

# MINUTES

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

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

Staff: Baer, Belanger, Borton, Brick, Davidson, Degier, Krug, 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 Young  
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the agenda for the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as amended, with the addition of items 9. a. iii. & 15. b.

.Carried

## 4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

## 5. Adoption of Minutes

### a. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes of Council

### RESOLUTION #2

Moved by – Councillor Barnes  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes of Council be adopted, as printed and circulated.

.Carried

### b. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes of Council

### RESOLUTION #3

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes 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, Committee of Adjustment

#### RESOLUTION #4

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Council move into Committee of Adjustment at 4:01 p.m.

.Carried

#### i. Application for Minor Variance

MVA-24-7, Seed, 155 Glennbriar Street

The Minutes can be found on the November 6, 2024 Committee of Adjustment.

#### RESOLUTION #5

Moved by – Councillor Barnes  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the Committee rise at 4:05 p.m. and that the Open Council meeting resumes.

.Carried

### b. Public Meeting under the Planning Act, Zone Change

#### i. Application for Zone Change – ZN1-24-19 (Keeton, 955216 Canning Road)

#### 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:

ZN1-24-19 (Keeton);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending denial. The applicant was present and spoke in favour of the application. P. Emerson further spoke in favour of the application. CAO Brick read correspondence in favour of the application, received after publishing the agenda. No one in the audience spoke further for or against the application.

**RESOLUTION #7**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

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

.Carried

**RESOLUTION #8**

Moved by – Councillor Barnes  
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim approve in principle the Zone Change Application submitted by Randy Keeton, whereby lands described as Part Lot 4, Concession 2, Part Lots 101-104, Plan 122, Township of Blandford-Blenheim, are to be rezoned from 'Residential Existing Lot Zone (RE)' to 'Special Residential Existing Lot Zone (RE-sp)' to permit an increase in lot coverage for accessory buildings.

.Carried

## **8. Delegations / Presentations**

- i. Marie Russell & Jim Robson, Oxford County Residents, re: Automatic Speed Enforcement

**RESOLUTION #9**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation by Marie Russell and Jim Robson regarding Automatic Speed Enforcement be received as information.

.Carried

- ii. Stephen Owen, Community Engagement Coordinator, Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario (PSSO), re: PSSO Update

**RESOLUTION #10**

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation by Stephen Owen regarding Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario Update be received as information.

.Carried

## 9. Correspondence

- a. Specific

- i. Julia Harris, Board Chair, Oxford County Library, re: Request for Support of the Ox on the Run Pilot Extension.

**RESOLUTION #11**

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Whereas Oxford County Library Board at its meeting of August 21, 2024 adopted the recommendations contained in Report 2024-35 titled “Ox on the Run Pilot Extension,” which extended the Ox on the Run Pilot for a third year through 2025;

And whereas the Ox on the Run pilot serves the underserved villages and community members of Blandford-Blenheim Township;

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim provides support for the Oxford County Library Board and the Ox on the Run Pilot extension.

.Carried

- ii. William Short, Director of Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk, Region of Waterloo, re: Solve the Crisis

**RESOLUTION #12**

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 as well as with an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions and homelessness programs, including the recently announced Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

Whereas there is no provincial Minister focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Blandford-Blenheim supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign;

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

And that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority; And appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

And request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;

And that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

And provides the adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And, that this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada;
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health;
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services;
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions;
- The Region of Waterloo; and,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

.Carried

- iii. Nicole Chambers, South West-Oxford Township, re: Oxford County Joint Rural OPP Detachment Board Selection Committee resolution regarding Community Appointee

**RESOLUTION #13**

Moved by – Councillor Young  
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of Blandford-Blenheim approves the appointment of Tracy Litt as the Community Representative for the Oxford Joint Rural OPP Detachment Board; and,

Further that she be appointed for a two-year period, concluding on October 10, 2026.

.Carried

b. General

None.

## 10. Staff Reports

### a. Adam Degier – Drainage Superintendent

i. DS-24-19 – Monthly Report

#### RESOLUTION #14

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Report DS-24-19 be received as information.

.Carried

### b. Trevor Baer – Director of Community Services

i. CS-24-16 – Monthly Report

#### RESOLUTION #15

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-24-16 be received as information.

