



Municipality of West Elgin

Minutes

Council Meeting

May 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Electronic Participation Meeting via Zoom

Present:
Mayor D. McPhail
Deputy Mayor R. Leatham
Councillor T. Tellier
Councillor A. Cammaert
Councillor B. Rowe

Staff Present:
M. Badura, CAO/ Treasurer
J. Nethercott, Clerk
L. Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services
J. Morgan-Beunen, Chief Building Official
Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief
Bryan Pearce, Planner

Also Present:
Meagan Ruddock, TVDSB Trustee
Bruce Smith, TVDSB Trustee
Stephanie Skelding, WECHC
Diane Arsenijevic, WECHC
Megan Harvey, WECHC

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and physical distancing requirements this meeting was held electronically.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Duncan McPhail called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

3. Closed Session

Resolution No. 2021- 140

Moved: Councillor Cammaert

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

That the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin Council hereby proceeds into Closed Session at 9:00 a.m. under Section 239 (2) (b, d & f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* consideration will be given to personal matters about identifiable individual(s), including a municipal or local board employee(s), labour relations or employee negotiations and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

4. Report from Closed Session

Mayor McPhail reported out of Closed Session at 10:49 a.m.

Resolution No. 2021- 141

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

That in Closed Session West Elgin Council hereby provided direction to staff to bring forward an updated Clothing Policy; and

That West Elgin Council hereby appoints Nicole Campbell, Cindy da Costa and Brianne Pyne to the West Elgin Recreation Committee; and

That West Elgin Council considered information and provided staff direction on information regarding identifiable individuals and information subject to solicitor client privilege.

Carried

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 2021- 142

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That West Elgin Council hereby adopts the Agenda as presented.

Carried

7. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 2021- 143

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That the Minutes of the Council meeting on April 22, 2021 be adopted as circulated and printed.

Carried

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Building

9.1.1 Jackie Morgan-Beunen, CBO - Building Activity Report April 2021

Resolution No. 2021- 144

Moved: Councillor Cammaert

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jackie Morgan-Beunen, CBO re: Building Permit Report for April 2021 for information purposes.

Carried

9.2 Fire

9.2.1 J. McArthur, Fire Chief - Monthly Report – April 2021

Resolution No. 2021- 145

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief re: April Monthly Fire Report for information purposes.

Carried

6. Timed Delegations

6.1 11:00 a.m. M. Ruddock and B. Smith, TVDSB Trustees - West Elgin Schools Discussion Follow Up

Mayor McPhail welcomed Ms. Ruddock and Mr. Smith back to Council. Mr. Smith addressed the questions posed at the last Council meeting and provided the following updates:

The plan is that Tiny Tots will assume the new Family Age Grouping space, if and when the addition is completed. Mr. Smith and Ms. Ruddock both stated that information on the if the funding has been received for this addition should be forthcoming soon.

That administration is looking at several options for the former West Elgin Senior Elementary School and that they are willing to explore any options that would make severing the property a more viable option

TVDSB has created the Rural Education Task Force which is currently exploring the challenges and benefits offered through rural schools. The next meeting is June 7, 2021 at 5 pm.

6.2 11:30 West Elgin Community Health Centre - Community Garden Project

Ms. Arsenijevic stated that West Elgin Community Health Centre has received a grant to have a community garden in Rodney. They would like to place this garden where the horse barns used to be in Rodney Park.

Resolution No. 2021- 146

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That West Elgin Council hereby approves entering into an agreement with West Elgin Community Health Centre to lease lands in Rodney Park for a Community Garden without a fee; and

That staff be directed to bring forward a by-law to adopt an agreement at a future Council meeting.

