



**MINUTES**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**May 12, 2025, 5:00 P.M.**  
**Hybrid Council Meeting (Virtual and In-Person)**  
**Municipal Office - Council Chambers**  
**4305 Hamilton Road Dorchester, ON**

Members Present: Mayor McMillan  
Deputy Mayor Smibert  
Councillor Heeman  
Councillor Crockett  
Councillor Lockie

Staff Present: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer  
J. Craven, Director of Public Works  
N. Dorken, Director of Fire & Emergency Services/Fire Chief  
S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Facilities  
C. D'Angelo, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
J. Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
A. Storrey, Director of Planning and Development Services  
M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager  
S. Henshaw, Deputy Clerk

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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Additions to Agenda**

Mayor McMillan advised that By-law No. 39-2025 was added to the agenda, being a By-law to appoint a Tax Collector for The Corporation of the Municipality of Thames Centre.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution: 128-2025**

**Moved by:** M. Smibert

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** the May 12, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Agenda **BE APPROVED** as circulated.

**Carried.**

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**5. Announcements**

Deputy Mayor Smibert announced that May 4-10 was Clerk's week and thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for all the work they do.

Councillor Lockie announced that National AccessAbility Week is from May 25-31 and encouraged everyone to wear a red shirt to the May 26, 2025 Council meeting in support of Canadians with disabilities.

Councillor Crockett thanked everyone for attending the Road Safety Open House on Wednesday, May 7. Councillor Crockett further announced that farmers are out planting and to be cautious on the roads.

**6. Presentations/Delegations**

**6.1 Boys and Girls Club**

Whitney Brown and Arden McClean, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club, were in attendance to provide a presentation, as appended to the agenda.

**Resolution: 129-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** M. Smibert

**THAT** the presentation by Whitney Brown and Arden McClean on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried.**

**6.2 Playroom Experiment**

Mike Primeau, on behalf of the Playroom Experiment, was in attendance to provide a presentation, as appended to the agenda.

**Resolution: 130-2025**

**Moved by:** C. Crockett

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** the presentation by Mike Primeau on behalf of the Playroom Experiment **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried.**

**7. Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Resolution: 131-2025**

**Moved by:** M. Smibert

**Seconded by:** T. Heeman

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, held on April 28, 2025, **BE APPROVED** as circulated.

**Carried.**

**8. Consent Agenda**

**8.1 Middlesex County Warden Correspondence**

**8.3 Township of Larder Lake & Town of Fort Frances - Sovereignty of Canada**

- 8.4 Town of Georgina - Salt Management
- 8.5 City of Richmond Hill - Provincial Regulations for Non-Native Wild Animals
- 8.6 Town of Parry Sound - Federal Support for Inclusive Research
- 8.7 Municipality of St. Charles & City of Sarnia - Carbon Tax
- 8.8 Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan - Proposal to End Daylight Savings Time in Ontario

**Resolution: 132-2025**

**Moved by:** M. Smibert

**Seconded by:** T. Heeman

**THAT** Consent Agenda Items 8.1 and 8.3 through 8.8 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried.**

**8.2 Letter from Minister of Education - West Nissouri Public School Submission**

Council discussed Consent Agenda Item 8.2, regarding Thames Centre's funding application to expand West Nissouri Public School in Thorndale that was not approved by the Ministry of Education.

Council directed staff to include this topic in the upcoming municipal delegation requests at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, as per Agenda Item 14.1.

**Resolution: 133-2025**

**Moved by:** C. Crockett

**Seconded by:** M. Smibert

**THAT** Consent Agenda Item 8.2 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried.**

**9. Reports of Departments**

**9.1 Terms of Reference Amendments for the Thames Centre Active Living Centre Advisory Committee**

**Resolution: 134-2025**

**Moved by:** C. Crockett

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** Report No. LS-007-25 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT** the draft new Terms of Reference for the Thames Centre Active Living Centre Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried.**

**9.2 Refreshment Vehicle By-Law Updates**

**Resolution: 135-2025**

**Moved by:** C. Crockett

**Seconded by:** M. Smibert

**THAT** Report No. LS-008-25 be **RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT** the new Refreshment Vehicle by-law be **CONSIDERED**, as included in the by-law portion of the agenda.

**Carried.**

**9.3 Development Charges Comparative Report**

Council discussed the importance of a needs assessment study to determine if there will be a financial shortfall.

Council discussed the importance of waiting to see how the new [proposed legislation](#) regarding the reduction of development charges would impact Thames Centre before completing any additional work.

Council directed staff to include this topic in the upcoming municipal delegation requests at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, as per Agenda Item 14.1, to discuss how the financial burden cannot fall on municipalities.

