



Chatham-Kent Encampment Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
5:15 PM – 7:15 PM
Civic Centre – Council Chambers
315 King Street West, Chatham

- 1. Call of the Roll**
- 2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest (Direct or Indirect) and the General Nature There Of**
- 3. Land Acknowledgement**
- 4. Deputations**
- 5. Minutes of previous meeting**
 - (i) Approval of the minutes of the Encampment Advisory Committee meeting on August 25, 2026.
- 6. Education and Training**
 - (i) Presentation from the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce
 - (ii) Review of the [Draft Recommendation Report](#)

This draft report has been prepared by the Chair of the Encampment Advisory Committee and is not intended to reflect consensus or endorsement by the full committee at this time. This report will be brought forward for discussion and consideration at the committee's next scheduled meeting on September 8, 2026, providing members with an opportunity to review the content and determine whether any revisions are required. For clarity, motions that were approved by the committee at the August 25, 2026, meeting are accurately captured in the approved meeting minutes and remain the official record of the committee's decisions to date.

- 7. Adjournment**

Encampment Advisory Committee

Minutes

**August 25, 2026, 5:15 P.M.
Chatham Civic Centre
315 King Street West, Chatham**

Present: Lynn O'Brien, Andrew Thiel, Claire McDowell, Councillor Michael Bondy, Joey Vandermeer, Councillor Marjorie Crew, Meghan Bradley, Renee Geniole

Regrets:

Administration Present: Kim Crew, Director, Housing Services
Jodi Guilmette, General Manager, Health and Human Services
Joanne McGee, Executive Assistant
Brooke VanDusen, Administrative Assistant

Guests Dave Taylor, Deputy CAO
Judy Shantz, Director, Municipal Governance/Municipal Clerk

1. Call of the Roll

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest (Direct or Indirect) and the General Nature There Of

None

3. Land Acknowledgement

4. Deputations – items on current agenda

One deputation received and emailed to the group.

5. Acknowledgement of Closed Session Held on August 5, 2026

That the August 5, 2026, closed session report be received.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Joey Vandermeer

Motion Carried

6. Minutes of Committee Meeting Held August 5, 2026

That the minutes of the Encampment Advisory Committee meeting of August 5, 2026, be approved.

Moved: Meghan Bradley

Seconded: Claire McDowell

Motion Carried

7. Education and Training

- (i) Review recommendations for preparation of the final report.

That a dedicated person currently on municipal staff be assigned to coordinate the services and organizations visiting encampments and supporting people experiencing homelessness, including Indigenous peoples, with the goal of preventing duplication, improving communication, and finding efficiencies in service delivery.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Claire McDowell

Motion Carried

That the level of P2C (Pathways to Care) service be increased to provide approximately double the current level of service to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Claire McDowell

Motion Carried

That the Municipality work with private-sector partners, community organizations, businesses and other stakeholders to coordinate private initiatives and identify funding opportunities for homelessness initiatives.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Andrew Thiel

Motion Carried

That the Municipality fund and establish an emergency shelter, away from residential neighbourhoods, to provide a safe, appropriate place for individuals experiencing homelessness while they work toward more permanent housing solutions.

Moved: Claire McDowell

Seconded: Councillor Michael Bondy

Motion Failed

That the Municipality fund and establish an emergency shelter, away from residential neighbourhoods where possible, to provide a safe, appropriate place for individuals experiencing homelessness while they work toward more permanent housing solutions.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Renee Geniole

Motion Carried

That the Municipality invest in supportive housing initiatives across Chatham-Kent and actively support partnerships with private, non-profit and community organizations to develop sustainable supportive-housing models.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Renee Geniole

Motion Carried

That Administration create a comprehensive support plan and strategy to support the safety, business continuity, and economic wellbeing of Chatham-Kent businesses and neighbourhoods regarding the encampment and homelessness strategy.

