



Bruce County Council Minutes

Date: March 20, 2025

Location: Council Chambers

County Administration Centre, Walkerton

Present	Luke Charbonneau, Warden Don Murray, Deputy Warden Kenneth Craig, Councillor Mark Goetz, Councillor	Steve Hammell, Councillor Jay Kirkland, Councillor Milt McIver, Councillor Chris Peabody, Councillor
Staff	Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development Sam Dinsmore, Director of Corporate Services Jaron Kerr, Director of Information and Technology Services Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum & Cultural Services Brooke McLean, Director of Library Services Tina Metcalfe, Director of Human Services Emily Kussmann, Administrator, Brucelea Haven Jenn Robinson, Director of Human Resources Steve Schaus, Director and Chief of Paramedic Services	Aaron Stauch, Director of Government Relations Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services Jack Van Dorp, Director of Planning and Development Ray Lux, Deputy Chief of Paramedic Services and CEMC Krista Miller, Community Emergency & Management Specialist Wendy Woods, Business and Human Services Integration Manager Matt Meade, Manager of Government Relations Monica Morrison, Land Use Planning Manager Jeff Loney, Manager of Economic Development Linda White, County Clerk Julie Ireland, Deputy Clerk / Legislative Coordinator
Invited Guests:	Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs and MPP for Huron-Bruce	Muriel Shular Owen Riegling

1. Call to Order

The meeting of Bruce County Council was called to order by the Warden at 9:30 a.m.

The minutes were recorded by the Deputy Clerk.

2. Additions, Deletions, Amendments to Agenda

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Public Notice

5. Announcements

a. Recognition: Muriel Shular, King Charles III Coronation Medal

b. Recognition: Owen Riegling, King Charles III Coronation Medal

Bruce County Council recognized two recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medal, which was presented by the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs and Member of Provincial Parliament for Huron-Bruce. The medal recipients were recognized for having made a significant contribution to Bruce County, to Ontario, and beyond. Muriel Shular was recognized for her work as a dedicated volunteer at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre; and Owen Riegling for his achievements in country music and his positive representation of the community of Bruce County.

Warden Charbonneau presented both medal recipients with a certificate of recognition from the County, and Councillor Goetz presented a gift to Owen from the Municipality of South Bruce.

The Council meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m.

The Council meeting resumed at 10:13 a.m.

6. Adoption of Minutes

March 6, 2025

Resolution # BCC-2025-039

Moved by Councillor Steve Hammell

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

That the minutes of the March 6, 2025 Council meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

7. Public Meeting

8. Delegations

9. Reports - for Information

The following reports were presented for information:

- a. **Corporate Services - 2024 Audit Plan**
- b. **Corporate Services - 2025 Property Tax Policy Review**
- c. **Human Services - Strategic Community Initiatives Fund – 2025 Grant Recipients**
- d. **Office of the CAO - Cultural Action Plan Update**
- e. **Paramedic Services - Emergency Management Program Update**
Staff were directed to provide further information on the developmental approvals process with respect to emergency management planning.
- f. **Planning and Development - New Bruce County Official Plan Update**

10. Reports - for Direction

- a. **Human Resources - CAO Performance Evaluation Policy - 2025 Update**

Resolution # BCC-2025-040

Moved by Councillor Milt McIver

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

That Council approve the update to the CAO Performance Evaluation Policy.

Carried

b. Government Relations - Implication of Tariffs on Bruce County

The first clause of the recommendation outlined in the staff report was considered:

Resolution # BCC-2025-041

Moved by Deputy Warden Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Chris Peabody

That the actions listed in the "Implications of Tariffs for Bruce County" report be endorsed by Council and through these actions staff will continue to look for opportunities to mitigate the impacts of tariffs on Bruce County.

