

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

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MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR HARRY MEZENBERG

County Council observed a moment of silence to honour Past Warden Harry Mezenberg (pictured front row, centre), who passed away on February 16, 2023, at 76.

Mr. Mezenberg served 12 years on Elgin County Council as both Reeve and Deputy Reeve for the Township of Aldborough (1986 to 1997) and as Warden in 1996 and 1997.

He presided over historic discussions pertaining to the amalgamation of Elgin's municipalities that took effect in 1998 and resulted in the structure we have in place today. This was a monumental achievement made possible by Harry's ability to build compromise, respect all points of view, and engage our residents in the process.





COUNCIL RECEIVES A PRESENTATION FROM THE ELGIN / ST. THOMAS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

County Council received a delegation from the Elgin/ St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) with an overview of their services and where they're headed in 2023 from Mike Kerkvliet, Manager of Business Development & Entrepreneurship.

This update included a breakdown of their funding, a high-level overview of their programs available to local businesses across Elgin and St. Thomas, the impacts of their efforts in 2022, and the announcement of a commercial kitchen at the Horton Farmers' Market, as well as the creation of a Young Entrepreneurs Networking Group.

A copy of the presentation can be found in the February 28, 2023, County Council agenda package or [here](#).

ELGIN COUNTY TOURISM RECEIVES COUNCIL APPROVAL TO CRUISE INTO SUMMER WITH NEW WHEELS

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Carolyn Krahn, presented County Council with various vehicle options for the department's new tourism cruiser. Council approved the purchase of a Honda CRV LX with a purchase price not to exceed \$40,000.

A copy of the presentation and mockups of the tourism cruiser can be found in the February 28, 2023, County Council agenda package or [here](#).



COUNCIL APPOINTS THREE (3) COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JAAC)

The Elgin/Central Elgin Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee was established in 2002 to advise members of Council on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR).

The Terms of Reference state that the JAAC committee must be comprised of three residents with disabilities, plus a member of the community who is a person interested in issues relating to persons with disabilities (through work, school or caregiver role) or a parent/guardian representing children with disabilities; and the Mayor or Deputy Mayor from Central Elgin. Council appointed Councillor Noble to the JAAC on January 10, 2023.

At its meeting on February 28, 2023, Elgin County Council approved the appointment of George Corrin, Jenn Salverda, and Tom Marks to the JAAC subject to the endorsement from the Municipality of Central Elgin.

COUNTY COUNCIL IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO APPROVING THE 2023 ELGIN COUNTY BUDGET

County Council received an in-depth presentation from the Director of Finance/Treasurer, Jennifer Ford, with several budget options for Council to consider. The preferred choice was Option 1b which maintains project deferrals with no dependence on capital reserve funds, utilizes \$321k of capital project savings and allocates the remaining balance of \$245K to the capital reserve fund for future use.

Council directed staff to prepare a final budget for Council's consideration at its meeting on March 14, 2023.

Members of the public are encouraged to stay up to date on all 2023 Budget action items and documents by visiting www.engageelgin.ca/InvestingInElgin.

A copy of the presentation and all options presented can be found in the February 28, 2023, County Council agenda package or [here](#).



COUNCIL RECEIVES REQUEST FOR EXTENDED PARKING ON BRIDGE STREET IN PORT STANLEY

County Council considered correspondence from the Municipality of Central Elgin requesting that the County approve 3-hour free parking on Bridge Street in Port Stanley.

Council directed staff to provide a follow-up report with respect to parking on Bridge Street in Port Stanley.

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH PROVIDES COUNTY COUNCIL WITH 2023 BUDGET

Elgin County Council received correspondence from Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) regarding their approved 2023 General Programs and Related Services budgets.

Council directed staff to arrange that Southwestern Public Health provide a delegation regarding 2023 initiatives and to include a follow-up report on 2022 initiatives.

A copy of SWPH's correspondence can be found in the February 28, 2023, County Council agenda package or [here](#).

For the complete February 28, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).