

**Township of South-West Oxford
Council Minutes
January 10, 2023**

Members Present:

Mayor: David Mayberry
Councillors: Paul Buchner (Ward 1), Valerie Durston (Ward 3), George Way (Ward 4), Jim Pickard (Ward 5 – via WebEx), Craig Gillis (Ward 6)

Members Absent:

Peter Ypma (Ward 2)

Staff Present:

Mary Ellen Greb, Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer
Adam Prouse, Works Superintendent
Howard Leaver, Chief Building Official
Julie Middleton, Clerk
Nicole Chambers, Records Management Co-ordinator/Clerk's Assistant

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor David Mayberry and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by George Way
 Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the regular meeting agenda for the December 20th, 2022 meeting of council be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Valerie Durston
 Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the December 20th, 2022 council meeting be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

CL 01-2023: Business Arising from the Minutes of December 20th, 2022

Clerk Julie Middleton provided Council with a report to provide them with an overview of the staff actions arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by Valerie Durston
 Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive report CL 01-2023: Business Arising from the Minutes of December 20th, 2022 as information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Appointments

9:05 a.m. – Anne Becker, Climb Consulting Inc. – Strategic Planning Retreat

Anne Becker facilitated a strategic planning workshop for Council. Ms. Becker educated Council on the importance of strategic planning, and developing a vision, mission and outcome statements. The established strategic plan should ultimately be used as a “north star” and be considered in every decision and opportunity moving forward.

Council and Staff discussed the benefits of adopting a new strategic plan to be developed “with and for” the people (residents, businesses, partners). The purpose is to ignite hope and optimism to bring people together, and create an organization that people want to be a part of, and contribute to. Ms. Becker outlined the process to develop the strategic plan (“strategic planning map”), which will is recommended to be built from the top down and implemented from the bottom up.

Ms. Becker noted the importance of a vision – it must be aspirational. What impact will the Township have on our community and how will they be better because of work that we do? Council discussed how they can overcome with limited resources due to the current economic climate. The vision statement must be short and provide the road map to drive the organization’s goals.

Council and Staff conducted an environmental scan of both the internal and external environments to determine the strengths, challenges, risks and limitations which are currently present and expected to arise in the future. The Township's small size and location make it an attractive and relatively safe community. Residents are looking to invest in their properties rather than moving elsewhere, and the settlement areas are becoming more populated as a result. The Township has a progressive agricultural and entrepreneurial workforce. Council, staff and volunteers encourage energy innovation, and reducing our carbon footprint, and are always looking for unique ways to make the municipality "greener".

Volunteers present both a strength and weakness for the municipality. The strong group of volunteers take on the large responsibility of running and maintaining the Township's Community Halls. Council and staff consider this community pride and ownership a strength; however, this also results in a loss of control for the Township over facilities and increases liability. South-West Oxford cannot carry a debt load like the provincial or federal governments can, and when the global economic climate shifts, the tax levy is directly impacted by the increasing cost to providing goods and services to residents. The high cost of homes and rental properties in this area make it difficult to attract employees.

Council and staff discussed the importance of the feeling of belonging and the impact this can have on all aspects of life in the Township – from vandalism to speeding. During the height of the pandemic, people retreated into their own families, it is the challenge of Council and Staff to find ways to rebuild that sense of community and belonging.

Council and staff brainstormed possible ways to inform the public and stakeholders of the development of the new strategic plan and how they can be involved in its formation. CAO Mary Ellen Greb noted that it will also be important to look at the budget and resources needed for this process. Council and staff discussed the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion within the community as demographics change with growth.

Staff Reports

None.

