

MINUTES

Council met at 4:00 p.m. for their singular Regular Meeting of the month.

Present: Mayor Peterson, Councillors Banbury, Barnes, Demarest and Young.

Staff: Baer, Belanger, Brick, Davidson, Degier, and Matheson.

Other: Robson, Planner.

Mayor Peterson in the Chair.

1. Welcome

2. Call to Order

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #1

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the agenda for the July 3rd, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as printed and circulated.

.Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. June 19th, 2024 Minutes of Council

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the minutes of the June 19th, 2024 Meeting of Council be adopted, as printed and circulated.

.Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Public Meetings

a. Public Meeting under the Planning Act, Zone Change

- i. Application for Zone Change – ZN1-24-02 (Eliview Inc.)

RESOLUTION #3

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting under the Planning Act to consider application for zone change:

ZN1-24-02 (Eliview Inc.);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending to approve-in-principle. No Member made comment or had questions regarding the application. The applicant was present. No one in the audience spoke for or against the application.

RESOLUTION #4

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Public Meeting be adjourned and that the Regular Meeting of Council reconvene.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #5

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim approve-in-principle the Zone Change Application submitted by Eliview Inc. whereby the lands described as Part Lots 14 and 15, Concession 4 (Blenheim), Township of Blandford-Blenheim are to be rezoned from 'General Agricultural Zone (A2)' to 'Rural Residential Zone (RR)' and 'Special General Agricultural Zone (A2-sp).'

.Carried

- ii. Application for Zone Change – ZN1-24-10 (Calhaven Farms)

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting under the Planning Act to consider application for zone change:

ZN1-24-10 (Calhaven Farms);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending denial. The applicant was present. Chair Peterson commented on the historic merger of the two farms to one. Councillor Young questioned whether one ARU would suffice. The applicant spoke regarding his brother and himself wanting to reside on the family farm. Member Banbury commented on dividing the farm, Mayor Peterson commented that would likely not be possible. Member Demarest noted her primary concern is the non-compliance with MDS on proposed ARU 1 (as numbered in the report). The applicant spoke to the proposed location of ARU 1. Mayor Peterson commented that his reservation with the application is that there are two proposed ARUs on one property as well as the MDS issues with proposed ARU 1. The property owner commented that proposed ARU 1 could be relocated to better satisfy MDS requirements. Member Young questioned the viability of changing the application to a garden suite. The Planner commented the decision could be deferred to allow the applicant to explore options. No one in the audience spoke for or against the application. The Members deliberated further, concurring to defer the decision.

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Public Meeting be adjourned and that the Regular Meeting of Council reconvene.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim defer the decision on the Zone Change Application submitted by Nicholas and Christopher Gerber on behalf of Calhaven Farms.

.Carried

iii. Application for Zone Change – ZN1-24-11 (A&S Small Properties Ltd.)

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting under the Planning Act to consider application for zone change:

ZN1-24-11 (A&S Small Properties Ltd.);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending approval. The applicant was present. Member Demarest questioned the text amendment, the Planner responded. Shane Wakeford spoke in opposition of the application citing the main concerns being the number of people attending the property due to the business as well as the quality of water due to the location of the well. Member Peterson noted the water would be dealt with at the time of permit. The applicant spoke in rebuttal of the concerns, noting that they do not have excessive numbers of visitors and the water is bought and provided for her family and anyone who visits. Member Demarest questioned the reasoning for the ARU. Member Banbury questioned the possibility of using the main dwelling on the property. The applicant responded that the main dwelling is occupied. The applicant responded that her and her family would like to be closer to the business. For this application, the members decided upon approval.

RESOLUTION #10

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Public Meeting be adjourned and that the Regular Meeting of Council reconvene.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #11

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim approve the zone change application submitted by Alysha Williams on behalf of A and S Small Properties Ltd. whereby the text for the zoning of the lands described as Part Lot 6, Concession 1 (Blenheim), in the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, will be amended to permit a detached additional residential unit (ARU), in accordance with Section 5.5.2).'

.Carried

iv. Application for Zone Change – ZN1-24-12 (Sutherland)

RESOLUTION #12

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting under the Planning Act to consider application for zone change:

ZN1-24-12 (Sutherland);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the report, recommending denial. The registered owners were present and spoke in favour of the application and provided paperwork to support their application including a tax bill, affidavit and email. The applicant spoke regarding the issue of parking. Staff were consulted regarding the parking and cited winter maintenance as the main issue. Chair Peterson noted parking is difficult to enforce. The owner spoke regarding the reasoning for the application, specifically to make the property a viable one to sell. Chair Peterson, Members Demarest and Young commented regarding the Drumbo Secondary Plan and the commercial main floor provisions as well as the projected future growth of the Village. Member Young questioned whether, if the zone change was granted, that building would lose commercial space forever. Planner Robson responded that commercial space is still possible if the zone change is granted. Member Demarest questioned the acceptability of the evidence provided by the applicant to prove whether or not the property is legal non-conforming. CAO Brick noted the lack of the Township's guide or policy regarding the procedure for determining legal-nonconforming status. Chair Peterson expressed the concern of setting precedent for allowing residential in commercially-zoned properties. No one in the audience spoke for or against the application. For this application, the members concurred upon denial.

