

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

**MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held in person on Wednesday February 7, 2024, following the Committee of the Whole in the Council Chambers of the Administration Centre, Township of Essa.

In attendance: Mayor Sandie Macdonald  
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith  
Councillor Pieter Kiezebrink  
Councillor Henry Sander  
Councillor Liana Maltby

Staff in attendance: M. Mikael, Interim CAO/Manager of Public Works  
S. Haniff, Manager of Planning  
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation  
D. Dollmaier, Manager of Finance  
P. Granes, Chief Building Official  
S. Corbett, Deputy Clerk  
L. Lehr, Manager of Legislative Services

**1. OPENING OF MEETING BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Macdonald opened the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MOTIONS**

**Resolution No: CR027-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander**

***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, Closed and Regular Council meetings held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 be adopted as circulated.*

**----Carried-----**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution No: CR028-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Kiezebrink**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be received for information:  
That Item A2 be referred to section B for staff action.*

**----Carried-----**

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6. **PETITIONS**

7. **MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

a. **2024 Pre-Budget Submission – Association of Municipalities Ontario**

**Resolution No: CR029-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby**

***WHEREAS** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and*

***WHEREAS** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and*

***WHEREAS** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and*

***WHEREAS** unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and*

***WHEREAS** municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and*

***WHEREAS** inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and*

***WHEREAS** property taxpayers, including people on fixed incomes and small businesses, can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and*

***WHEREAS** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and*

***WHEREAS** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; and*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and further,*

***THAT** a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Finance; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Member of Provincial Parliament Brian Saunderson.*

**-----Carried-----**

b. **Municipal Equipment Operator Course 2024**

**Resolution No: CR030-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith**

***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. **NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that Township of Essa 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 Essa 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, Township of Essa's Member of Provincial Parliament Brian Saunderson and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

----Carried-----

c. **#ITSTARTS Month**

**Resolution No: CR031-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby**

**WHEREAS** inclusion, acceptance, and equity are important approaches to the diversity of residents living in any community, especially in our growing and changing region; and **WHEREAS** March 21<sup>st</sup> is recognized as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and **WHEREAS** the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership (SCLIP) is a community partnership focused on the development of settlement strategies for newcomers. These strategies bring together and support service delivery to newcomers in Simcoe County while promoting positive relationships, opportunity, and use of local resources effectively; and **WHEREAS** this month presents an opportunity to further the resolve as we pause to celebrate the diversity of the human race rather than allow our dissimilarities to become a reason for racial separation; and **WHEREAS** we encourage all to celebrate the differences in each other such as race, culture, colour, national origin, gender, age, disability and religion; and **WHEREAS** during this period we will be hosting an awareness campaign and encouraging residents to take a stand and support #ITSTARTS to share their commitment to embracing acceptance, anti-racism and diversity. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of Township of Essa hereby proclaims the month of March, 2024, as "#ITSTARTS Month" in the Township of Essa, and encourages everyone to take a stand, participate in, and learn more about the #ITSTARTS campaign.

----Carried-----

d. **Kickboxing Competition– Municipally Significant Event**

**Resolution No: CR032-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby**

**WHEREAS** Legacy Fight Club has requested to operate a Bar at the Angus Recreation Centre on March 23, 2024 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; and  
**WHEREAS** Legacy Fight Club will be selling and serving alcohol to the public; and  
**WHEREAS** Legacy Fight Club will ensure that all servers will be in possession of a Smart Serve Certification and will ensure that alcohol is kept within the designated consumption area; and

**WHEREAS** the Legacy Fight Club will provide Essa with a copy of their Certificate of Insurance naming Essa Township as an “additional insured” in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; and

**WHEREAS** the Township of Essa is further requiring that Legacy Fight Club ensures that parking issues are addressed, alcohol is contained to the alcohol consumption area only and that this area is monitored by security supplied by the organization to ensure compliance, and that the side door to the Angus Recreation Centre is used as the entrance and exit to the event; and

**WHEREAS** this kickboxing event is sanctioned by the Ministry of Sport and is recognized by PSO- Kickboxing Ontario and approved by WAKO Canada to be an event of municipal significance;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** THAT Council of the Township of Essa hereby proclaims this event to be an event of municipal significance and directs staff to issue a letter of non-objection to Legacy Fight Club to accompany their application for a Special Occasion Permit through the AGCO.

----Carried-----

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9. **BY-LAWS**

a. **By-law 2024-01 Parking By-law Amendment**

**Resolution No: CR033-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-01, that being a By-law to amend Essa’s parking By-law 2005-96; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

----Carried-----

b. **By-law 2024-12 Procedural By-law Amendment 2017-77**

**Resolution No: CR034-2024 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Kiezebrink**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-12, that being a By-law to amend Essa’s Procedural By-law 2017-77; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

----Carried-----

**c. By-law 2024-13 Issuance of Certificate of Substantial Completion**

**Resolution No: CR35-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith**

*BE IT RESOLVED that leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-13, that being a By-law to authorize the issuance of the Certificate of Substantial Completion of Underground Works; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.*

**----Carried-----**

**10. QUESTIONS**

**11. CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution No: CR36-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander**

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed to a Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to:*

- a) Confidential Staff Report CAO003-24 – Sale of Land
  - *Acquisition or Disposition of Land [s.239(2)(c)]*
  - *Litigation or Potential Litigation [s.239(2)(e)]*
  - *Plans and Instructions for Negotiation [s.239(2)(k)]*

**----Carried-----**

**Motion to Rise and Report from Closed Session Meeting of February 21, 2024.**

**Resolution No: CR037-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Sander**

*BE IT RESOLVED that Council rise and report from the Closed Session Meeting at 7:56 p.m.*

**----Carried-----**

- a. **ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF LAND [s.239(2)(c)]**  
**LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION [s.239(2)(e)]**  
**PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEGOTIATION [s.239(2)(k)]**  
**Confidential Staff Report CAO003-24 submitted by the Interim CAO, re: Sale of Land**

**Resolution No: CR038-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby**

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confidential Staff Report CAO003-24 regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals be received; and THAT Council direct staff in accordance with Option 1, 2 and 3 as contained within the body of the Report.*

**----Carried-----**

12. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

a. By-law 2024-11

Resolution No: CR039-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Maltby

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-14, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, Closed and Council meetings held on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2024; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

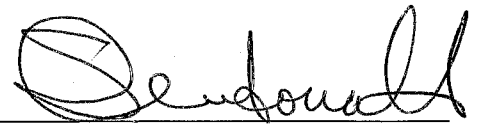
----Carried-----

13. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: CR2040-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa adjourn at 7:57 p.m. to meet again on the 6th day of March, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

----Carried-----



Sandie Macdonald  
Mayor



Lisa Lehr  
Manager of Legislative Services