

The Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock met in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building, Hickson, Ontario at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday December 6, 2023.

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

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest, Clerk Will Jaques, CBO John Scherer, Public Works Manager Tom Lightfoot, Corporate Initiatives Officer Meaghan Vader, Human Resources and Safety Coordinator Jennifer Albrecht and Financial Services Coordinator Nettie Froese.

Mayor SCHAEFER welcomed everyone to the first meeting in the Township’s Council Chambers, at its new Administration Building. Councillor SMITH built upon the sentiments from Mayor SCHAEFER by welcoming in a new era for the Township, given the new Administration Building. Councillor SMITH also noted the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign that runs from November 25 to December 10, as well as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, on December 6th, to recognize the tragic mass shooting in 1989 at Polytechnique Montreal. Lastly, Councillor SMITH noted the upcoming Innerkip Santa Claus Parade and Innerkip Firefighter’s Breakfast, both being held on Saturday December 9th.

Approve
Agenda

1. Moved by: Scott ZEHR
Seconded by: Brad SMITH
Resolved that Council approve the agenda for the December 6, 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 15, 2023, Council Meeting, as printed and circulated.

CARRIED.

Correspondence & Reports – No Resolutions:

- Safe & Well Oxford Steering Committee – Updates and Minutes
- Oxford County – Punkeydoodles Corner Intersection Improvements
- November 15, 2023 PSB Minutes
- Staff Report - #CBO2023 – 10 re: Municipal Drains Inspection (2023 Results)
- Staff Report - #CAO2023 – 17 re: EZTransit Update

Correspondence & Reports – Resolutions Following:

Safe & Well
Oxford Steering
Committee –
Updates and
Minutes

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Safe & Well Oxford Steering Committee, including recent Committee Minutes and other Committee updates.

Oxford County–
Punkeydoodles
Corner
Intersection
Improvements

Council reviewed the correspondence from the County of Oxford regarding improvements to the Punkeydoodles Corner Intersection.

Conferences
and Seminars

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference is being held in Toronto from January 21 to January 23, 2024.

At 9:15 a.m., David Cripps and Leeanne Hopkins attended Council to make a presentation regarding Thames Valley District School Board updates in Oxford County.

County Council–
Updates &
Questions

Mayor SCHAEFER provided an update on County Council activities, including the County’s ongoing 2024 budget deliberations.

November 15,
2023 PSB
Minutes

Council reviewed the November 15, 2023, Police Services Board (PSB) Minutes.

Staff Report
#CBO2023 – 10
re: Municipal
Drains
Inspection
(2023 Results)

CBO John Scherer presented his report to Council regarding the results from the 2023 Municipal Drains Inspection Program.

Staff Report
#CAO2023 – 16
re: Proposed
2024 User Fee
Schedule

CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest presented her report to Council regarding the proposed 2024 user fees.

3. Moved by: Steven VAN WYK
Seconded by: Brad SMITH
Resolved that the licensed events rate for the pavilions be removed from the User Fee Schedule, as originally recommended in Report #CAO2023-16.

CARRIED.

4. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law for the proposed 2024 user fees as recommended in Report #CAO2023-16, as amended at the December 6, 2023, Council meeting, to the December 20, 2023, meeting of Council.

CARRIED.

Staff Report
#CAO2023 – 17
re: EZTransit
Update

CAO-Treasurer Karen DePrest presented her report to Council regarding updates on the EZTransit pilot program.

5. Moved by: Scott ZEHR
Seconded by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Resolved that Council authorizes the CAO-Treasurer to enter into any necessary agreements on behalf of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock to provide for EZTransit stops in neighbouring municipalities, for the duration of the Township's transit pilot program.

CARRIED.

- By-law: 6. Moved by: Brad SMITH
1st & 2nd Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Reading Resolved that the following by-law be read a first
and second time:
• 2023-36 – Tavistock Agricultural Society
Agreement
CARRIED.
- By-law: 7. Moved by: Scott RUDY
3rd & Final Seconded by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Reading Resolved that the following by-law be read a third
and final time:
• 2023-36 – Tavistock Agricultural Society
Agreement
CARRIED.
- Other and Regarding Councillor SMITH’s enquiry, staff
Unfinished confirmed that the new EZTransit bus will
Business participate in the Innerkip Santa Claus Parade.

Council observed a recess between 12:30 p.m. and
1:27 p.m.
8. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that Council suspend its rules of
procedure under Procedural By-law #2018-01, as
amended, to extend the meeting until no later than
5:00 p.m.
CARRIED.
- Strategic Council participated in a Strategic Planning Session
Planning facilitated by the Strategic Planning project
Session consultant, Rob Adams, from Town Hall Consulting.
- Confirming 9. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
By-law Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that By-law #2023-37 being a by-law to
confirm the proceedings of Council held
Wednesday December 6, 2023, be read a first,
second and third time this 6th day of December,
2023;

And further that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby
authorized to sign the same and affix the corporate
seal thereto.
CARRIED.

Adjourn

10. Moved by: Brad SMITH
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that Council does now adjourn at
4:44 p.m.

CARRIED.

Will Jaques, Clerk

Phil Schaefer, Mayor