



Municipality of West Elgin

Minutes

Economic Development Committee

May 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Facility Tour

Present:

Dan Soos
Pam Wardell
Ryan Statham
Philip Sousa
Travis Roodzant
Bill Denning

Regrets:

Stacey Zegers
Mike Russo
Mike Vanraes

1. Call to Order

Chair Dan Soos called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved: Pam Wardell

Seconded: Ryan Statham

That West Elgin Economic Development Committee hereby adopts the Agenda for the meeting of May 26, 2025, as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures

4. Minutes

Moved: Bill Denning

Seconded: Ryan Statham

That minutes of the Economic Development meeting on April 28, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

From previous minutes, **8.5** Dutton Farmers Market Economic Support Request to purchase teardrop flags, up to a maximum \$1000 total, for use at the community vender markets and shared with the Dutton Farmers Market Committee. Flag must say "Local Market".

6. Items of Discussion

6.1 Future Downtown Parking

Stacey requested a conversation about parking in the core of West Lorne. She would like to see angled parking instead of the current parallel parking. There were conversations about Stage 1 parking on Munro, north side made into municipal parking. We talked about adding parking signs for the public. Pam commented that there are too many cars parking to the corner of the side streets in front of the pharmacy creating blind spots when entering onto Main St. Ryan suggested 15 min signs in front of the pharmacy for quick pick up.

6.2 Policies to Present to Council

In summary we have 3 requests for council:

1. we are asking council to do an assessment of parking in the core of Rodney and West Lorne.
2. we are asking for a report of unused parking in the core of Rodney and West Lorne.
3. What are the future plans for municipal parking in the core of Rodney and West Lorne.

*** keep in mind when West Lorne streets get upgraded, that the county keep sidewalks and streets the same width as they are for the possibility of angular parking in the future.

7. Round Table Discussion

Phil introduced a table discussion about the use of commercial zoning being used as residential housing. Robin had emailed a report about using the carrot approach vs.. the stick approach. We discussed the possibility of sharing a

commercial space where a business would operate in the front and residential housing in the back. Pam asked about the option of building low-income housing for tenants. Bill stated that this is usually done by the municipality, county or province. Currently the municipality doesn't have the money for such a project. In summary, we (council/municipality) need to look at the next strategic plan. Also, we need to educate people on what housing is available for them.

8. Adjournment

That the West Elgin Economic Development Committee hereby adjourn at 8:20 p.m. to meet again on June 24, 2025, at 7:00pm (Natterjack Brewery), or at the call of the Chair.

Dan Soos, Chair

Pam Wardell, Recording Secretary