

**Township of Woolwich  
Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**Video Conference**

**Hosted in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
24 Church Street West, Elmira**

Present from Council: Mayor Shantz (Chairperson)  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor McMillan\*  
Councillor Merlihan\*  
Councillor Redekop\*  
Councillor Shantz\*

Present from Staff: David Brenneman, Chief Administrative Officer\*  
Val Hummel, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk\*  
Richard Petherick, Director of Finance/Treasurer\*  
Jared Puppe, Director of Infrastructure Services\*  
Jeff Smith, Deputy Clerk  
Dennis Aldous, Deputy Fire Chief\*  
Ann Roberts, Environmental Coordinator\*  
Thomas van der Hoff, Manager of Operations and Projects\*  
Jeremy Vink, Manager of Planning\*  
David Heuchert, Chief Building Official\*

*\*indicates remote participation*

**Public Resolution to Move into Closed Session - (6:00 P.M.)**

Moved by Councillor McMillan

Seconded by Councillor Merlihan

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich convenes in closed session on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. electronically in accordance with section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a. advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose (Legal Opinion).

...Carried

**Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session (7:10 pm)**

Moved by Councillor Redekop

Seconded by Councillor Martin

That Council reconvenes in open session.

...Carried

**Moment of Silence**

Mayor Shantz began the meeting with a moment of silence and read the following statement:

“Last week the remains of 215 children were discovered on the property of the Kamloops Residential school. Our hearts go out to the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation and to all our Indigenous brothers and sisters. This discovery is not unexpected – it is the story our First Nations have been telling us for years – but it touches me, all of us, deeply and perhaps (I hope) the spirits of these hundreds of children will help us on our journey of reconciliation with our Indigenous Communities. I can only try to imagine how this history and this announcement affects those families touched by our injustices. As we mourn with you, we also commit to working together so our dark history is understood and recognized by all, and never repeated. We have lowered our flags to help us remember.”

**Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

**Items to Come Forward from Closed Session**

None.

**Planning Public**

None.

**Presentations**

None.

**Delegations**

Delegate: Nancy Lucier, Woolwich Seniors Association: Request for Support during COVID-19

Council considered this item before other delegations and then returned to the order of business listed on the agenda.

Council Merlihan introduced this topic and expressed support for the draft resolution before Council.

Stewart Weber and Nancy Lucier of the Woolwich Seniors Association provided Council with updates on the impacts of COVID-19 and requested financial support.

Council discussed the impact on seniors and the impact of the financial support being requested.

Moved by Councillor Merlihan

Seconded by Councillor Redekop

WHEREAS the Woolwich Seniors Association (WSA) is a not-for-profit independent community service that provides necessary supports and recreational activities for seniors in Woolwich Township;

WHEREAS the introduction of COVID-19 and subsequent provincial mitigation measures significantly impacted the revenue of the WSA;

WHEREAS annual fees of up to \$6,000 and programming user-fees up to \$24,000 were reduced to near zero impacting how the center will be able to serve its members once programming resumes in person;

WHEREAS the WSA were the recipients of provincial grants for the purpose of providing online programming and that programming was provided free-of-charge to all seniors in our community and beyond;

WHEREAS more than 500 seniors participated in events hosted by the WSA this past year;

WHEREAS the WSA pledged to support the creation of a driveway side entrance at the Woolwich Memorial Centre up to \$25,000 to be paid over 5 years, with more than \$20,000 of the committed pledge has been paid to date;

WHEREAS the WSA is a tenant at the Woolwich Memorial Centre and a funding partner with Woolwich Township through administering the annual provincial grant and providing staff and facility services;

BE IT RESOLVED that Woolwich Township Council continue to support the Woolwich Seniors Association in providing necessary supports to the WSA in their support of seniors in the community;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Township utilize the municipal COVID-19 Relief Fund grant and that Council reimburse the WSA for lost annual membership revenue up to \$6,000;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Council forgive up to \$5,000 of the \$25,000 the centre pledged in the creation of a new driveway and side entrance and that the funds be expensed from Council's Fees and Charges Waiver account;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that once in-person programming resumes that the Township will assume cleaning responsibilities of the centre in accordance with applicable Public Health protocols;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that during the 2022 budget framework staff and Council revisit the municipal funding arrangement between the WSA and the municipality to provide funding to assist in operating the centre.

