

Municipal Council of the County of Oxford
Council Meeting - Oxford County

Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Moved By: David Mayberry

Seconded By: Brian Petrie

Whereas on November 16 2022, the Province of Ontario announced the “Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022”;

And whereas in the November 16th announcement the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing justified the introduction of Bill 39 by stating that this would help with the “housing crisis” and included The Better Homes Built Faster Act (Bill 23) in this news release;

And whereas the Government of Ontario’s Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario states that “Ontario recognizes municipalities as responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction”;

And whereas the powers of a Head of Council, the appointment of a Chair, and bylaws are, and have always been, both under the Municipal Act and as a matter of democratic principle, the responsibility of democratically elected representative councils;

And whereas Oxford County values its councils and principles of democracy and has not asked for any of these changes;

And whereas residents of Oxford were not afforded any opportunity to discuss these changes in the forums of either the previous Provincial, or just completed Municipal, elections;

Therefore be it resolved that Oxford County Council ask staff, (in conjunction with area municipal staff where necessary) to bring forward a report to the December 14, 2022 meeting of Council that describes the potential impacts for both finances and staffing requirements that could arise from the introduction of Bills 39 and 23 for the 2023 and future budgets and work plans, to, at a minimum, include the impacts of announced changes to Developmental Charges Act, the timing, financial and staffing implications for planning reports, the implications for announced changes to the Conservation Act and the Heritage Act, and any other financial and staffing implications for the county, and where possible, for the area municipalities;

And further that Oxford County Council opposes the “Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022” in the strongest terms possible and hereby request the Warden to meet with our MPP as soon as possible to express our very serious concerns about both Bill 39 and Bill 23;

And further, that this resolution be forwarded to all Oxford area municipalities, WOWC, ROMA, AMO, Oxford MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, and the Premier of Ontario.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Chloe Senior