Carried

8. Business Arising from Minutes

8.1 Support of Township of Archipelago Phragmites Resolution

Resolution No. 2021- 147

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Whereas *Phragmites australis* (*Phragmites*) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes; and

Whereas *Phragmites australis* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighbouring plant species; and

Whereas *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, and increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

Whereas invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada;

Whereas the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive *Phragmites* under the Invasive Species Act; and

Whereas volunteers, non-governmental organizations and various municipalities have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for more than eight years in executing management plans to control invasive *Phragmites* on roads, shorelines and in wetlands; and

Whereas roads and highways where *Phragmites* that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and shoreline areas; and

Whereas according to "Invasive *Phragmites* Best Management Practices" by the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, best roadside management practices for *Phragmites australis* include detection, herbicide application, cutting, and re-treatment of re-growth as necessary; and

Whereas these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

Whereas mother nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada's worst invasive plant species *Phragmites australis*;

Whereas the Municipality of West Elgin has been implementing measures for eradication of *Phragmites* over the past 3 years, including mapping of cells along Municipal and County Roadways, applying herbicide, cutting and monitoring re-growth; and ensuring clean equipment protocols for appropriate contract tenders; and

Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has carried out some *Phragmites* eradication along Provincial highways, however this process has not been successful because the process has not included a program to deal with surviving plants, and also has not dealt with growth beyond the road allowance, therefore enabling fast re-growth; and

Whereas in the past there has been no approved herbicide for use in wet sites; however, in 2020 a product (Habitat Aqua) has been approved for use in areas of lying water and along waterways in Ontario;

Now Therefore be it Resolved that the Municipality of West Elgin request the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to map, treat, monitor, and eradicate re-growth of invasive *Phragmites* annually on all Provincial highways, including areas beyond the road allowances, where *Phragmites* cells extend; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) communicates that strategy on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive *Phragmites* on provincial highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in the region and work in coordination with the Municipality of West Elgin; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Province of Ontario designate *Phragmites australis* as a noxious weed under the Noxious Weed Act; and in collaboration with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, and Ontario Municipalities, carry out a public education campaign regarding best practices in eradicating *Phragmites*;

and if possible, develop a system of grants to support the uptake of these best practices by citizens; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin directs staff to send this resolution to all Municipalities in Ontario; Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transportation(Canada); Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Ontario Minister of Transport; James Corcoran, General Services Coordinator, vegetation, MTO West Region; Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs; Jeff Yurek, MPP; and Karen Vecchio MP.

Carried

9. Staff Reports

9.3 Operations & Community Services

9.3.1 L. Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services - April 2021 – Monthly Report

Council requested that staff report back on locations for electronic signs at a future meeting.

Resolution No. 2021- 148

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Tellier

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services for information purposes.

Carried

9.3.2 L. Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services - Lawn Bowling Club Veranda

Resolution No. 2021- 149

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; and

That West Elgin Council awards the contract for veranda replacement on the West Lorne lawn bowling club to Weekes Construction at a cost of \$17,860.00 plus applicable taxes.

Carried

9.3.3 L. Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services - PGTP Pavilion Ceiling Replacement

Resolution No. 2021- 150

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; and

That West Elgin Council awards the PGTP pavilion ceiling replacement to Weekes Construction of West Lorne for the quoted amount of \$12,200.00 plus applicable tax.

Carried

9.3.4 L. Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services - Municipal Office Roof Replacement

Resolution No. 2021- 151

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; and

That West Elgin Council awards the municipal office roof replacement to Machado's General Contracting in the amount of \$46,773.74 plus applicable taxes.

Carried

9.5 Finance/Administration

9.5.1 M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer - 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates

Resolution No. 2021- 152

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer regarding 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates for information purposes.

Carried

Council recessed at 1:09 p.m. to convene in Committee of Adjustment and reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

10. Committee and Board Report

10.1 Tri-County Water Board Minutes of Jan 26, 2021

10.2 West Elgin Recreation Committee - April 21, 2021

Resolution No. 2021- 153

Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That West Elgin Recreation Committee recommends to West Elgin Council that the membership to the West Elgin Recreation Committee increase to six (6) members of the public.

