

The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg

Council Meeting

MINUTES



Monday, April 14, 2025
5:15 PM
Electronic Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Gilvesy (Chair)
Deputy Mayor Beres
Councillor Luciani
Councillor Parker
Councillor Parsons
Councillor Rosehart
Councillor Spencer

Staff: Kyle Pratt, Chief Administrative Officer
Renato Pullia, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Cephas Panschow, Development Commissioner
Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development
Andrea Greenway, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks
Laura Pickersgill, Executive Assistant
Amelia Jaggard, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting commences at 5:15 p.m. with Mayor Gilvesy presiding.

2. Closed Session (5:15 p.m.)

Resolution # 2025-115

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

THAT Council move into Closed Session to consider the following:

Item 2.4.1 Request for Release and Assignment - 1000639911 Ontario Inc - CLD-EDM-25-004

239 (2) (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

Item 2.4.2 Fire Chief Recruitment

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

Carried

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

2.2 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

2.3 Adoption of Closed Council Minutes

2.4 Reports

2.4.1 Request for Release and Assignment - 1000639911 Ontario_Inc - CLD-EDM-25-004

2.4.2 Fire Chief Recruitment

3. Moment of Silence

4. Adoption of Agenda (6:00 p.m.)

Resolution # 2025-116

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT the agenda for the Council meeting of April 14, 2025, be approved.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were declared.

6. Adoption of Council Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution # 2025-117

Moved By: Councillor Rosehart

Seconded By: Councillor Parker

THAT the Council meeting minutes dated March 24, 2025, be approved.

Carried

7. Presentations

8. Public Meetings

9. Planning Reports

10. Delegations

10.1 Big Brothers Big Sisters- MEGABike Event Coming To Tillsonburg

Kristen Ralph, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County, attended before Council to share information regarding the MEGABike Event coming to the Town of Tillsonburg on May 28, 2025.

Opportunity was provided for questions from Council.

Resolution # 2025-118

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT Council receive the delegation from Big Brothers Big Sisters as information.

Carried

10.2 Tillsonburg Pickleball Club Re: Request for Pickleball Line Painting and Dedicated Court Times

Diane Peacock, President and Carla Cameron, Board Member, Tillsonburg Pickleball Club, attended before Council to request that the Town establish dedicated court times at the courts on Hardy Ave and that the Town install signage with pickleball rules and etiquette as seen in other communities. The Club is not requesting pickleball court line painting at this time.

Opportunity was provided for questions from Council. A staff report and accompanying recommendation from the Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee is anticipated for the April 28 Council meeting.

Resolution # 2025-119

Moved By: Councillor Luciani

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Beres

THAT Council receive the delegation from Tillsonburg Pickleball Club as information.

Carried

11. Deputation(s) on Committee Reports

11.1 Museum, Culture, Heritage, and Special Awards Advisory Committee Recommendation - CS-25-008

There was discussion regarding overtime demand for after hour committee meetings.

Resolution # 2025-120

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Beres

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

- A. THAT report CS 2025-008 titled "Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee Recommendation" be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council approves the Founder's Day Subcommittee to meet a maximum of two meetings per month.

Carried

11.2 Museum, Culture, Heritage, and Special Awards Advisory Committee Recommendation - CS-25-009

Resolution # 2025-121

Moved By: Councillor Spencer

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

- A. THAT report titled "Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee Recommendation" be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report outlining the process for designating properties of cultural heritage value or interest,

specifically addressing the following properties identified by the Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards (MCHSA) Advisory Committee:

- Pillars in Memorial Park
- Oddfellow Lodge
- Tillsonburg Masonic Centre
- 186 Bidwell Street
- Gibson House
- Lake Lisgar

C. AND THAT staff consult with the MCHSA Advisory Committee to develop a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest for each property, along with a description of its heritage attributes.

Carried

11.3 Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendations - CS-25-013

Resolution # 2025-122

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Beres

- A. THAT report CS 25-013 titled Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendations be received as information; and
- B. THAT staff investigate the feasibility of a three-way stop at the intersection of Windemere Avenue and Allen Street; and report back to Council with recommendation; and
- C. THAT staff investigate speed and volume of traffic on Wilson Avenue, reach out to the Hickory Hills Residents Association to confirm traffic concerns; and report back to Council with recommendation for traffic calming measures at the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Jackson Court, if needed.

Carried

11.4 Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee Recommendation - Cemetery Lots Care - RCP-25-017

There was discussion regarding educating the public with regards to the requirements of the Cemetery By-Law sections 13.2 and 13.9 (signage, QR codes etc.).

Resolution # 2025-123

Moved By: Councillor Parsons

Seconded By: Councillor Spencer

A. THAT report RCP 25-017 titled “Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Committee Recommendation - Cemetery Lots Care” be received as information.

B. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report with regards to how the Town can educate the community with regards to section 13.2 and 13.9 of the Cemetery By-Law.

Carried

12. Information Items

12.1 CN Right-of-Way Vegetation Management

12.2 Oxford County Report PW 2025-18, 2024 Annual Waste Management Reports

12.3 Oxford County Report PW 2025-21 2024 Annual Energy Report

12.4 Oxford County Report PW 2025-20 2024 Annual Transportation System Performance

12.5 Station Arts Centre Letter

12.6 TurtleFest Committee Letter of Thanks

12.7 Oxford County Council Resolution Re: COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c. 18 – Bill 197

There was discussion regarding item 12.1 and it was asked that staff respond to CN with thanks for keeping the Town informed.