**Resolution: 136-2025**

**Moved by:** C. Crockett

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** Report No. PDS-023-25 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried.**

**9.4 Municipality of Thames Centre Water Ontario Regulation 453/07 Financial Plan**

Nancy Neale, on behalf of Watson and Associates, was in attendance virtually to provide a presentation, consisting of the following topics:

- Study Purpose
- Legislation
- Requirements for the Municipal Drinking Water Licence
- Budget vs. Ontario Regulation 453/07 Reporting Requirements
- Summary of Financial Indicators
- Recommendations

Council discussed using the interest generated on reserves to help fund inflationary risks and potentially including this in the next budget cycle.

**Resolution: 137-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** T. Heeman

**THAT** Report No. PW-004-25 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT PW-ES-004-25** regarding the Thames Centre Water Financial Plan prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., dated May 9, 2025, and showing the drinking water systems to be financially viable **BE APPROVED**;

**AND THAT** Notice of availability of the Financial Plan **BE ADVERTISED**;

**AND THAT** the Financial Plan and the Council Resolution approving the Financial Plan **BE SUBMITTED** to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

**AND THAT** the Council Resolution approving the Financial Plan **BE SUBMITTED** to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks satisfying the requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Carried.**

**10. Reports of Committees**

**10.1 Thames Centre Active Living Centre Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - April 25, 2025**

**Moved by:** R. Chowen

**Seconded by:** N. Kell

**THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to advertise for four (4) members to join the Thames Centre Active Living Centre Advisory Committee;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to advertise through the municipal website and social media accounts, at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre and FlightExec Centre, at the Dorchester and Thorndale libraries, reaching out to local service clubs (ex: Dorchester and Thorndale Lions Clubs), News and Views newsletter and both local newspapers (St. Mary’s Independent and Dorchester Signpost).

**Carried.**

**Moved by:** N. Kell

**Seconded by:** J. Bugo

**THAT** the Terms of Reference for the Thames Centre Active Living Centre Advisory Committee **BE AMENDED** to include the following Committee Composition:

- 4 Residents – (not required to be a Lions Active Living Centre Member)
- 1 Dorchester & District Lions Club Member
- 1 Thorndale Lions Club Member
- 2 Lions Active Living Centre Members – (pay membership and are active in programs)

**Carried.**

**Resolution: 138-2025**

**Moved by:** T. Heeman

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** Reports of Committees Agenda Item 10.1 **BE APPROVED** as presented.

**Carried.**

**11. Mayor's Report/County Council Report**

Mayor McMillan provided an update of activities since her last report on April 7, 2025.

**12. Unfinished Business**

No items.

**13. Notice of Motion**

No items.

## **14. New Business**

### **14.1 Municipal Delegations at Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference**

CAO Barrick confirmed the following AMO delegation requests already received from Council:

- Ministry of Education - Expansion of West Nissouri Public School
- Official Plan and Appeal Times
- Settlement Boundary Expansion Concerns
- Management of Agricultural Impact Assessments
- Ministry of Finance - Infrastructure Support aligned with Population Projections
- Additional "Made in Canada" Initiatives
- Development Charges – Financial Burden

Council provided direction to staff to include the following delegation requests at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference:

- Ministry of Health - Location of Medical Services
- Ministry of Transportation/Ministry of Education - School Bus Arm Cameras

## **15. By-laws**

### **15.1 By-law 36-2025 - Refreshment Vehicle By-law**

Being a By-law to licence, regulate and govern refreshment vehicles within the Municipality of Thames Centre

### **15.2 By-law 37-2025 - Confirmatory By-law**

Being a By-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution of the Municipality of Thames Centre

### **15.3 By-law 38-2025 - 2025 Tax Rates and Levies**

Being a By-law to set the 2025 tax rates and levies for the Municipality of Thames Centre.

### **15.4 By-law 39-2025 - Appoint Tax Collector**

Being a By-law to appoint a Tax Collector for The Corporation of the Municipality of Thames Centre

**Resolution: 139-2025**

**Moved by:** M. Smibert

**Seconded by:** C. Crockett

**THAT** By-laws 36-2025 to 39-2025 be read a first, second and third and final time and **BE ADOPTED**.

**Carried.**

**16. Meeting Schedule**

Monday, May 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

**17. Adjournment**

**Resolution: 140-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** M. Smibert

**RESOLVED THAT** the Regular Council Meeting **ADJOURN** at 6:57 p.m.

**Carried.**

S. McMillan, Mayor

J. Nethercott, Clerk