...Carried

### New Strategic Plan "Transform Waterloo Region"

Ann Roberts, Environmental Coordinator for the Township of Woolwich, summarized the Transform Waterloo Region plan and introduced Tova Davidson and Mary Jane Patterson.

#### **Delegates: Tova Davidson and Mary Jane Patterson, Climate Action**

Ms. Davidson and Ms. Patterson provided Council with an overview of the New Strategic Plan "Transform Waterloo Region". Their presentation detailed Waterloo Region's transition to an equitable, prosperous, resilient low carbon community which included:

- Information about ClimateActionWR
- Backcasting
- Community engagement

- Expert and technical engagement
- Sustainable development goals
- Calls to action
- 80by50 trajectory
- Transforming the ways we move, operate our spaces, produce, consume and waste

Council discussed if the plan is realistic, if the plan was based on science, the reason for including cycling lanes and transit in the plan, the impact of the Regional Airport expansion, optimizing transit routes and the need to switch to electric heating. Council thanked the delegates for their work.

**Delegate: Sandra Bray, Assuring Protection for Tomorrow's Environment**

Delegate Sandra Bray of Assuring Protection for Tomorrow's Environment spoke in favour of the strategy, highlighting the wisdom of joining with Climate Action WR, improved technology and working with the Community.

**Delegate: Bruce Taylor, Enviro-Stewards Inc**

Delegate Bruce Taylor of Enviro-Stewards Inc. spoke in favour of the strategy and spoke to finding ways to think differently to reduce environmental impact and save money.

**Delegates: Kai Reimer-Watts and Stephanie Goertz, 50x30 Campaign**

Delegates Kai Reimer-Watts and Stephanie Goertz spoke in favour of the report and requested Council consider a further community GHG emissions reduction target of 50% by 2030.

**Delegate: Tova Davidson, Sustainable Waterloo Region: Annual Update**

Delegate Tova Davidson provided Council with an annual update from Sustainable Waterloo Region. Ms. Davidson outlined context and impact of the pandemic, interesting statistics, GHG emissions, electric vehicles, partnerships, local travel patterns and emissions commitments.

Council discussed GHG emissions so far, if the plan was achievable, opportunities for Woolwich Township and if changes will be mandated by government.

**R07-2021: TransformWR: Waterloo Region Community Climate Action Strategy**

Moved by Councillor McMillan

Seconded by Councillor Merlihan

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering Report R07-2021 respecting TransformWR: Waterloo Region Community Climate Action Strategy:

1. endorse the attached TransformWR strategy (Appendix A) as the community climate change mitigation strategy for the Township of Woolwich;
2. direct staff across the organization to develop detailed plans to implement the strategy for the Township of Woolwich including the implementation of actions in the strategy subject to available funds and/or approved budget and appropriate human resources;
3. direct staff to work with local partners on implementation, monitoring, and reporting progress on the goals outlined in the strategy;
4. advocate for provincial and federal support and action to achieve the community transformations outlined in TransformWR (Appendix A);

5. submit this report to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as the Township of Woolwich community scope progress on the Partners for Climate Protection Program Milestones 1-3 as renewed.

...Carried

Council discussed the recommendation to consider a further community GHG emissions reduction target, including making the resolution subject to budget deliberations, the unknown costs of this request and the Township's existing greening levy.

Moved by Councillor McMillan  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Council endorse in principle an interim absolute community GHG emissions reduction target of 50% by 2030. Recognizing that the bold and immediate local actions in the attached TransformWR strategy (Appendix A) are expected to achieve a 30% reduction by 2030, Council commits \$100,000 from additional levy collection to support the community climate strategy and emphasizes that bold and immediate actions from the provincial and federal government will also be required to reach this deeper reduction target.

...Carried

Council took a recess at this time and resumed meeting at 10:40 pm.

#### A New Location for A Better Tent City

Mayor Shantz introduced the delegations and advised that Council has heard from many residents who have concerns with the proposal. Mayor Shantz noted experiences with homelessness and requested everyone to remain respectful. She explained Council would be listening to the presentation and delegations and would hear about the process to be followed.

