CS) 2024-04

RESOLUTION NO. 17

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report HR (CS) 2024-04, be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

14.2 CS (CS) 2024-45

RESOLUTION NO. 18

Moved By: Jim Palmer

Seconded By: Mark Peterson

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report CS (CS) 2024-45, be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

14.3 CS (CS) 2024-46

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That By-law 6678-2024 to appoint Jessica M. Elliott as Deputy Clerk for the County of Oxford be presented to Council for enactment;
2. And further, that the Recommendations contained in Report CS (CS) 2024-46 entitled Appointment of Deputy Clerk, be publicly released.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

Moved By: Phil Schaefer

Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report CS (CS) 2024-46, be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

14.4 PW (CS) 2024-43

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Moved By: Brian Petrie

Seconded By: Bernia Martin

Resolved that the recommendation contained in Report PW (CS) 2024-43, be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

14.5 WDFL (CS) 2024-08

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council receives Report WDFL (CS) 2024-08 Long-Term Care Bed Application Update and authorizes staff to inform the Ministry of Long-Term Care that the County will not be pursuing the Woodingford Lodge Ingersoll Capital Long Term Bed Application as it is cost prohibited under the present provincial funding program;
2. And further, that in consideration of the foregoing County Council amend the recently adopted Development Charge Background Study and By-law to remove the development of additional long term care beds, effectively eliminating the long-term care development charge for all residential related development during the 10-year planning period, or until the Development Charge Background Study is updated in advance of the mandatory review;
3. And further, that this resolution of County Council be released to the public upon approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

Moved By: Bernia Martin

Seconded By: Deb Gilvesy

Resolved that the recommendations contained in Report WDFL (CS) 2024-08, be adopted as amended.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

15. BY-LAWS

15.1 By-law No. 6675-2024

Being a By-Law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control.

15.2 By-law No. 6676-2024

Being a By-Law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control.

15.3 By-law No. 6677-2024

Being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of funds from the Landfill and Waste Diversion Reserve Fund in the amount of \$959,729.26 for the purposes of financing property owners' charges for capital costs related to Oak Park Special Services in the Town of Tillsonburg (the "Services").

15.4 By-law No. 6678-2024

Being a By-law to Appoint a Deputy Clerk for the County of Oxford.

15.5 By-law No. 6679-2024

Being a By-law to confirm all actions and proceedings of the Council of the County of Oxford at the meeting at which this By-law is passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

Moved By: Jim Palmer

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the following By-laws be read a first and second time: 6675-2024 to 6679-2024 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 23

Moved By: Jim Palmer

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the following By-laws be given a third and final reading: 6675-2024 to 6679-2024 inclusive.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

16. ADJOURNMENTRESOLUTION NO. 24

Moved By: Mark Peterson

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Resolved that the Council meeting of November 13, 2024 be adjourned until the November 20, 2024 Special Meeting of Council at 9:30 a.m.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried at 2:25 p.m.

Minutes adopted on November 27, 2024 by Resolution No. __.

MARCUS RYAN, WARDEN

LINDSEY A. MANSBRIDGE, CLERK