Carried

10.2.1 Minutes of March 17, 2021

10.3 Councillor Reports from Committees

Councillor Cammaert stated that as of today there are just over 50 participants in the Optimists Road Race.

11. Accounts

Resolution No. 2021- 154

Moved: Councillor Cammaert

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

That the Mayor and Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign Payment Voucher #5 amounting to \$ 929,025.75 in settlement of General, Road, Water and Arena Accounts including EFT#3838-3900, online Payments# 668-684, cheque# 25695-25708 and Payroll PP08/09.

Carried

12. Council Inquires/Announcement

12.1 Notice of Motion

None.

12.2 Statements/Inquires by Councillors

None.

12.3 Matters of Urgency

12.3.1 Police Services Board

Resolution No. 2021- 155

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

Whereas Mayor Sally Martyn, Chair, Elgin Group Police Services Board and Julie Gonyou, Secretary-Administrator, Elgin Group Police Services Board provided West Elgin Council with a review of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Board Composition as associated with the Community Safety and Policing Act (2022) on April 8, 2021; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin supports maintaining the current composition of the Elgin Group Police Services Board; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chair and Secretary-Administrator of the Elgin Group Police Services Board.

Carried

13. Correspondence

13.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Municipal Code of Conduct Consultation

13.2 County of Elgin - Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee

13.3 Karen Vecchio, Elgin-Middlesex-Lambton MP - Letter to Council re Bill 988

Resolution No. 2021- 156

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline; and

WHEREAS the motion calls for the federal government to consolidate all existing suicide crisis numbers into one three-digit hotline; and

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200%; and

WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold; and

WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of West Elgin recognized that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Municipality of West Elgin hereby endorses this 988 crisis line initiative; and

That staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to Karen Vecchio, MP Elgin-Middlesex-London and the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health.

Carried

- 13.4 Township of Springwater - Clean Fuel Standard**
- 13.5 Fort Erie - Province Investigating and Updating Source Water Protection Legislation**
- 13.6 Leamington - Advocacy for Reform of Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**
- 13.7 Chatham Kent - Time to Change MFIPPA**
- 13.8 OPP - Billing Statement**

14. By-Laws

- 14.1 By-Law 2021-30 - Agreement with City of St Thomas for Hazardous Waste Depot**

Resolution No. 2021- 157

Moved: Councillor Rowe

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That By-law 2021-30 being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement between The Corporation of the City of St Thomas and The Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin for Use of the Community Recycling Centre – Hazardous Waste, be read a first, second, third and final time.

Carried

- 14.2 By-Law 2021-31 - Maintenance Agreement with Port Glasgow Yacht Club**

Resolution No. 2021- 158

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That By-law 2021-31 being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement between The Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin and the Port Glasgow Yacht Club governing terms and conditions of work performed on Municipal Property, be read a first, second and third and final time.

Carried

14.3 By-Law 2021-32 - 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates

Resolution No. 2021- 159

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That By-law 2021-32 being a By-Law to Establish Rates for Municipal Water and Wastewater Services for 2021 and to repeal By-Law 2020-42, be read a first, second and third and final time.

Carried

14.4 By-Law 2021-33 - Tax Ratios

Resolution No. 2021- 160

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Rowe

That By-law 2021-33 being a By-Law to set the 2021 Transition Ratios and to Levy Taxes for the Year 2021, be read a first, second and third and final time.

Carried

15. Confirming By-Law

Resolution No. 2021- 161

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Councillor Cammaert

That By-law 2021-34 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on May 13, 2021, be read a first, second and third and final time.

Carried

16. Adjournment

Resolution No. 2021- 162

Moved: Councillor Tellier

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Leatham

That the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin hereby adjourn at 1:34 p.m. to meet again at 9:30 a.m. on May 27, 2021 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Duncan McPhail, Mayor

Jana Nethercott, Clerk