

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025
Council Chambers
47 Wilmot St. S. Drumbo, ON
Streamed live to Township of Blandford-Blenheim YouTube Channel
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

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

Staff: Baer, Borton, Brick, Davidson, Degier, Krug, Harmer, Law, and Matheson.

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 Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the agenda for the May 7th, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted, with the addition of item 8. c. & d.

.Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. April 16th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes of Council

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by – Councillor Banbury

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the minutes of the April 16th, 2025 Meeting of Council be adopted, as printed and circulated.

.Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Public Meetings

RESOLUTION #3

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 an application for Zone Change:

ZN1-25-02 (Donald Mader);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending approval. The applicant was in attendance. No Member had any question or comment regarding the report. No one in attendance spoke for or against the application. The decision was unanimous to approve the application.

RESOLUTION #4

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

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

.Carried

RESOLUTION #5

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council approve the Zone Change Application submitted by Donald Mader, whereby the lands described as Part Lot 20, Concession 9 (Blenheim) As in 433815; S/T A11452, Township of Blandford-Blenheim are rezoned to 'A2-sp' with a special provision to permit a garden suite on the subject property as a temporary use for a period of 20 years.

.Carried

8. Delegations / Presentations

- a. Dean Smith, Intelivote Systems Inc., re: Vote by Internet Method Demonstration

Smith presented information regarding Intelivote Systems Inc. and Vote by Internet Method, as a potential option for the 2026 Municipal Election. Mayor Peterson posed the question to the Gallery regarding whether or not Vote by Internet would deter anyone from voting. A Dick affirmed he would still vote. P Bordeaux commented that he would rely on his family for assistance. Bordeaux noted that many older voters may not use the method unassisted. D Tew questioned whether a Voting Help Centre would be offered, Mayor Peterson noted they would be offered.

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by – Councillor Young
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Dean Smith regarding Vote by Internet Method be received as information.

.Carried

b. Alan Dick, Resident of Plattsville, re: Speeding on River Road in Plattsville

Dick delegated regarding River Road, particularly the section of River Road from Young Street to Township Road 14. Dick cited grave concerns with the heavier vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic and safety concerns with vehicular speeding. Dick spoke to signage, enforcement and traffic calming measures, particularly proposing moveable speed bumps that are installed and in use during the months with no snow and removed during winter months.

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Alan Dick regarding speeding on River Road be received as information; and further,

That Council direct staff to prepare a report with a cost analysis of traffic calming measures.

.Carried

c. Denise Tew, Plattsville & District Heritage Society, re: Plattsville's Anniversary.

Tew delegated to provide information regarding Plattsville's 175th Anniversary, particularly looking for Council's blessing to apply for the Canadian Heritage Arts and Heritage Grant. Monday August 3rd, 2025 is the proposed event date with participants and the service clubs having the option

of being in the Arena in the case of inclement weather. The event is proposed to be free of charge. The Grant, if acquired would assist in the conduct of the event. The planning committee consists of six individuals.

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Denise Tew regarding Plattsville's 175th Anniversary Events be received as information

.Carried

d. Meredith Maywood, Tourism Manager with Oxford County, re: Tourism Update

Maywood provided an update for the 2025 Tourism plans in Oxford County, reminding Council of the resource. Councillor Demarest asked a question regarding RVing and Glamping, particularly choices for these options staying overnight in the Township. Councillor Banbury asked a question regarding the Tourism Data Maywood's office collects.

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Meredith Maywood, Tourism Manager with Oxford County regarding a Tourism Update be received as information.

.Carried

9. Correspondence

a. Specific

i. City of Greater Sudbury re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer (Supreme Court Decision)

RESOLUTION #10

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim endorse the resolution from the City of Greater Sudbury

petitioning the province to amend to Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project; and further,

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doud Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable James Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, the MPP for Oxford County Ernie Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the City of Greater Sudbury for further action.

.Carried

- ii. Karen Martin, Clerk, Township of Zorra re: Opposing Strong Mayor Powers

RESOLUTION #11

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Whereas the Ontario government has expanded the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning decisions;

And Whereas this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

And Whereas the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

And Whereas concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

And That the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

And That the Council encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement;

Further Be It Resolved That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

.Carried

b. General

None.

10. Staff Reports

a. **Trevor Baer – Director of Community Services**

i. CS-25-05 – Potential Partnership Agreement

RESOLUTION #12

Moved by – Councillor Barnes

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-25-05 be received as information; and further,

That Council defer the decision whether to proceed with a partnership agreement with the Drumbo Agricultural Society for the use of their facility to host EarlyON programming to a subsequent meeting.

.Carried

ii. CS-25-06 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #13

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-25-06 be received as information.

.Carried

b. Jim Borton – Director of Public Works

- i. PW-25-07 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #14

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Report PW-25-07 be received as information.

.Carried

c. Sarah Matheson – Clerk

- i. DC-25-05 – Noise Exemption Request – Great Lakes ATV Club

RESOLUTION #15

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report DC-25-05 be received as information;
and,

That Council authorizes an exemption to Section 2 of the Township's Noise By-law 2357-2023 for the Great Lakes ATV Club for their members rides to be held on:

- Saturday, July 12th, 2025 or Saturday, July 19th, 2025;
- Saturday, August 23rd, 2025;
- Saturday, September 20th, 2025; and,
- Saturday, October 18th, 2025.

Each ride is to be held on the trail located on Township Road 9, 0.5 kilometers east of 846148 Township Road 9 in Bright, Township of Blandford-Blenheim; and further,

That Council provide direction to staff to notify enforcement staff and the OPP of the noise by-law exemption approved by Council.

.Carried

11. Reports from Council Members

Mayor Peterson reported on the Plattsville Firefighters Breakfast is occurring on Saturday as well as the Princeton 50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Councillor Young reported of her attendance at a TVDSB Meeting, regarding partnerships. Councillor Young noted that childcare spaces have decreased by 75%, the reason being that the spaces didn't move quickly enough and were moved to other areas that needed them. Mayor Peterson reported regarding the red tape surrounded by the use of the TVDSB facilities. Councillor Young responded that there are limited facilities in Blandford-Blenheim due to regulations and rules.

12. Unfinished Business

None.

13. Motions and Notices of Motion

None.

14. New Business

None.

15. Closed Session

- a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: REODC Board Member Appointment

RESOLUTION #16

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Council move into Closed Session under the authority of Section 239 of the Municipal Act at 6:11 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: REODC Board Member Appointment

.Carried

RESOLUTION #17

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that that Council does now adjourn from Closed Session and resume into Open Session at 6:22 p.m. and reports the following:

That Council provided direction to staff regarding Report CAO-25-12, recommending Keith Zehr for appointment to the ROEDC Board of Directors.

.Carried

16. By-laws

RESOLUTION #18

Moved by – Councillor Barnes

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

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

- a. 2495-2025, Being a By-Law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-25-02); and,
- b. 2496-2025, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #19

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

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

- a. 2495-2025, Being a By-Law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-25-02); and,
- b. 2496-2025, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

17. Other Business

None.

18. Adjournment and Next Meeting

RESOLUTION #20

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Whereas business before Council has been completed at 6:23 p.m.;

Be it hereby resolved that Council adjourn to meet again on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

.Carried

Mark Peterson, Mayor
Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Sarah Matheson, Clerk
Township of Blandford-Blenheim