RESOLUTION #13

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the Public Meeting be adjourned and that the Regular Meeting of Council reconvene.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #14

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim deny the zone change application submitted by Eileen and Keith Sutherland whereby the lands described as Part Lots 6-8, Block B, Plan 199, Part 1, Plan 41R1838, in the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, are to be rezoned from ‘Central Commercial Zone (CC)’ to ‘Special Central Commercial Zone (CC-sp).’

.Carried

8. Delegations / Presentations

- i. Sarah & Carol Main, Residents, re: Oxford-Waterloo Road Bridge Closure Concerns

Sarah and Carol Main, residents on Oxford-Waterloo Road discussed concerns regarding the closure of Oxford-Waterloo Road Bridge. Main spoke to the bridge being an integral link between Plattsville and other local villages. Main’s request is to re-open the bridge. A petition with the same sentiment was presented. Main noted concern with the decision-making process by the Township of Wilmot to close the bridge. Main further noted the difficulty in being a Blandford-Blenheim resident when the Township of Wilmot is making the decisions on the shared burden of the bridge. Main requested that Blandford-Blenheim request the Township of Wilmot to re-open the bridge. Correspondence was received by Kris Sangers after the agenda was published and was circulated to members of Council. Mayor Peterson questioned the cost of replacement and the options moving forward, staff answered with the technical information. Mayor Peterson noted that Blandford-Blenheim Council decided to repair the bridge, Wilmot Council decided to close the bridge. Mayor Peterson advised the delegates to approach the Township of Wilmot. Member Demarest advised to reach out to current or past Members of Wilmot Council as a resource.

RESOLUTION #15

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Sarah Main regarding the Oxford-Waterloo Road bridge closure concerns be received as information.

.Carried

9. Correspondence

- a. Specific

None.

b. General

- i. Paul Michiels, Manager of Policy Planning, Oxford County, re: Bill 185 Briefing Memo

RESOLUTION #17

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the general correspondence item be received as information.

.Carried

10. Staff Reports

a. Adam Degier – Drainage Superintendent

- i. DS-24-13 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #18

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Report DS-24-14 be received as information.

.Carried

b. Jim Borton – Director of Public Works

- i. PW-24-15 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #19

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Report PW 24-15 be received as information.

.Carried

- ii. PW-24-16 – Dust Suppressant Tender

RESOLUTION #20

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report PW-24-16 be received as information;

And further to award the dust suppressant tender for a 3-year term including 2025, 2026 & 2027 to Pollard Highway Products at a unit price of \$0.124 in 2025; \$0.127 in 2026 and \$0.130 in 2027 per litre plus HST for the supply, delivery and application of 20% liquid brine solution (Dustmaster 20).

.Carried

c. Trevor Baer – Director of Community Services

- i. CS-24-10 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #21

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-24-10 be received as information.

.Carried

d. Drew Davidson – Director of Protective Services

- i. FC-24-15 – Wilmot Fire Agreement

RESOLUTION #22

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Report FC-24-15 is received as information;
and,

That Council directs staff to send a letter to the Township of Wilmot advising that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim will not be renewing the Fire Protection Agreement beyond December 31st 2024; and further,

That Council directs the Clerk to take the necessary steps to repeal By-Law 2191-2020 at a future Regular Meeting of Council.

.Carried

e. Denise Krug – Director of Finance

- i. TR-24-09 – Recommendation re: Use of 2023 Surplus

RESOLUTION #23

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Report TR-24-09 be received as information;

And further that the 2023 surplus of \$289,399 be allocated as follows:

Tax Stabilization Reserve \$105,587.30

Working Capital Reserve \$183,811.70

.Carried

- ii. TR-24-10 – Revision to Budget Development Policy

RESOLUTION #24

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report TR-24-10 be received as information;

And further that Council approves and adopts the Revised Budget Calendar as part of the Budget Development Policy.

.Carried

f. Sarah Matheson – Clerk

- i. DC-24-04 – Council Conference, Education, and Training Policy

RESOLUTION #25

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report DC-24-04 be received as information;
and,

That the Council Conference, Education and Training Policy be adopted.

.Carried

- ii. DC-24-05 – Update to the August 2024 Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION #26

Moved by – Councillor Young

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Report DC-24-05 be received as information.

.Carried

- iii. DC-24-06 – Asset Naming Policy – Princeton Trail Naming

RESOLUTION #27

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report DC-24-06 be received as information;
and

That Council accept the following name to be assigned to the Township
asset of the Princeton Park Trail:

Robert Hill Cowan Trail.

