

# The Corporation of the Township of Lucan Biddulph Council Minutes

**Present:** Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson, Deputy Mayor D. Manders, Councillor D. Regan, Councillor P. Mastorakos and A. Westman

**Also Present:** R. Reymer-CAO/Clerk, T. Merner-Deputy Clerk, L. deBoer-Economic Development Coordinator, J. Little-Public Works Manager, T. Loyens-Deputy Treasurer, P. Smith-Parks & Recreation Manager

## **Call To Order**

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting took place electronically with the Mayor and CAO/Clerk in attendance at the Township office and all other attendees via electronic participation.

## **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & Nature Thereof**

### **Announcements**

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson opened the meeting by acknowledging the 1<sup>st</sup> of September date and what that means for all going forward while still enduring the global pandemic. She reminded citizens it is important to remember we cannot replace our backyard barbeque's with dining room dinners and we must continue to mask up, sanitize, look out for our neighbours and be physically distant but not socially alone.

### **Delegation**

T. Merner gave an overview of report no. CAO-11-2020 and advised that Mr. Dave Woodward is in attendance to explain the changes being brought forward in the amendment to the procedural by-law.

### **David Woodward, Lerner's LLP**

Mr. Woodward advised the changes being proposed to the procedural by-law will give council the option to continue with electronic council meetings and Planning Act public meetings as well as allow for proxy voting once the declared emergency has been lifted. He further noted the changes in legislation brought forward in Bill 197, *the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020* which amended sections of the Municipal Act, 2001 to permit electronic meetings to be held at any time to the extent and in the manner as set out in the applicable procedural by-law. Discussion took place regarding proxy voting, location of the Chair during electronic meetings, recorded votes and publishing of electronic minutes. D. Woodward advised changes as discussed will be made and a final version of the by-law be brought forward at the next meeting. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson thanked Mr. Woodward for attending at which time (6:58 p.m.) he exited the meeting.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

#### **1/Minutes**

*Moved by A. Westman*

*Seconded by D. Regan*

*That the regular council minutes of August 11, 2020 be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### **Business Arising**

Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson noted all items are on-going at this time, however Chief Building Official Arnie Marsman is in attendance to review the proposed changes to the Animal Control By-law.

T. Merner gave a review of report No. CL-07-2020 and advised the major changes being proposed to the animal control by-law are the inclusion of cats. She noted the by-law specifies a limit of animals per household to a total of 5, including dogs and cats. A. Marsman further advised that cats running at large are now a fineable offence as per revisions made to this by-law and noted that Municipality of Middlesex Centre included a similar provision in their by-law earlier this year. He further noted that bylaw enforcement will try best to avoid fines and generally proceed with education awareness and warnings first off, but impounding or fines would be the next option. A. Marsman further advised that Animal Care Centre Lobo will not

pick up cats or dogs unless they are contained and it has always been the priority of Animal Care Centre to re-home the animals before putting them down. Discussion took place regarding concerns of placing cats and dogs in the same category, efforts taken to contact the owner of the animals and seizing and impounding fees. R. Reymer advised the next steps will be to send the draft by-law to the Ministry of Attorney General for pre-approval of the short-form wording on the fine Schedule and then brought back to council for passing. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson thanked A. Marsman for attending at which time (7:18 p.m.) he exited the meeting.

### **Correspondence**

K. Langendyk commented on the letter included from Minister Steve Clark dated Aug. 12, 2020 and noted that the Township of Lucan Biddulph will receive \$123,600.00 as part of the federal-provincial safe restart agreement. She further noted that these funds can be carried forward if not used this year and direct costs related to COVID-19 are approximately \$15,000. K. Langendyk advised she will be bringing forward a financial update at a future meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *BRA*

D. Manders gave a brief update regarding the last Bluewater Recycling Association meeting and noted there continues to be a labour shortage and the plant is participating in a trial using robotic arms in the sorting area.

#### *ABCA and UTRCA*

A Westman gave a brief update regarding Upper Thames meeting last week and advised conversations are taking place regarding heritage buildings owned by the conservation authorities and whether to provide required maintenance/upgrades to them or sell the buildings to mitigate costs going forward.

