



Regular Meeting Minutes
Municipality of Thames Centre
Economic Development Advisory Committee

May 22, 2025, 9:00 A.M.
Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON

Members Present:	T. Heeman, Chair/Council Representative S. McMillan, Council Representative J. Baribeau, Community Representative J. Iglesias, Community Representative A. McClean, Vice-Chair/Community Representative D. Reiche, Community Representative
Members Absent:	C. Green, Community Representative G. Thorel, Community Representative
Staff Present:	D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer A. Storrey, Director of Planning and Development Services L. Nooren, Senior Planner M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager S. Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

Chair Heeman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution # EDAC-008-25

Moved by: S. McMillan

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

THAT the May 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Economic Development Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as presented.

Carried.

3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No pecuniary interests were disclosed.

4. Presentations

4.1 Monster Walk Event (Discussion on Feasibility)

Kaela Carter, Member of the Thames Centre Special Events Committee, was in attendance to discuss the feasibility of participation from local businesses in a "Monster Walk Event", being a trick or treat event for local businesses to hand out candy to children, usually taking place the Saturday before Halloween.

The Committee discussed the existing Monster Walk Event in Belmont and its participation levels of businesses and children.

K. Carter advised that children could go around to each business, or it could be organized as a "trunk or treat" event where all businesses meet together at one of the community centres, which would also provide a networking opportunity.

K. Carter confirmed that the Thames Centre Special Events Committee would host this event.

The Committee discussed the Halloween fundraising event that is already scheduled in Thorndale for West Nissouri Public School's grade eight students.

The Committee discussed this event being beneficial to the community and local businesses.

Resolution # EDAC-009-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee **SUPPORT** a Monster Walk Event in Thames Centre.

Carried.

5. Previous Minutes

Resolution # EDAC-010-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: S. McMillan

THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held on February 27, 2025 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

6. Reports of Staff

6.1 Reschedule Upcoming Meeting Date

S. Henshaw, Deputy Clerk, presented Report No. C-EDAC-002-2025.

The Committee discussed the benefits of scheduling the last meeting earlier in the year.

Resolution # EDAC-011-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: S. McMillan

THAT Report No. C-EDAC-002-2025 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

AND THAT the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. **BE RESCHEDULED** to Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

7. Committee Business

The Committee discussed the upcoming mural project with Andrew Gunn Consulting and possible locations in Thames Centre for a mural.

8. Correspondence

No items.

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 Thames Centre Council Resolution regarding U.S. Tariffs

This was previously discussed by the Committee at its Regular Meeting held on February 27, 2025.

The Committee discussed the importance of advocacy with respect to U.S. tariffs and the uncertain economic conditions for Thames Centre businesses.

Resolution # EDAC-012-25

Moved by: S. McMillan

Seconded by: D. Reiche

THAT the Thames Centre Council Resolution regarding U.S. Tariffs **BE RECEIVED** for information;

AND THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDS** that a letter be sent to the local MP and MPP on behalf of the Municipality detailing the impacts of tariffs in Thames Centre, including in the automotive industry;

AND THAT this letter also be sent to the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC), Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried.

10. New Business

10.1 South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR) - Membership

S. McMillan advised that Thames Centre was a member of the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR) through Middlesex County, and that the County terminated its membership at the end of 2024, which automatically withdrew Thames Centre's membership as well.

S. McMillan advised of the value of SCOR for municipalities in terms of promoting local businesses, opportunities for education, as well as advocacy to provincial ministries on local and rural issues.

S. McMillan advised there is a time commitment of one daytime meeting per month, and that attending virtually is an option.

The Committee discussed how the approximate \$4,500 annual membership fee would be funded.

CAO Barrick confirmed no budgetary constraints and this could be funded under the “Memberships and Associations” budget line.

The Committee discussed the request to expand West Nissouri Public School and it was confirmed this topic is included as a delegation request from Thames Centre at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference this August.

Resolution # EDAC-013-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: S. McMillan

WHEREAS the County of Middlesex is no longer a member of the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC);

AND WHEREAS the Economic Development Advisory Committee sees value in the Municipality of Thames Centre becoming a member of SCOR EDC;

NOW THEREFORE the Economic Development Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Municipality of Thames Centre join SCOR EDC at a approximate annual cost of \$4,500 (no tax);

AND THAT this membership **BE INITIATED** for the remainder of 2025 and onward and **BE FUNDED** from the “Memberships and Associations” budget line.

Carried.

10.2 Economic Roundtable Event

S. McMillan discussed the importance of local businesses coming together to discuss common topics, such as local issues or the trade tariffs.

The Committee discussed hosting a networking event, reaching out to businesses in Thames Centre to attend, and inviting a keynote speaker to help provide structure for the event.

The Committee discussed how the Municipality would facilitate this event and how local business owners could determine how it moves forward.

The Committee discussed the importance of obtaining data from local businesses, including information about their sector and number of employees.

The Committee discussed the importance of obtaining feedback from local businesses to gauge their levels of support for these types of events in the future and their level of interest in volunteering.

The Committee discussed the success of the Mayor's Breakfast and turning this event into a "Mayor's Economic Roundtable".

The Committee agreed this event should have a keynote speaker, business networking with food and beverages, and include surveys for local businesses to obtain feedback on business industry identification and level of volunteer interest to gauge support in organizing a local advocacy structure.

Resolution # EDAC-014-25

Moved by: J. Iglesias

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee **SUPPORT** the Mayor hosting an Economic Roundtable event.

Carried.

11. Closed Session Item

Resolution # EDAC-015-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee **ADJOURN** to Closed Session at 10:02 a.m. pursuant to:

Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act*, in order to consider personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried.

12. Rise and Report

Chair Heeman advised that during the Closed Session, the Committee discussed personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, with respect to Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Applications and provided a recommendation to Council.

13. Scheduling of Meetings

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss it was:

Resolution # EDAC-016-25

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

RESOLVED THAT the meeting **ADJOURN** at 10:23 a.m.

Carried.