.Carried

g. Josh Brick – Chief Administrative Officer

- i. CAO-24-25 – Follow Up – Waterloo-Oxford Bridge

RESOLUTION #16

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report CAO-24-25 be received as information;
and,

That Council endorses Option (2) in principle – Remain Open to Light
Vehicle and Pedestrians; and further,

That Council directs staff to work with Township of Wilmot staff in
investigating further impacts, communicate with local residents/ various
stakeholders, and provide a follow up report for Council consideration during
2025 Budget Deliberations.

.Carried

- ii. CAO-24-26 – Funding Agreement for Renewed Canada Community-
Building Fund (CCBF)

RESOLUTION #28

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Report CAO-24-26 be received as information;
and,

That Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute the renewed 10-
year Municipal funding Agreement for the administration of the Canada
Community-Building Fund.

.Carried

11. Reports from Council Members

Mayor Peterson spoke regarding the Township's Camp 85 starting next week, the attendees will be at the Plattsville, Bright, Drumbo and Princeton Fire Stations in that order from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and graduation being held on Saturday in Plattsville at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Peterson noted that the Drumbo Heritage Society had Canada Day Event at Drumbo Park on July 1st and it was well attended. Councillor Demarest reminded of the Rural Oxford Economic Development Committee's (ROEDC) upcoming networking event on July 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Deep Purple Lavendar Farm. Councillor Demarest further spoke to ROEDC's securing a promotional tent at the annual Canada Outdoor Farm Show on the north end of Woodstock. Councillor Demarest noted herself and ROEDC are looking for Blandford-Blenheim businesses to be part of the tent to promote their goods and or services. Councillor Demarest spoke regarding the upcoming Harvest Carnival Event happening in Drumbo Park on the weekend of August 16th, 17th, and 18th, with the Hoedown happening on the Saturday evening where there will be live music and a nacho bar. Councillor Demarest noted that tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the event.

12. Unfinished Business

None.

13. Motions and Notices of Motion

None.

14. New Business

RESOLUTION #29

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Whereas, all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;

Whereas, municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse;

Whereas, several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst members of municipal councils;

Whereas, these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments;

Whereas, municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour;

Whereas, municipal governments do not have the necessary tools to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim supports the call of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments; and,

Be It Resolved that the legislation encompass the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's recommendations for:

- Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment;
- Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario;
- Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province;
- Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner; and,
- Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office.

.Carried

15. Closed Session

- a. Report CAO-24-27 - A proposed to pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality [s. 239 (2)(c)]

Re: Childcare Facility

- b. Report CAO-24-28 – Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: Staff Update – Community Services

- c. Report CAO-24-29 – Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: Performance Evaluation – Strategic Objectives and Benchmarking

RESOLUTION #30

Moved by – Councillor Banbury

Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council move into Closed Session under the authority of Section 239 of the Municipal Act at 7:28 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Report CAO-24-27 - A proposed to pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality [s. 239 (2)(c)]

Re: Childcare Facility

- b. Report CAO-24-28 – Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: Staff Update – Community Services

- c. Report CAO-24-29 – Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: Performance Evaluation – Strategic Objectives and Benchmarking

.Carried

RESOLUTION #31

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Council does now adjourn from Closed Session and resume into Open Session at 8:44 p.m. and reports the following:

- That Council gave direction to the CAO regarding Report CAO-24-27;
- That Council gave direction to the CAO regarding Report CAO-24-28; and,
- That Council gave direction to the CAO regarding Report CAO-24-29.

.Carried

16. By-laws

- a. 2441-2024, Being a By-law to authorize the entering into an Agreement between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Township of Blandford-Blenheim;

- b. 2442-2024, Being A By-law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-24-11);
- c. 2443-2024, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

RESOLUTION #32

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the following By-laws be now read a first and second time:

- a. 2441-2024, Being a By-law to authorize the entering into an Agreement between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Township of Blandford-Blenheim;
- b. 2442-2024, Being A By-law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-24-11);
- c. 2443-2024, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #33

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the following By-laws be now read a third and final time:

- a. 2441-2024, Being a By-law to authorize the entering into an Agreement between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Township of Blandford-Blenheim;
- b. 2442-2024, Being A By-law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-24-11);
- c. 2443-2024, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

17. Other Business

Mayor Peterson reported on County Council developments. Particularly information was shared regarding homelessness in the County; Punkydoodles Corner is beginning to be redeveloped for increased safety; and the trend of self-contained living areas being built with recreation opportunities included.

18. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

RESOLUTION #34

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Whereas business before Council has been completed at 8:49 p.m.;

Be it hereby resolved that Council adjourn to meet again on Wednesday, August 7th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

.Carried

Mark Peterson, Mayor
Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Sarah Matheson, Clerk
Township of Blandford-Blenheim