Resolution # 2025-124

Moved By: Councillor Luciani

Seconded By: Councillor Parsons

THAT Council receives the following items as information:

- 12.1 CN Right-of-Way Vegetation Management;
- 12.2 Oxford County Report PW 2025-18, 2024 Annual Waste Management Reports;
- 12.3 Oxford County Report PW 2025-21 2024 Annual Energy Report;
- 12.4 Oxford County Report PW 2025-20 2024 Annual Transportation System Performance;
- 12.5 Station Arts Centre Letter;
- 12.6 TurtleFest Committee Letter of Thanks;
- 12.7 Oxford County Council Resolution Re: COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c. 18 – Bill 197.

Carried

12.8 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter Re: Strong Mayor Powers

There was discussion regarding item 12.8. Kyle Pratt, Chief Administrative Officer and Renato Pullia, Director of Finance/Treasurer answered questions from Council regarding proposed regulation 530-22.

Resolution # 2025-125

Moved By: Councillor Spencer

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Beres

THAT Council receive item 12.8 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter Re: Strong Mayor Powers, as information;

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation on May 1, 2025, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets, planning and operational decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminish the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Tillsonburg;

Does not support the proposed strong mayor powers as currently outlined;

Supports specific powers to mayors as it pertains to identifiable decisions regarding housing, development, infrastructure and transit to provide tools that reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure developments;

Strongly suggests that free reign of decision-making regarding hiring, firing, committees and so forth be removed from the proposed authority;

Strongly suggests that members of current Council were duly elected officials by citizens with the awareness of one vote per council member and majority votes are the democratic process;

Requests that the Provincial Strong Mayor Powers proposed to take effect on May 1, 2025, be deferred to allow for greater clarity and that the Province seek collaborative input from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO);

Directs staff to forward this resolution immediately to Minister Flack, Premier Ford, MPP Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities before April 16, 2025

Carried

13. Staff Reports

13.1 Chief Administrative Officer

13.2 Corporate Services

13.2.1 Adoption of Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signatures Policy for the Town of Tillsonburg - CS-25-014

Resolution # 2025-126

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

- A. THAT report CS 25-014 titled “Adoption of Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signatures Policy for the Town of Tillsonburg” be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council direct staff to present a By-Law to Adopt a Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signatures Policy for the Town of Tillsonburg.

Carried

13.3 Economic Development

13.4 Finance

13.5 Fire and Emergency Services

13.6 Operations and Development

13.6.1 Change in Contract Price - RFP2022-003 - Reconstruction of Cranberry Line - OPD-25-014

Resolution # 2025-127

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Beres

Seconded By: Councillor Spencer

- A. THAT report OPD 24-014 titled “Change Order for RFP2022-003 - Engineering Consulting Services for the Reconstruction of Cranberry Road” be received as information; and
- B. THAT Council approve the \$44,279 additional expenditure to the awarded project RFP2022-003 – Engineering Consulting Services for the Reconstruction of Cranberry Road; and
- C. THAT Council authorize the Director of Finance to increase the Town’s portion to \$90,000 to accommodate the additional costs associated with the project.

Carried

13.7 Recreation, Culture and Parks

13.7.1 Parks and Recreation Masterplan Implementation update - RCP-25-013

Resolution # 2025-128

Moved By: Councillor Rosehart

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT report RCP 25-013 titled “Parks and Recreation Masterplan Implementation” be received as information.

Carried

14. New Business

15. Consideration of Minutes

15.1 Advisory Committee Minutes

Resolution # 2025-129

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

THAT Council receive the following advisory committee minutes as information:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee, March 18, 2025
- Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee, March 19, 2025
- Community Health Care Advisory Committee, March 20, 2025
- Traffic Advisory Committee, March 13, 2025
- Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee, April 3, 2025
- Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Advisory Committee, March 25, 2025
- Economic Development Advisory Committee, April 8, 2025

Carried

15.2 Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board of Director Minutes

Resolution # 2025-130

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Beres

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

THAT Council receive for information the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board of Director Minutes of March 7, 2025.

Carried

15.3 Oxford O.P.P. Detachment Board Tillsonburg Minutes

Resolution # 2025-131

Moved By: Councillor Parker

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

THAT Council receive for information the Oxford O.P.P. Detachment Board Tillsonburg Minutes dated January 15, 2025.

Carried

16. Motions/Notice of Motions

17. Resolutions/Resolutions Resulting from Closed Session

18. By-Laws

18.1 2025-032, to authorize a consent to agreement of purchase and sale

18.2 2025-033, to adopt a Policy for the Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signatures for the Town of Tillsonburg

Resolution # 2025-132

Moved By: Councillor Spencer

Seconded By: Councillor Parsons

THAT the following By-Laws be read for a first, second, third and final reading and that the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign the same, and place the corporate seal thereunto:

2025-032, to authorize a consent to agreement of purchase and sale;

2025-033, to adopt a Policy for the Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signatures for the Town of Tillsonburg.

Carried

19. Confirm Proceedings By-law

Resolution # 2025-133

Moved By: Councillor Parsons

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT By-Law 2025-031, to confirm the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on April 14, 2025, be read for a first, second and third and final reading and that the Mayor and the Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign the same, and place the corporate seal thereunto.

Carried

20. Items of Public Interest

This portion of the meeting not recorded.

21. Adjournment

Resolution # 2025-134

Moved By: Councillor Rosehart

Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

That the Council meeting of April 14, 2025, be adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Carried