Agenda Items & Correspondence

#1 - Rural Oxford Economic Development (ROEDC) - Activity Report

#2 - Review of A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement - County Council Report CP 2022-413

#3 - Oxford Community Foundation - Winter 2022 Newsletter

#4 - Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Message to Municipalities

#5 - 2023 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Draft Operating Budget and Municipal Levies

#6 - OMAFRA CED 101 (Councillor Training Opportunity)

#7 - Town of Ingersoll Resolution - Childcare Workforce Shortage Support

#8 - A message from Minister Steve Clark re: Addressing labour supply shortages in the building sector by amending the Building Code

Resolution No. 5 Moved by Valerie Durston
 Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford receive agenda and correspondence items #1 to #18 inclusive as information and that they be noted and filed.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

APPROVED

Information Items & Correspondence

#9 - City of Cambridge Council Resolution - Opposition to Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act

#10 - Municipality of North Perth - Correspondence re Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act

#11 - Northumberland County Resolution - Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

#12 - Plympton-Wyoming Council Resolution of Support for Warwick re: CN Railway Contributions under Drainage Act

#13 - Town of Cobourg Resolution - Bill 3, Strong Mayors, Building Act

#14 - City of Toronto Resolution re: Update on Bill 23 - More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

#15 - Municipality of Centre Hastings Resolution re: Bill 23

Mayor David Mayberry provided an update to Council regarding a preliminary proposal that was brought forward as information to him for the former Layton property in Mount Elgin – townhouse units. Council will discuss this further during the planning process once an application has been received.

Councillor Pickard inquired about Council's response to the proposal from Veranda Developments. CAO Greb noted this is in relation to a proposed development north of Prouse Transport off Mount Elgin Road. The developer is proposing a combined residential/commercial/industrial park. Council will have an opportunity to discuss it further when a report is brought forward as part of the public meeting.

Council Round Table

Council members shared updates from their respective wards and community involvement. The Salford Hall board is concerned with renters leaving garbage behind at the hall. The Township is getting a second opinion regarding the state of the well at Salford Hall to determine if it does need to be replaced, prior to investing in a new one. The Sweaburg ice rink has been struggling due to the warmer weather. Beachville Firefighters and Parks and Rec hosted a successful raffle and prize winners were announced. Brownsville Hall had many rentals throughout the Christmas season, but are having some issues with vandalism. The next Brownsville Hall board meeting is Wednesday, January 11th and they will be discussing vandalism and the proposed dog park. Foldens Hall is seeing an increase in rentals. Beachville District Museum Board of Directors meets on January 11th. Orientation for Upper Thames Conservation Authority will take place January 12th with their General Manager. Mayor Mayberry thanked Councillors Gillis and Durston for their participation and involvement in the tour for the Essay Writing Contest winners. The third winner's tour is tentatively scheduled for January 20th. County Council will discuss their budget on January 11th. Mount Elgin Community Centre Chili Dinner is on Friday, January 27th at 5:30 p.m. Mount Elgin AGM is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion Items

Follow Up: Essay Writing Contest

Council discussed the Essay Writing Contest and how they could improve participation for future contests. Council reviewed the suggestions submitted in the essays and noted that there were a lot of great ideas brought forward. Council recommended that the Engage and Inform Committee take the lead on implementing the suggestions brought forward by the essay contest winners. It was suggested, based on feedback from the winners during the tour, that the tour be extended to finish at 3:00 p.m. instead of noon.

Appointments (continued)

3:05 p.m. – Matthew Jauernig, RMO, Coordinator of Source Protection Program re: Proposed Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan Update

Clerk Julie Middleton led staff through the proposed Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan Update in the absence of Matthew Jauernig. Councillor Paul Buchner noted that the new regulations in snow piles have to do with the amount of salt in the snow and reducing the number of hydrocarbons leeching into source water. He noted that most of the industry in Brownsville is south of the village and very little will be impacted by this. CAO Greb highlighted the significant reduction in fuel storage from 2,500 litres to 250 litres in these areas.

Resolution No. 9 Moved by Paul Buchner
 Seconded by Craig Gillis

RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford endorse the changes outlined in the Proposed Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan Update.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried



Confirmatory By-law

By-Law No. 03-2023 - To confirm all actions and proceedings of Council (January 10, 2023)

Resolution No. 10 Moved by Valerie Durston
 Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that By-law 76-2022 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council held Tuesday, January 10, 2023 be read a first, second and third time this 10th day of January, 2023.

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the By-law and affix the corporate seal.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Adjournment

Resolution No. 11 Moved by Craig Gillis
 Seconded by Jim Pickard

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Council meeting be adjourned at 3:18 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (Municipal Office) for a special budget meeting.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

CLERK: Julie Middleton

MAYOR: David Mayberry

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APPROVED