



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting
Monday September 25, 2023
7:00 p.m. Keystone Complex, 35921 Talbot Line, Shedden/Via Video Link

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Grant Jones
Deputy Mayor Justin Pennings (7:01 p.m.)
Councillor John Adzija
Councillor Sarah Emons
Councillor Scott Fellows

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk
Michele Lant, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Aaron VanOorspronk, Director of Infrastructure & Development Services
Josh Mueller, Planner
June McLarty, Corporate Services Clerk

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA: None

DISCLOSURES: None

ADOPTION AND REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Council Minutes – Adopt

2023-294 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 11, 2023 are hereby adopted.

CARRIED

Committee Minutes – Review

2023-295 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Emons

THAT Council has reviewed the Draft Minutes of the Canada Day Committee Meeting of August 2, 2023 and the Economic Development Committee Meeting of September 7, 2023.

CARRIED

DELEGATION:

7:02 p.m. – 7:07 p.m.

FIN 2023-12 2024 Capital Budget Report #1

Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Michele Lant presented this report. She reported that the format for the 2024 budget deliberations will be different this year. Capital budget deliberations will begin this fall. Capital budget discussions will be divided into three categories: mandatory, critical and recommended. A list of proposed meeting dates and subject matter was presented to Council.

Consideration for a recreation facility for Talbotville Meadows Subdivision

Mayor Jones reported that this delegation had made a request to not proceed with this proposal at this time.

PLANNING:

PLA 2023-29 Natural Heritage Policy Updates

Planner Josh Mueller presented this report. Councillor Emons explained the significance of removing the habitat of endangered species and threatened species from the "Natural Features and Areas" definition, expressing that her opinion is that this provincial change could make our wetlands very vulnerable.

REPORTS:

ENG 2023-47 County Road Maintenance Agreement

2023-296 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council receive report 2023-47 County Road Maintenance for information and,

THAT Council approve By-Law No. 2023-52 County Road Maintenance Agreement.

CAO 2023-47 Responding to the Housing Affordability Task Force's Recommendations

CAO/Clerk Lisa Higgs provided an update to this report. Ms. Higgs reported that 3 of the selected 5 of the Task Force recommendations recommended by staff have been earmarked as "completed" by the province, so she recommended that some of the selections be swapped for other, similar, incomplete options.

2023-297 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Fellows

THAT the Council of the Township of Southwold direct Mayor Jones to submit the recommendations attached as Schedule C, as amended, to this report to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in advance of the October 16th 2023 deadline.

CARRIED

CAO 2023-48 Council Meetings in October

2023-298 Councillor Emons – Councillor Adzija

THAT the Council of the Township of Southwold alters the schedule and the location for the regular meetings of Council in October as follows:

First meeting of October to take place on Wednesday October 11th at 7:00 pm at the Keystone Complex in Shedden

Second meeting of October to take place on Monday October 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Keystone Complex in Shedden.

CARRIED

County Council Highlights – September 12, 2023

Mayor Jones presented this report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Town of Grimsby Resolution: Establishing a Guaranteed Livable Income.

STAFF DIRECTION

Staff was directed by Council to receive and file the item that presented under Correspondence.

BY-LAW:

- By-law No. 2023-52, being a by-law to enter into a Road Maintenance Agreement with the County of Elgin

By-law**2023-299 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Emons**

THAT By-law No. 2023-52 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 25th day of September, 2023.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION:**2023-300 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows**

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold now moves into a session of the meeting that shall be closed to the public at **7:35 p.m.** in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25 for discussion of the following matters;

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instructions to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (section 239 (2)(k)) – Industrial Assessment Programs.

CARRIED

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in Open Session at 7:53 pm.

Mark Harris, Robin Trepanier, Matt Belding, and Vitaliy Talashok

Mark Harris thanked Mayor Jones for the introduction and announced his retirement at the end of the month. Mr. Harris introduced Vitaliy Talashok to Council, and announced that Mr. Talashok had recently accepted the position of Senior Operations Manager for the Aylmer and Tri-County Area, so he would be presenting to Council moving forward. Mr. Harris and Mr. Belding presented the reports to Council. There was significant discussion on the effluent testing metrics and it was explained to Council by OCWA that challenges with wipes being flushed meant that the plant required significant maintenance, which meant turning off certain processes, impacting levels. Council directed staff to initiate a significant information campaign on the impact wipes have on the sanitary system. The campaign is to include a webpage, social media campaign and signage posted in Talbotville.

QCWA 2nd Quarter Operations Reports-Southwold Water Distribution System and Talbotville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

2023-301 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold hereby receives the reports from Matthew Belding and Mark Harris, OCWA re: The Southwold Water Distribution System 2nd Quarter Operations Report and the Talbotville Wastewater Treatment Plant 2nd Quarter Operations Report for information purposes.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION:

2023- 302 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold now moves again into a session of the meeting that shall be closed to the public at **8:23 p.m.** in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25 for discussion of the following matters;

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instructions to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (section 239 (2)(k)) – Industrial Assessment Programs.

CARRIED

Adjournment of Closed Session

2023-303 Deputy Mayor Pennings – Councillor Adzija

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold adjourns the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting at **9:11 p.m.**

CARRIED

STAFF DIRECTION

Staff were directed by Council to three items that were discussed in the Closed Session.

Confirming By-law

- By-law No. 2023-53, being a By-law to confirm the resolutions and motions of the Council of the Township of Southwold, which were adopted on September 25, 2023

Confirming By-law

2023-304 Councillor Emons – Councillor Fellows

THAT By-law No. 2023-53 be read a first and second time, considered read a third time and finally passed this 25th day of September, 2023.


CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2023-305 Councillor Adzija – Councillor Fellows

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Regular meeting of Council at **9:12 p.m.**

CARRIED



Mayor

Grant Jones



CAO/Clerk

Lisa Higgs