



Township of Essa Council Meeting Minutes

A Council meeting was held in person on Wednesday May 6, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Administration Centre.

In attendance: Mayor Macdonald
Deputy Mayor Smith
Councillor Kiezebrink
Councillor Sander
Councillor Maltby

Staff in Attendance: Michael Mikael, Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation
John Kolb, Manager of Public Works
Lisa Lehr, Manager of Automated Speed Enforcement
Pedro Granes, Chief Building Official
Rachele Brown, Deputy Chief Building Official
Samuel Haniff, Manager of Planning
Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk
Krista Pascoe, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Macdonald opened the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No items.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Sander, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Be It Resolved That the motions duly passed and approved at the Committee of the Whole meeting of this date be approved; and

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole, Public, Council and Closed Session meetings held on the 15th day of April, 2026 be adopted as circulated. Motion Carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Sander

Be It Resolved That the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated May 6, 2026, be received for information; and

That item 1.6 and 1.9 be referred to staff for action. Motion Carried.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Maltby, Seconded by Councillor Kiezebrink

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the Essa Public Library Board from its meeting of March 23, 2026, be received as presented. Motion Carried.

6. PETITIONS

No items.

7. MOTIONS ANDNOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Proclamation – Apraxia Awareness Day

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Maltby, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Whereas World Autism Day is recognized on April 2, 2026, in Canada. Autism Ontario is one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community, and the work we do helps all autistic individuals and families in their communities have access to meaningful support, information, and connections - not only on April 2 but every day throughout the year; and

Whereas Autism impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario, representing 1 in every 50 Canadian children and youth. It not only influences the lives of autistics but also their friends, families, and communities. It's crucial for us to raise awareness, and acceptance, provide support and promote a more inclusive society; and

Whereas Autism is a diverse spectrum that varies widely among individuals. Each person's experience with autism can change over time. This evolving journey highlights the uniqueness of every autistic individual, emphasizing the need for understanding and support tailored to their specific needs; and

Whereas Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism, and since 1973, has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province; and

Whereas Autism Ontario is devoted to raising public awareness about autism and addressing the everyday challenges faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work alongside them. We urge everyone to recognize and celebrate the unique differences and needs of others, fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals can participate fully in activities and discussions. Together, we can create a society that values and includes everyone.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Essa hereby proclaim April 2nd as World Autism Day while committing to embrace awareness and acceptance today and every day throughout the year. Motion Carried.

b) Proclamation – MS Awareness Month

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Sander, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Whereas multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease affecting approximately 1 in 400 Canadians and over 90,000 across the country; and

Whereas multiple sclerosis symptoms vary widely, and the disease may cause symptoms such as fatigue, lack of coordination, weakness, tingling, impaired sensation, vision problems, bladder and bowel problems, and cognitive and mood changes; and

Whereas MS is thought to be caused by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle risk factors; and

Whereas MS Canada is the only national organization in Canada that supports both MS research and services for people affected by MS; and

Whereas annual fundraising events such as the MS Walk, MS Bike, and A&W Canada's Burgers to Beat MS campaign support programs to enhance the lives of people affected by multiple sclerosis and help support MS research in Canada; and

Whereas since 1948, MS Canada has provided over \$224 million for MS research; and is grateful for the dedication and commitment of supporters and volunteers that have made this possible; and

Whereas together we will find ways to connect and empower the MS community to create positive change and see a world free of multiple sclerosis,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Essa do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 to be MS Awareness Month for MS Canada. Motion Carried.

c) Proclamation – National Hospice Palliative Care Week

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Kiezebrink, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Whereas Hospice Palliative Care aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of living and dying for persons with terminal illness facing end of life; and

Whereas the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) is honouring National Hospice Palliative Care week by celebrating the beauty and colour that hospice palliative care brings to the lives it touches with the Living in Colour Campaign; and

Whereas Hospice Palliative Care brings colour, peace, and joy back to their lives in the ways that matter most to them and to their family by fostering an environment of compassion and comfort where they receive support across all aspects of their lives affected by illness, so they can enjoy Living in Colour, with vibrancy and meaning until their last breath.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Essa hereby proclaim May 3 - 9, 2026 as "National Hospice Palliative Care Week". Motion Carried.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

9. BY-LAWS

- a) **By-law 2026-17 – Establish Holiday Operating Hours and Closures By-law**
- b) **By-law 2026-18 – Retail Business Act Opt-Out By-law**
- c) **By-law 2026-19 – Regulate the Feeding of Wildlife By-law**
- d) **By-law 2026-20 – Underground Works - SanDiego Homes (Phase 1) By-law**
- e) **By-law 2026-21 – Aboveground Works - SanDiego Homes (Phase 1) By-law**

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Sander, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Be It Resolved That By-laws 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19, 2026-20, and 2026-21 be read a first, and taken a second and third time and finally passed. Motion Carried.

10. QUESTIONS

None.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Sander, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Be It Resolved That Council proceed to a Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to:

- a) **Confidential Staff Report from the Manager of Planning, re: Proposed Development – 68 Gold Park Gate – OLT Update**
 - Litigation or Potential Litigation – s.239(2)(e)
 - Plans and Instructions for Negotiation – s.239(2)(k)

Motion to Rise from the Closed Session Meeting of May 6, 2026.

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Maltby

Be It Resolved That Council rise from the Closed Session Meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion Carried.

Council requested the following item be added to the Closed Session Meeting Agenda:

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Sander

b) Confidential Verbal Update from the Chief Administrative Officer, re: South Simcoe Strategy

- Acquisition or Disposition of Land – s.239(2)(c)
- Plans and Instructions for Negotiation – s.239(2)(k)

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Maltby, Seconded by Councillor Kiezebrink

Be It Resolved That Council proceed to a Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to:

b) Confidential Verbal Update from the Chief Administrative Officer, re: South Simcoe Strategy

- Acquisition or Disposition of Land – s.239(2)(c)
- Plans and Instructions for Negotiation – s.239(2)(k)

Motion to Rise and Report from the Closed Session Meeting of May 6, 2026.

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Kiezebrink

Be It Resolved That Council rise and report from the Closed Session Meeting at 7:03 p.m. Motion Carried.

a) Confidential Report PD010-26 from the Manager of Planning, re: Litigation – Proposed Development 68 Gold Park Gate – OLT Update

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Maltby, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Be It Resolved That Confidential Staff Report PD010-26 be received; and

That Option No. 2 in this Confidential Staff Report be approved. Motion Carried.

b) Confidential Verbal Updated from the Chief Administrative Officer, re: South Simcoe Strategy

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Kiezebrink, Seconded by Councillor Maltby

Be It Resolved That Council receive the verbal update form the CAO regarding the South Simcoe Strategy and that the CAO proceed as directed by Council. Motion Carried.

12. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Sander

Be It Resolved That leave be granted to introduce By-law 2026-22, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session and Council meetings held on this 6th day of May, 2026; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed. Motion Carried.

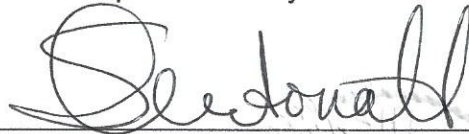
Mayor Macdonald added that she was in receipt of a letter from a resident requesting that it be read at the meeting regarding the Utopia Park

13. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Maltby

Be It Resolved That this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa Adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion Carried.



Sandie Macdonald,
Mayor



Krista Pascoe, Manager of Legislative
Services/Clerk