### **Staff Reports**

#### *CAO/Clerk*

R. Reymer reviewed report no. CAO-11-2020. He announced the retirement of two former crossing guards and thanked Marilyn Cater and Jean Hickson for their years of service with the Township. Discussion took place regarding flooring issues in the municipal office, the County of Middlesex optimization grant project and the continuance of the emergency declaration.

#### *Finance*

K. Langendyk asked council to start thinking about the budget for 2021 and whether they have specific requests to be included in the capital budget.

#### *Public Works*

J. Little reviewed report no. PW-23-2020 regarding the winter maintenance agreement for Highway 4 within the connecting link of our Township. Discussion took place regarding future extension of the connecting link boundary as well as the procurement policy and whether this annual maintenance contract needs to come to council. R. Reymer advised the agreement is brought forward for council to authorize execution of same through the by-law.

J. Little gave an update regarding the standing water issue in Ridge Crossing, traffic control measures and testing of same taking place on Nicoline Avenue and an upcoming municipal drain project and timelines. He further noted the crosswalk at the arena location is temporarily out of service while a part is being ordered for replacement.

#### *Parks & Recreation*

P. Smith gave a department update and advised staff will be starting to install the ice surface in the middle of September with a targeted start date for first of October. He noted this timeline is consistent with the majority of neighbouring municipalities. P. Smith further advised of some environmental green initiatives that he and his department are looking into.

#### *Economic Development*

L. deBoer advised the backyard concert event that took place last week was a success. She further noted progress that is taking place from the County for development of a new Township website and that bi-weekly meetings will be starting to take place with respect to development of the Community Improvement Plan.

### **Councillor's Comments**

D. Manders asked for an update on the car wash and R. Reymer advised A. Marsman will be providing an update to council.

P. Mastorakos raised concerns regarding the Employee Code of Conduct and what re-course is available for the public should they not be satisfied with the response given by management staff regarding a complaint about an employee.

2/ Employee Code of Conduct

*Moved by D. Regan*

*Seconded by A. Westman*

*That Council directs Staff to re-open the Employee Code of Conduct policy no. 101-02-2020 to review how matters can be better addressed when a complaint is filed by the public regarding an employee;*

*And Further that Staff be instructed to seek additional legal advice regarding the concerns raised by Council at the meeting of September 1, 2020.*

**CARRIED**

Councillor P. Mastorakos inquired about the status of updates to Health & Safety policies and further asked if these policies will cover members of both volunteer fire departments. R. Reymer advised both fire departments have a Fire Area Board in place which is a separate entity from the Township. Discussion took place regarding the townships responsibility for the volunteer fire departments.

Councillor P. Mastorakos commented on the Official Plan update process and whether a visioning session would be beneficial towards anticipating what Council expects our community to look like in the future. R. Reymer advised we are currently at the input stage of the OP update and encouraged council to contact our consultant, Stewart Findlater with any ideas or comments they may have. Mayor C. Burghardt-Jesson noted that every segment of the OP update will give opportunity for the council and the public to provide input.

Councillor D. Regan raised concerns regarding informing new residents of our culture and history and if it would be feasible to develop website information that promotes our history. L. deBoer advised that the Lucan Area Heritage provides links and information on their website however staff could look into ways of expanding the awareness between the Museum and the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor D. Regan raised concerns with affordable housing options in our community. Discussion took place regarding the difference between socialized housing and affordable housing, upcoming information being provided by the City of London to County of Middlesex regarding options for investing in affordable housing throughout the County and possible zoning provisions that could encourage same.

Councillor D. Regan commented on the amazing support being offered by neighbours and our community for a young boy fighting an illness in Lucan and thanked members of the community for the support of this family.

Councillor A. Westman advised the Granton gardeners have been very diligent in donations to the Ailsa Craig food bank and they are well on track to donating over 600 lbs. of food.

3/ Confirming

*Moved by P. Mastorakos*

*Seconded by D. Manders*

*Resolved that if no one cares to speak to these By-laws on their First, Second and Third Reading, that they be considered to have been read a First time and Passed, read a Second time and Passed, read a Third time and Passed, that they be numbered:*

- *38-2020 Execution of Agreement (IMOS – Winter Maintenance)*
- *39-2020 Confirming By-law*

**CARRIED**

4/ Adjournment

*Moved by D. Regan*

*Seconded by D. Manders*

*Resolved that the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:34 p.m.*

**CARRIED**

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK