

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of Council was held in person on Wednesday April 3, 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
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation
S. Haniff, Manager of Planning
P. Granes, Chief Building Official
L. Lehr, Manager of Legislative Services

1. OPENING OF MEETING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Macdonald opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MOTIONS

Resolution No: CR059-2024 Moved by: Maltby 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 Public, Committee of the Whole, Regular Council and Closed Session meetings held on the 20th day of March, 2024 be adopted as circulated.*

----Carried-----

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No: CR060-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated April 3, 2024, be received for information; and
That Item A7 be moved to section B of consent, for a letter of support to be drafted.*

----Carried-----

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Minutes of the Essa Public Library Board

Resolution No: CR061-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Essa Public Library Board from their meeting on February 26, 2024, be received.

----Carried----

6. PETITIONS

7. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a. Proclamation – World Autism Awareness Day

Resolution No: CR062-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Kiezebrink

WHEREAS World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized on April 2 in Canada, thanks to Liberal Senator Jim Munson's Bill S-206, An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 135,000 Ontarians, and is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community; and

WHEREAS ASD not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each individual as well. A child with ASD will become an adult with ASD; and

WHEREAS Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community, and has been providing support, information and opportunities for thousands of families across the Province since 1973; and

WHEREAS Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact, as well as sharing between the Association and its Chapters, the common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Essa hereby proclaims April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day.

----Carried----

b. Thornton Hydro Reserve Funds Expenditure

Resolution No: CR063-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith

WHEREAS the municipality contains a reserve fund entitled the Thornton Hydro Reserve, which was originally created for the disbursement of proceeds from the sale of the Thornton Utility; and

WHEREAS Council wishes to disburse \$6,500 for flags and hardware to be installed on Thornton Avenue and Robert Street in Thornton; and

WHEREAS Council wishes to disburse \$3,000 to purchase a shed to store the aforementioned supplies and other items; and

WHEREAS Council has consulted with four citizens of Thornton who were originally involved in suggesting uses for the Thornton Hydro Reserve funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the expenditures so named herein, with funds to be disbursed from G/L account 02-80-002-060-3580 in the amount of \$9,500.

----Carried-----

c. Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request

Resolution No: CR064-2024 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Kiezebrink

WHEREAS under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed; and

WHEREAS over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.; and

WHEREAS municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries; and

WHEREAS the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Township of Essa requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;

And

That this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Todd McCarthy – Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis – BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, and Brian Saunderson – MPP Simcoe-Grey, and all Ontario municipalities..

----Carried-----

d. Rideshare Services

Resolution No: CR065-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Kiezebrink

WHEREAS at its meeting of March 20, 2024, Council of the Township of Essa received correspondence from the Municipality of Brighton, the correspondence of which outlined challenges related to limited access to transportation, and the pressing need for a ride-sharing service to address transportation gaps within rural communities; and **WHEREAS** Rideshare services are increasingly relied upon by seniors, students, visitors and tourists, and residents looking for safe, affordable, convenient, and reliable ways to travel; and

WHEREAS the standardization and consistency of regulations across municipalities, particularly in Ontario, can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework; and

WHEREAS transferring the responsibility of ride-share regulations and licensing to the provincial level would contribute to a more streamlined and uniform governance structure, while eliminating associated red tape and unnecessary administrative costs;

THEREFORE Be It Resolved that the Municipality of Essa Council hereby expresses its support for the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality of Essa Council formally requests the Government of Ontario to initiate the transfer of responsibilities in the interest of creating a more coherent and standardized regulatory framework for ride-sharing services across the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria – Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Paul Calandra – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Brian Saunderson – MPP Simcoe-Grey, and, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

----Carried-----

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. BY-LAWS

- a. **By-law 2024-20 – A By-law to amend Essa’s Property Standards By-law.**
- b. **By-law 2024-21 – A By-law to Appoint Michael Mikael as CAO**

Resolution No: CR066-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

Be it resolved that By-laws 2024-20 and 2024-21 be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

----Carried-----

10. **QUESTIONS**

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution No: CR067-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby

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

- a. *Confidential Staff Report CAO007-24, re: Land Acquisition*
- *Acquisition or Disposition of Land [s.239(2)(c)]*
 - *Plans and Instructions for Negotiation [s.239(2)(k)]*

----Carried-----

Council proceeded into Closed Session deliberations at 6:57 p.m.

Motion to Rise and Report from Closed Session Meeting of April 3, 2024.

Resolution No: CR068-2024 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Smith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council rise and report from the Closed Session Meeting at 7:08 p.m.

----Carried-----

Council passed the following:

- a. **ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF LAND [s.239(2)(c)]
PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEGOTIATION [s.239(2)(k)]
Confidential Staff Report CAO007-24 submitted by Interim CAO,
re: Land Acquisition.**

Resolution No: CR069-2024 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Kiezebrink

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confidential Staff Report CAO007-24 be received.

----Carried-----

12. **CONFIRMATION BY-LAW**

- a. **By-law 2024-22**

Resolution No: CR070-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-22, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, Closed and Council meetings held on this 3rd day of April, 2024; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

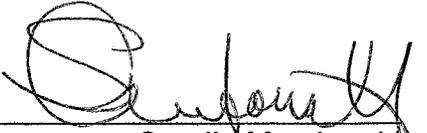
----Carried-----

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution No: CR071-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa adjourn at 7:10 p.m. to meet again on the 17th day of April, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.*

----Carried-----



Sandie Macdonald
Mayor



Lisa Lehr
Manager of Legislative Services