Moved: Andrew Thiel

Seconded: Meghan Bradley

Motion Carried

Recognizing the growing need for homelessness services and the increasing visibility of homelessness in communities throughout Chatham-Kent, the Encampment Advisory Committee (EAC) be renamed the Homelessness Prevention and Response Committee.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Joey Vandermeer

Motion Carried

That the Terms of Reference for the committee be reviewed and revised to reflect its expanded mandate, including homelessness prevention, emergency response, housing, supportive services and homelessness issues throughout the entirety of Chatham-Kent.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Renee Geniole

Motion Carried

That the Homelessness Prevention and Response Committee include representatives from each ward, including 3-4 Councillors with 1-2 representing rural wards, to ensure that the experiences, needs, and concerns of communities throughout Chatham-Kent are considered.

Moved: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Seconded: Renee Geniole

Motion Carried

That Administration publicly provide, at specific periodic intervals, relevant collected data, by municipal channels and community partners, regarding housing, homelessness, and encampments within Chatham-Kent. This data will be provided via established municipal websites.

Moved: Lynn O'Brien

Seconded: Claire McDowell

Motion Carried

Council prioritize investments to support housing and homelessness using existing reserves and additionally consider tax funding starting in 2027.

Moved: Claire McDowell

Seconded: Councillor Marjorie Crew

Motion Carried

That appropriate emergency housing be prioritized for families with children.

Moved: Meghan Bradley

Seconded: Renee Geniole

Motion Carried

That the following 12 Proposed Council Recommendations be approved:

1. Direct Administration to develop a Chatham-Kent 2030 Homelessness and Encampment Reduction Strategy designed to substantially reduce unsheltered homelessness and eliminate the need for permanent encampments.
2. Direct Administration to establish a coordinated Housing Resolution Team responsible for connecting people experiencing homelessness to permanent, transitional or supportive housing.
3. Direct Administration to prepare individualized housing pathways for identified people experiencing chronic homelessness or residing in encampments, subject to consent and privacy requirements.
4. Direct Administration to identify the number of permanent supportive, transitional and affordable housing units required to substantially reduce current homelessness.

5. Direct Administration to identify existing properties that could be rapidly acquired or converted into housing and provide Council with a prioritized list of opportunities.
6. Direct Administration to develop a Private Landlord Housing Partnership Program incorporating appropriate incentives, rent-security mechanisms and tenant-support services, subject to available funding and legal authority.
7. Direct Administration to strengthen homelessness-prevention measures, particularly eviction prevention and rapid intervention for people at imminent risk of losing housing.
8. Direct Administration to establish a standardized encampment-resolution process based on engagement, housing assessment, appropriate housing offers, support, relocation and site restoration.
9. Direct Administration to establish a public homelessness and housing dashboard and report results regularly to Council.
10. Direct the Mayor and appropriate senior municipal officials to advocate jointly with provincial and federal governments for capital and operating funding for identified Chatham-Kent housing projects.
11. Direct Administration to establish a Chatham-Kent Housing Partnership Table involving government, private-sector, non-profit, health, community and lived-experience representatives.
12. Direct Administration to return to Council with a fully costed implementation plan, including municipal, provincial, federal and potential private/community funding sources.

Moved: Lynn O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Michael Bondy

Motion Carried

Ms. Lynn O'Brien and Ms. Jodi Guilmette, General Manager, Health & Human Services, will meet to review the final report. Ms. Guilmette will identify services currently provided by the Municipality that relate to the report's recommendations. This information will be shared with the Encampment Advisory Committee at its September 8, 2026, meeting.

8. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Lynn O'Brien will finalize the draft report by September 1, 2026, and distribute it to committee members for review. To allow time for public input, the draft report will be released in advance of the September 8, 2026, meeting. Deputations will be accepted until noon on September 8, 2026.

9. Date/Time of Next Meeting

September 8, 2026

5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Civic Centre – Council Chambers

315 King Street West, Chatham

10. Adjournment

That the Encampment Advisory Committee adjourn their meeting of August 25, 2026.

Moved: Andrew Thiel

Seconded: Joey Vandermeer

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.