David Brenneman, Chief Administrative Officer, advised of the impact of the two-tier planning system and noted the Region of Waterloo is responsible for affordable housing, homelessness, and social services. Mr. Brenneman stressed the importance of following due process through a planning application and recognized that this issue is broader than the Township of Woolwich.

Mayor Shantz asked delegates to try to keep their comments to 5 minutes.

Delegate Jeff Willmer, a volunteer with A Better Tent City, introduced the purpose of A Better Tent City and the impact of providing housing to people who are homeless or living rough. Mr. Wilmer outlined the concept of A Better Tent City, supports for the community and sources of donations. Mr. Wilmer spoke in favour of the proposal and outlined the location, distance from nearby houses, concept site plan, the appropriateness of the site. Mr. Wilmer requested the Township take a compassionate approach.

Delegate Father Toby Collins of St. Mary's Catholic Church spoke in favour of the proposal, noting he understands concerns of the community. He shared a sound clip of voices of A Better Tent City residents. He noted the needs of the residents and explained the role of St. Mary's Church.

Delegate Laura Hamilton from the Social Development Centre of Waterloo Region spoke in favour of the proposal and highlighted supports for the residents. She advised that the community does not need to be afraid of A Better Tent City and noted the need for this type of housing.

Delegate Joe Mancini of The Working Centre spoke in favour of the proposal, highlighting the cost of rental units, how A Better Tent City started, the plan of producing food on site, and the need for this type of housing.

Council discussed at length how long A Better Tent City had looked for a new location, if there were alternative locations being considered, the community's concern about the location, and the lack of amenities at the site. They noted the lack of public transit and inquired about supports that would be on-site for residents. There was discussion regarding the role of the Region of Waterloo Region, if organizers will commit to follow the proper planning process, if the site is temporary, alternatives to the site, the latest date for Council to make a decision, and interim solutions.

*\*Councillor Martin left the meeting due to another commitment.*

Council discussed the proper planning process and timing, if the Region could support the planning work, how emergency services would attend the site and the impact on the fire department.

Moved by: Councillor Merlihan

Seconded by: Councillor McMillan

That Council approves an extension of the meeting to 11:45 pm in accordance with section 31 of the Procedural By-law.

...Carried unanimously.

Delegate Jay Hollings, resident of Breslau, spoke in opposition to the proposal and noted the proximity to a school and housing, potential impact on community reputation, and concerns about the location.

Delegate Doug Knechtel, resident of Breslau, spoke in opposition of the proposal and noted if there would be more people on the site, the need to follow rules, potential impacts on pets and livestock, potential for fighting and crime, addictions, and concerns about the location.

Delegate Tom McLaughlin of Thomasfield Homes highlighted concerns with the proposal and zoning conflicts, the lack of soft and hard services and the need to follow the proper process. Council asked if Thomasfield Homes had alternate locations. Mr. McLaughlin advised he did not have any suitable land in the area for A Better Tent City.

Delegate Melissa Borutski Freij spoke in opposition of the proposal due to concerns about the location, the lack of services, the potential for drugs, the speed of the process and the lack of amenities in Breslau.

Delegate Ryan Jantzi spoke to the need to provide both compassion and due diligence, concerns from neighbours and the need to both solve conflicts and build relationships.

Delegate Maynard Lanting spoke in opposition of the proposal and highlighted safety concerns, his thanks for the organizers of A Better Tent City, the accuracy of information provided by proponents, the safety of his family, security of his property and the novelty of this proposal.

Delegate Mike Morrice spoke in favour of the proposal and noted the commitment of the proponents, the benefits of the site and the shared responsibility to help A Better Tent City residents. Council discussed any connections the delegate may have to encourage other supports.

Moved by: Councillor Merlihan

Seconded by: Councillor McMillan

That Council suspend section 31 of the Procedural By-law to allow the meeting to continue beyond 11:45 pm in accordance with section 121 of the Procedural By-law.

...Carried

Council took a recess at this time and resumed meeting at 11:55 pm.

Delegate John Mesina spoke in opposition of the proposal and advised of the need to follow proper procedure, that all residents are entitled to homes, the site does not provide necessary supports, the accuracy of information provided by proponents, alternative locations, and the Change.Org petition received by the Township in opposition to the proposal. Council questioned Mr. Mesina on alternative options for locations for A Better Tent City.

Delegate Scott Morton Ninomiya spoke in favour of the proposal, shared his experience with A Better Tent City and urged Council to support those in need.

