

The Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock met in the Council Chambers at the Township Administration Building, Hickson, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 17, 2024.

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, CBO John Scherer, Public Works Manager Tom Lightfoot and Corporate Initiatives Officer Meaghan Vader.

Mayor SCHAEFER welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor SMITH noted the passing of Bill C-224 in the summer of 2023, which established a national framework for the prevention and treatment of cancers related to firefighting. Councillor SMITH also noted that the month of January is now declared to be "Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month".

Approve
Agenda

1. Moved by: Steven VAN WYK
Seconded by: Brad SMITH
Resolved that Council approve the agenda for the January 17, 2024, meeting as printed and circulated.

CARRIED.

PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

- None.

Confirm
Minutes -
Council

2. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that Council confirm the Minutes of the December 20, 2023, Council Meeting, as printed and circulated.

CARRIED.

Correspondence & Reports – No Resolutions:

- Woodstock – UNESCO CIM Membership

Correspondence & Reports – Resolutions
Following:

Woodstock –
UNESCO CIM
Membership

Council reviewed the correspondence from the City of Woodstock regarding membership in the UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM).

AORS –
Potential
Municipal
Equipment
Operator
Course

Council reviewed the correspondence from the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors requesting support for a Municipal Equipment Operator Course.

3. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH
Seconded by: Matthew GILLESPIE
WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND THAT, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccinni, Member of Provincial Parliament Ernie Hardeman and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

CARRIED.

Conferences
and Seminars

The ROMA Conference is being held in Toronto, starting on January 21, 2024.

County Council-
Updates &
Questions

Mayor SCHAEFER provided an update on County Council activities.

Staff Report
#CIO2024 – 01
re: Comm.
Bench and Tree
Program

Corporate Initiatives Officer Meaghan Vader presented her report to Council regarding the Commemorative Bench and Tree Program.

4. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that Council adopt the Commemorative Bench and Tree Program policy, as attached to Staff Report CIO2024-01;

And further that Council authorizes the Commemorative Bench and Tree Program be effective as of March 1, 2024.

CARRIED.

Public Hearing -
Minor Variance
Application
A-8-2023
(King)

**PUBLIC HEARING - MINOR VARIANCE
APPLICATION #A-8-2023 (KING),
DESCRIBED AS LOT 24 & PART LOT 39, PLAN
820, TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK.**

At 7:15 p.m., Council, constituted as the Committee of Adjustment, considered Minor Variance Application #A-8-2023 for Brian King. Planner Dustin Robson presented Planning Report #CP2024-12.

Members of the Committee asked questions of the Planner and Staff. The applicant was present for the hearing and spoke favourably of the application. The Committee considered the comments made in making its decision regarding this application.

5. Moved by: Matthew Gillespie
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that Council, constituted as the Committee of Adjustment, approve Application File A-8-2023, submitted by Brian King for lands described as Lot 24 & Part Lot 39, Plan 820 in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as it relates to:

1. Relief from Section 7.1 to allow an additional residential unit (ARU) within a detached accessory building or structure.

Subject to the following condition:

- i. That the proposed relief shall only apply to an ARU of the approximate size and location as depicted on Plate 4 of Report CP 2024-12.

As the variance requested is considered to be:

- I. in keeping with the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan;
- II. a minor variance from the provisions of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Zoning By-Law No. 2003-18;
- III. desirable for the appropriate development or use of the land, building or structure; and,
- IV. in keeping with the general intent and purpose of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Zoning By-Law No. 2003-18

CARRIED.

Staff Report
#CAO2024 – 01
re: CAO-
Treasury
Reporting

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

6. Moved by:
Seconded by:
Resolved that Council hold a Special Meeting of
Council on February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to
review and discuss the 2024 budget;

And further that an exception to the Procedural
By-law be made for the February 15th Special
Meeting and February 21st Regular Meeting,
allowing Council members to attend virtually, if
necessary.

CARRIED.

By-law:

1st & 2nd
Reading

7. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that the following by-laws be read a first
and second time:
- 2024-01 – Actual Cost By-law
(Tavistock Drain 1985 - Recon. 2023)
 - 2024-02 – Actual Cost By-law
(Parker Drain 2022)

CARRIED.

By-law:

3rd & Final
Reading

8. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that the following by-laws be read a third
and final time:
- 2024-01 – Actual Cost By-law
(Tavistock Drain 1985 - Recon. 2023)
 - 2024-02 – Actual Cost By-law
(Parker Drain 2022)

CARRIED.

Other and
Unfinished
Business

Council enquired, and was provided with an
update, regarding both the Strategic Planning
process and the launch of the EZTransit bus.

Adjourn to
Closed to the
Public Session

9. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that Council does now adjourn to a
Closed to the Public Session, at 7:53 p.m., to
consider the following matters:

- November 15, 2023, Closed to the Public Session Minutes (s. 239 (2) (e))
- Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual – HR Matter (s. 239 (2) (b))
- Proposed Disposition of Land – Property in Hickson (s. 239 (2) (c))

CARRIED.

Rise from
Closed to the
Public Session

10. Moved by: Scott ZEHR
Seconded by: Brad SMITH
Resolved that Council does now rise from its
Closed to the Public Session at 9:04 p.m.

CARRIED.

11. Moved by: Jeremy SMITH
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that Council declares the property located
at 90 Loveys Street in Hickson surplus to the
Township’s needs.

CARRIED.

Confirming
By-law

12. Moved by: Brad SMITH
Seconded by: Scott ZEHR
Resolved that By-law #2024-01 being a by-law to
confirm the proceedings of Council held
Wednesday January 17, 2024, be read a first,
second and third time this 17th day of January,
2024;

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

CARRIED.

Adjourn

13. Moved by: Matthew GILLESPIE
Seconded by: Steven VAN WYK
Resolved that Council does now adjourn at
9:20 p.m.

CARRIED.

Will Jaques, Clerk

Phil Schaefer, Mayor