.Carried

### c. Jim Borton – Director of Public Works

i. PW-24-26 – Monthly Report

#### RESOLUTION #16

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that Report PW-24-26 be received as information.

.Carried

**d. Denise Krug – Director of Finance**

- i. TR-24-14 – 2025 Fees and Charges

**RESOLUTION #17**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report TR-24-14 be received as information;

And further that Council authorize the Director of Finance to prepare a fees and charges by-law for the December 4th, 2024 Council meeting based upon Township fees and charges as outlined on Report TR-24-14.

.Carried

- ii. TR-24-15 – Elimination of the Vacant Unit Rebate Program

**RESOLUTION #18**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report TR-24-15 be received as information;  
and,

And further that By-law 2459-2024, Being a by-law to Opt-Out of the Vacant Unit Rebate Program under Section 364 of the Municipal Act, 2001, be approved.

.Carried

**e. Josh Brick – Chief Administrative Officer**

- i. CAO-24-40 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Municipality

**RESOLUTION #19**

Moved by – Councillor Barnes  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Report CAO-24-40 be received as information;  
and,

That Council directs staff to contact local historical/ archival organizations respecting special exhibits/ celebrations to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, it being noted that



\$4500.00 will be made available through 2025 Grant/ Donation funds to support relevant initiatives; and,

That Council directs staff to proceed with commissioning of a Chain of Office to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Township, historic communities within the Township and other matters of local interest as directed by Council.

.Carried

- ii. CAO-24-43 – Asset Naming Policy – Inventory Update

**RESOLUTION #20**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Report CAO-24-43 be received as information; and,

That Council approves the following name to be added to the names registry for Township assets:

*Racknor.*

.Carried

**11. Reports from Council Members**

Mayor Peterson reminded of the Remembrance Day Ceremonies being held throughout the Township on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Unfinished Business**

None.

**13. Motions and Notices of Motion**

None.

**14. New Business**

None.

**15. Closed Session**

- a. Report CAO-24-39– Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]  
Re: Personal Matters – Building Services
- b. Report CAO-24-42– Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. [s. 239 (2)(f)]  
Re: Legal Advice

**RESOLUTION #21**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Council move into Closed Session under the authority of Section 239 of the Municipal Act at 5:33 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Report CAO-24-39– Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]  
Re: Personal Matters – Building Services
- b. Report CAO-24-42– Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. [s. 239 (2)(f)]  
Re: Legal Advice

.Carried

**RESOLUTION #22**

Moved by – Councillor Banbury  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council does now adjourn from Closed Session and resume into Open Session at 6:11 p.m. and reports the following:

That Council provided direction to staff regarding Report CAO-24-39 and CAO-24-42.

.Carried

**16. By-laws**

**RESOLUTION #23**

Moved by – Councillor Demarest  
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

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

- a. 2459-2024, Being a by-law to Opt-Out of the Vacant Unit Rebate Program under Section 364 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
- b. 2460-2024, Being a By-law to appoint Aird & Berlis LLP as the Closed Meeting Investigator and Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Blandford-Blenheim;
- c. 2461-2024, Being a By-law to amend the assessment schedules based on actual costs incurred for constructing the Baker Drain 2024;
- d. 2462-2024, Being a by-law to appoint Building Officials under the Building Code Act for the Corporation of Township of Blandford-Blenheim; and,
- e. 2463-2024, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council

.Carried

**RESOLUTION #24**

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. 2459-2024, Being a by-law to Opt-Out of the Vacant Unit Rebate Program under Section 364 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
- b. 2460-2024, Being a By-law to appoint Aird & Berlis LLP as the Closed Meeting Investigator and Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Blandford-Blenheim;
- c. 2461-2024, Being a By-law to amend the assessment schedules based on actual costs incurred for constructing the Baker Drain 2024;
- d. 2462-2024, Being a by-law to appoint Building Officials under the Building Code Act for the Corporation of Township of Blandford-Blenheim; and,
- e. 2463-2024, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council

.Carried

**17. Other Business**

None.

**18. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

**RESOLUTION #25**

Moved by – Councillor Young  
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Whereas business before Council has been completed at 6:14 p.m.;

Be it hereby resolved that Council adjourn to meet again on Wednesday,  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

.Carried

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Mark Peterson, Mayor  
Township of Blandford-Blenheim

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Sarah Matheson, Clerk  
Township of Blandford-Blenheim