

The Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock met at the Innerkip Community Centre, Innerkip, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday November 15, 2023.

Members Present: Mayor Phil SCHAEFER, Deputy Mayor Brad SMITH and Councillors Matthew GILLESPIE, Jeremy SMITH, Steven VAN WYK and Scott ZEHR.

Members Absent: Councillor Scott RUDY.

Staff Present: CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest, Clerk Will Jaques, Public Works Manager Tom Lightfoot and Human Resources/Safety Coordinator Jennifer Albrecht.

Mayor SCHAEFER welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor SMITH advised that November 15<sup>th</sup> is “National Philanthropy Day”, while recognizing former Innerkip residents Carl and Helen Matheson for their many years of service and contributions to the community.

Approve  
Agenda

1. Moved by: Brad SMITH  
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR  
Resolved that Council approve the agenda for the November 15, 2023, meeting as printed and circulated.

***CARRIED.***

**PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**

- None.

Confirm  
Minutes -  
Council

2. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH  
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK  
Resolved that Council confirm the Minutes of the November 1, 2023, Council Meeting, as printed and circulated.

***CARRIED.***

**Correspondence & Reports – No Resolutions:**

- Staff Report - #CAO2023 – 14 re: Treasury Reporting
- Staff Report - #CAO2023 – 15 re: Vacancy Rebate Program Opt-Out

**Correspondence & Reports – Resolutions**  
**Following:**

Tavistock  
Royals –  
Request for  
Municipal  
Alcohol Policy  
Exception

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Tavistock Royals Hockey Club regarding their request for an exception to the Municipal Alcohol Policy to allow for alcohol to be consumed in the tiered seating area of the Tavistock Arena, during various games.

3. Moved by: Scott ZEHR  
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK  
Resolved that Council approve the request from the Tavistock Royals Hockey Club for an exception to the Municipal Alcohol Policy, to allow for alcohol to be consumed in the tiered seating area of the Tavistock Arena during their hockey games on the following dates:
- Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
  - Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
  - Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

***CARRIED.***

At 7:19 p.m., April Nix from the County of Oxford made a presentation regarding the draft Environmental Policies, as part of the Official Plan review process.

4. Moved by: Matthew Gillespie  
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR  
Resolved that Council advise the Oxford County Planning Department to proceed with preparing the consultation draft of the environmental policies based on consideration of the comments received, and initiating the formal Official Plan Amendment process and related public and agency consultation.

***CARRIED.***

Safe & Well  
Oxford –  
Intimate  
Partner Violence  
(Support  
Request)

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Safe & Well Oxford Committee regarding their request to have Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) included within the goals and objectives of the Safe and Well Oxford Community Safety and Well-being plan to address gender-based violence within the County, as an additional priority risk area.

5. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH  
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR  
Whereas Oxford County Council approved a request to establish a Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee as recommended in the joint Safe and Well Oxford: Community Safety and Well-being Plan, on behalf of area municipalities, to oversee the implementation of the goals and objectives established in the Plan on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021;

And whereas the key priority risk themes identified within the Safe and Well Oxford Plan include:

- Mental Health;
- Affordable Housing;
- Substance Misuse;
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

And whereas the purpose of Safe and Well Oxford: Community Safety and Well-being Plan is to improve the safety and well-being of community members, by defining and addressing priority risks through proactive, integrated system-wide strategies, the responsibility of which falls within the jurisdiction of the County within Oxford;

And whereas the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee considered a resolution passed by County Council at their July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting to refer a presentation received by County Council from Ingamo Homes in relation to gender-based violence locally for consideration throughout the implementation of the Safe and Well Oxford: Community Safety and Well-being Plan;

And whereas the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee received a presentation and request from the Domestic Abuse Response Team Oxford at their meeting held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in relation to the need for support with resources, advocacy, education and awareness to address gender-based violence locally;

And whereas gender-based violence has been highlighted and acknowledged as a significant concern within Oxford County;

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock approve an amendment to the Safe and Well Oxford: Community Safety and Well-being Plan to recognize gender-based violence as an additional priority risk area in the Safe and Well Oxford Community Safety and Well-being Plan and endorse the goals and objectives as outlined in the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee's correspondence, dated November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED.**

County Council-  
Updates &  
Questions

Mayor SCHAEFER provided an update on County Council activities, including the ongoing budget development process.

Staff Report  
#CIO2023 – 08  
re: Memorial  
Program

CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest presented the report to Council prepared by Corporate Initiatives Officer Meaghan Vader, regarding various options for a "Memorial Program" for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

6. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE  
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK  
Resolved that Council approve Option #1 as the preferred direction for a "Memorial Program", with consideration of donor recognition as part of the program;

And further that staff be directed to bring back a proposed policy, in conjunction with this preferred option, to the January 17, 2024 meeting, with implementation of the Memorial Program to commence in 2024.

**CARRIED.**

Staff Report  
#CAO2023 – 14  
re: Treasury  
Reporting

CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest reviewed the Monthly Treasury Report with Council.

Staff Report  
#CAO2023 – 15  
re: Vacancy  
Rebate Program  
Opt-Out

CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest presented her report to Council regarding Staff's recommendation to opt out of the Vacancy Rebate Program.

- By-law: 7. Moved by: Scott ZEHR  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Seconded by: Jeremy SMITH  
Reading Resolved that the following by-laws be read a first and second time:
- 2023-33 – Tavistock Minor Ball Association Agreement
  - 2023-34 – Vacancy Rebate Program Opt-Out
- CARRIED.**
- By-law: 8. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE  
3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK  
Reading Resolved that the following by-laws be read a third and final time:
- 2023-33 – Tavistock Minor Ball Association Agreement
  - 2023-34 – Vacancy Rebate Program Opt-Out
- CARRIED.**
- Adjourn to 9. Moved by: Brad SMITH  
Closed to the Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK  
Public Session Resolved that Council does now adjourn to a Closed to the Public Session, at 9:28 p.m., to consider the following matters:
- October 18, 2023, Closed to the Public Session Minutes (s. 239 (2) (b))
  - Zoning Application ZN2-23-04 (s. 239 (2) (e))
- CARRIED.**
- Rise from 10. Moved by: Scott ZEHR  
Closed to the Seconded by: Matthew GILLESPIE  
Public Session Resolved that Council does now rise from its Closed to the Public Session at 9:41 p.m.
- CARRIED.**
- Confirming 11. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH  
By-law Seconded by: Scott ZEHR  
Resolved that By-law #2023-35 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council held Wednesday November 15, 2023, be read a first, second and third time this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023;
- And further that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the same and affix the corporate seal thereto.
- CARRIED.**

Adjourn

12. Moved by: Brad SMITH  
Seconded by: Matthew GILLESPIE  
Resolved that Council does now adjourn at  
9:43 p.m.

***CARRIED.***

---

Will Jaques, Clerk

---

Phil Schaefer, Mayor