



Town of Amherstburg Council Brief

Highlights from the January 27th, 2025 meeting of Council:

Report Out from In-Camera Session

Council directed Administration to arrange a meeting with the Town solicitor and Council to assess whether the recent four-day ferry service shutdown to Boblo Island violated the agreement between the Town of Amherstburg and the developer. Additionally, they requested legal advice on potential actions to protect island residents and the Town's possible liability if no action is taken.

Presentations

Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) – 2025 Draft Budget – Tim Byrne

The 2025 draft budget was presented in accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22, which requires participating municipalities to receive a minimum 30-day notice before a meeting where a weighted and recorded vote on nonmatching levies will be held. Council received and supported the 2025 draft budget.

Reports

2025 Interim Tax Levy Bylaw 2025-007

Council passed the 2025 Interim Tax Levy By-law to ensure sufficient funds for municipal operations until final tax rates are established and final tax notices for the year are issued.

2025 Final Approved Operating & Capital Budgets

Council approved the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets, resulting in a 5.12% tax increase based on the October 31, 2024, weighted assessment. As the County's February meeting may impact this assessment, Council directed Administration to prepare a final levy by-law reflecting any changes and tax policy updates adopted by the County that may impact the municipal tax rate.

Update to Tangible Capital Asset Policy

Council approved the amendments to the Tangible Capital Asset policy which includes changes to asset values, lifespan, numbering, and naming to align with the Town's Asset Management Plan.

Investment Policy Update

Council approved the amendments to the Investment Policy to ensure compliance with changes in the Municipal Act.

Angstrom Park Commemorative Bench

Council approved the installation of a commemorative bench at Golfview Park in accordance with the Town's policy. In the interim, a plaque will be placed on the existing bench at Angstrom Park. If Angstrom Park is redeveloped and added to the policy in the future, the bench may be relocated there in alignment with Town guidelines.

Tender Award for Single Axle Dump truck with Plow and Salter

Council approved the purchase of a Single Axle Dump Truck with Plow and Salter from Viking Cives Ltd. to replace an aging dump truck and winter equipment. The over-expenditure, above the 2024 budgeted amount, will be funded from the Fleet Reserve.

George St and Seymour St Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Tender Results

Council authorized the execution of an agreement with D'Amore Construction (2000) Ltd to complete the George and Seymour Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement subject to approval of technical and financial content.

Amherstburg Water Treatment Plant Reservoir Upgrade and Redundancy Protection Project – Tender Results

Council approved the proposed project budget amount. To cover the funding shortfall for the AWTP project, Council approved the use of various reserves and funds from Development Charges and OCIF allocations. Administration has been directed to establish a repayment plan for a portion of the funding, ensuring no adverse effect on future capital projects. Finally, Council authorized an agreement with Amico Design Build Inc. to complete the project, subject to final technical and financial approval.

Request to Name Section of Dalhousie Street as Veterans Way

Council approved the Royal Canadian Legion for Malden Branch 157's request to honour Dalhousie Street by naming it "Veterans Way" in recognition of the veterans contributions. This honorary street name and signage will not affect the official addresses of residents or businesses on Dalhousie Street.

Request to Name Section of King Street as Mac Simpson Way

Council approved the creation of an honorary street name to recognize Melvin "Mac" Simpson, the Founder of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. This honorary name and signage will not impact official addresses for residents or businesses on King Street.

Summary of Site Plan Control Applications Since September 23, 2024

Council received the Site Plan Control (SPC) Applications Report which summarizes all SPC activity that can be made public for the period of September 23, 2024 to January 9, 2025.

Belle Vue Update

Council received the information report, which informed both Council and the public about activities and studies beginning on-site as early as January 20th under the Official Plan Amendment Process. These studies are critical in assessing the Belle Vue property's valuation for ongoing negotiations and will help identify alternative options if an agreement with Amico is not reached.

User Fees for Temporary Patio Extensions on Municipal Property

Matter deferred by Council to be heard at a future meeting.

County of Essex Accessibility Fest-for-All

Council nominated the Libro Credit Union Centre to host the 2025 Accessibility Fest-for-All, showcasing Amherstburg's accessible businesses, Miracle League distinction, and Aphasia Friendly initiative. Administration will assist the County of Essex in the planning and hosting of the event.

Sign By-Law 2025-001

Council passed Sign By-law 2025-001, repealing By-law 2006-26, to align with current standards and best practices for visual aesthetics, permitting and approvals, digital displays, safety, and enforcement.

Information Reports

2024 Amherstburg Policing Statistics

Council received the Windsor Policy Service Amherstburg Detachment 2024 Policing Statistics report for information.

Drainage Board Meeting By-law and Report Summary

Council received the November 13, 2024 report from R. Dobbin Engineering Inc. regarding improvements to the 4th Concession Drain and provisionally adopted By-law 2025-003, which incorporates the engineer's report on the proposed enhancements.

Council received the November 21, 2024 report from R. Dobbin Engineering Inc. regarding improvements to the Pike Road Drain East and provisionally adopted By-law 2025-004, which incorporates the engineer's report on the proposed enhancements.

Council received the December 4, 2024 report from R. Dobbin Engineering Inc. regarding improvements to the Rebidoux Drain and provisionally adopted By-law 2025-005, which incorporates the engineer's report on the proposed enhancements.

Council received the engineer's letter of opinion dated November 20, 2024 by R. Dobbin Engineering Inc. regarding the improvements to the Shipman Drain as recommended by the Drainage Board.

Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025

In response to the Economic Development Advisory Committee's recommendation, Council directed Administration to send a letter to County Council requesting a pause or reversal of budget cuts to Invest Windsor Essex and the Town of Amherstburg.

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