Delegate Bob Jonkman, spoke in favour of the proposal and noted the services that will be provided to the residents, the intent is for this to be emergency housing not long-term, requested Council expedite the proposal and the need to be kind to each other.

Delegate Gloria Jordan spoke in support of the proposal as a former resident of Breslau and highlighted the great community in Breslau, the challenges people face in shelter systems, how A Better Tent City started, advocacy for more community services to support residents and urged Council to consider this opportunity.

Delegate Barbara Schumacher spoke in favour of the proposal and noted her previous work as a physician, the philosophy and research behind a housing first strategy, this is a cost-effective option and the need for safe housing options.

Ms. Hummel advised that delegate Brian Blanchard was not in attendance and had requested that his delegation be moved to the June 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mayor Shantz thanked everyone who joined the meeting tonight and asked staff to review next steps. Mr. Brenneman advised that staff recommend the ABTC proponents follow due process with the submission of an application under the Planning Act. Mayor Shantz summarized the comments and concerns heard at the meeting and requested further information be provided at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Council discussed the opportunity for staff to inspect existing small homes and asked for consideration of alternate locations. Mr. Brenneman advised of further conversations that will happen across the Region.

Ms. Hummel advised of options to submit feedback for the next meeting. Council directed staff to limit delegations to 5 minutes at the next meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

None.

**Consent Items**

Moved by Councillor McMillan

Seconded by Councillor Shantz

That the following item be received for information as presented:

**Items for Information**

- Memo: Community Better Challenge, June | Recreation and Parks Month and Seniors' Month
- Committee of Adjustment Minutes – March 22, 2021
- Committee of Adjustment Minutes – April 19, 2021
- Committee of Adjustment Notice of hearing – June 14, 2021
- Elmira Business Improvement Area Board of Management Minutes – January 6, 2021
- Elmira Business Improvement Area Board of Management Minutes – February 3, 2021
- Elmira Business Improvement Area Board of Management Minutes – March 3, 2021
- Elmira Business Improvement Area Board of Management Minutes – April 7, 2021
- St. Jacobs Business Improvement Area Board of Management Minutes – April 6, 2021

...Carried

**Staff Reports and Memos****Memo: Cannabis Retail Stores - Regulations**

Council received this item for information.

**DS232021: Communication Tower 128 Katherine Street South**

Council requested this item be brought back to the Council meeting on June 8, 2021.

**IS21-2021: Purchase of a 2021 Tymco DST-6 Regenerative Air Street Sweeper Complete with a Dust Filtration System**

Council requested this item be brought back to the Council meeting on June 8, 2021.

**Other Business****Resolution for Delegation of Authority for Site Plan Control Approvals and Above/Below Ground Servicing Two Year Maintenance Agreements**

Moved by Councillor Shantz

Seconded by Councillor Merlihan

THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich delegate authority for Site Plan Approvals to Jeremy Vink, Manager of Planning in the absence of the Director of Development Services;

AND FURTHER THAT Council delegate authority for the approval of two-year maintenance agreements for above-ground and below-ground servicing to Jared Puppe, Director of Infrastructure Services in the absence of the Director of Development Services.

...Carried

**Outstanding Activity List as of Friday, May 28, 2021**

None.

**Correspondence**

Moved by Councillor Merlihan

Seconded by Councillor McMillan

THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich endorse the City of Kitchener Letter regarding Housing Support Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.

...Carried

Council received the following items of correspondence for information:

- Town of the Blue Mountains Letter to Premier Ford – Provincial Re-Opening Strategy and Frontline Business Experience
- Township of McKellar Resolution – Tax Relief on 2020 CERB Payments
- Township of Matachewan Resolution – Closure of Youth Justice Facilities
- Town of Cochrane Resolution – Reopening of Greenwater Provincial Park
- Gravel Watch Ontario Letter – Greenbelt Comments
- Region of York Resolution – Timing of Step 1 of the “Provincial Roadmap to Reopen”

**Public Notice**

None.

**Notice of Closed Meetings**

None.

**Notice of Motion**

None.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Merlihan

Seconded by Councillor McMillan

That the meeting adjourns.

...Carried

Signature on file  
Sandy Shantz, Mayor

Signature on file  
Val Hummel, Clerk