Carried

The resolution attached to the staff report for Council's consideration was moved and seconded:

Moved by Councillor Jay Kirkland

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

Resolution on Supporting Municipal Response to Tariffs

Whereas the United States' Executive Administration is enacting tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which will significantly impact the economic stability of both countries; and

Whereas federal and provincial leaders are encouraging Canadians to buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario reports that Ontario municipalities are expected to spend \$250 to \$290 billion on infrastructure over the next 10 years; and

Whereas trade agreements and legislation have traditionally prevented municipalities from giving preference to Canadian products and services; and

Whereas municipalities can help combat tariffs and support businesses through procurement for capital and infrastructure programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of County of Bruce calls on the federal and provincial governments to:

1. Empower municipalities to buy Canadian;
2. Remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies when appropriate and feasible;
3. Work with municipalities on measures to protect Canadian consumers and businesses.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and all Ontario municipalities.

Amendment:

Moved by Deputy Warden Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Milt McIver

That the main motion be amended to add:

4. That the federal and provincial governments be requested to remove interprovincial trade barriers.

Carried

The motion, as amended, was considered:

Motion as Amended:

Resolution # BCC-2025-042

Moved by Councillor Jay Kirkland

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

Resolution on Supporting Municipal Response to Tariffs

Whereas the United States' Executive Administration is enacting tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which will significantly impact the economic stability of both countries; and

Whereas federal and provincial leaders are encouraging Canadians to buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario reports that Ontario municipalities are expected to spend \$250 to \$290 billion on infrastructure over the next 10 years; and

Whereas trade agreements and legislation have traditionally prevented municipalities from giving preference to Canadian products and services; and

Whereas municipalities can help combat tariffs and support businesses through procurement for capital and infrastructure programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of County of Bruce calls on the federal and provincial governments to:

1. Empower municipalities to buy Canadian;
2. Remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies when appropriate and feasible;
3. Work with municipalities on measures to protect Canadian consumers and businesses.
4. That the federal and provincial governments be requested to remove interprovincial trade barriers.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

c. Community Development Office - Local Business Support - Tariff Impact

Resolution # BCC-2025-043

Moved by Councillor Jay Kirkland

Seconded by Deputy Warden Don Murray

That the actions in the Business Support Framework in the “Local Business Support- Tariff Impact” report be endorsed; and

That staff be authorized to adjust the Business Support Framework as necessary to provide continued support for Bruce County businesses as tariffs take effect.

Carried

d. Government Relations - Authorization to Sign Contribution Agreement - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Resolution # BCC-2025-044

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Craig

Seconded by Councillor Jay Kirkland

That Council authorize the Director of Government Relations and the Director of Corporate Services to enter into an Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Contribution Agreement (CA).

Carried

11. Motions and Notice of Motions

12. By-laws

By-law 2025-017

Resolution # BCC-2025-045

Moved by Councillor Milt McIver

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

That the following by-law be approved:

By-law 2025-017, being a by-law to adopt the property tax estimates, tax ratios and tax rates for the Year 2025.

Carried

13. Communications (including Minutes of Boards & Committees)

a. **Municipal Innovation Council**

b. **Striking Committee Minutes - December 19, 2024**

14. Closed Session

Resolution # BCC-2025-046

Moved by Councillor Jay Kirkland

Seconded by Councillor Steve Hammell

That Council move into a Closed Session Meeting, in accordance with Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees to discuss:

a. **Human Resource Matter**

b. **Striking Committee Final Report on 2024 CAO Performance Evaluation**

c. **Minutes of March 6, 2025**

Carried

15. Report from Closed Session

Council arose to the Open Session at 11:24 a.m.

The Warden reported that Council received information regarding a Human Resource matter, and the Striking Committee Final Report on the 2024 CAO Performance Evaluation, and that Council approved the March 6, 2025 Closed Minutes in closed session.

16. Confirmation of Proceedings

By-law 2025-018

Resolution # BCC-2025-047

Moved by Councillor Mark Goetz

Seconded by Councillor Chris Peabody

That the following by-law be approved:

By-law 2025-018, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the County of Bruce at its meeting held the 20th day of March 2025

Carried

17. Adjournment

Resolution # BCC-2025-048

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Craig

Seconded by Councillor Jay Kirkland

That the meeting of Bruce County Council adjourn at 11:26 a.m.

Carried

Luke Charbonneau, Warden

Linda White, Clerk