

### **2.23.51 Councilor Elliott:**

I want to echo a lot of my councilors comments to everyone that's here today. For staying till 2:30 in the morning and bringing a lot of your comments and concerns because I know I was sitting here at some point, listening to some of the concerns and there was a lot of great information that came out of it. I was actually wrestling myself with the whole matter at hand. I thought back to when this issue first came about and honestly, I jumped on board in the beginning because it's for the hospital. We need a new hospital. I know lots has been said about the location, the intensification, the density, and honestly, I'm on board with just getting the new hospital. I recall a close friend of mine some years ago. Her and her husband lived in Kingston and he worked in corrections, she worked in nursing. They were there for about 15 years and they came back to Windsor to be with family and she applied to the hospital system. During the conversation, she told me it was like going from the future to the Stone Age in terms of what our facilities look like and she actually admitted to me she got depressed about it. So she ended up working in dialysis. I have kids, I have grandkids. I know a lot of people do. Fundamentally for me, it's about getting a new hospital. I can agree with a lot of you out there in terms of location because I know if I was at the table and somebody asked where I would like the location, well I know a great spot in ward 2 behind the holiday inn select where there's a whole bunch of land right out to the expressway. That would have been my pick for sure.

And I know a lot of folks who would have their favorite of where it could go. A good friend of mine was speaking here earlier, Jeff Williams. I went to his business about a month ago and Jeff and I have our own debate about it. I said Jeff were going to have to have it out in council so how about you and I as friends we have it out right now. And we did. He brought a lot of legitimate concerns in regards to the location, everything about it and one of the points I keep hearing is transportation point. If this hospital can be the catalyst to improving a regional transit, hopefully it will bring parties to the table because I agree. I think there's going to be some logistical problems in terms of where the location is. Think that's going to be one that's going to have to get ironed out in my community and where I live. I live as far west as you can go in Ward 2. And I know there are people there that don't have cars or access to get to where the new hospital is being proposed so I understand that. Is it a game changer in terms of what I asked Jeff at the end of our debate? I said let me ask you a fundamental question Jeff, which would you prefer? If the hospital is going to be located where it's at or we don't get it at all. And he said not to have it at all. So maybe for some, that's what they want. I'm not for that. I don't think of myself in terms of it. I think of kids and grand kids and the region. It's proposed for the county folks, also they have to pay their share towards it.

When I think about it, it's about getting a high profile state of the art hospital. Is it going to be perfect in terms of a lot of things I heard tonight? I don't think so. I agree with a lot of what I heard today but to not get it at all because it's not going to be located where myself or others think it should be is reason not to support it, I can't. It's just that fundamental reason of the hospitals are old now. They're old and outdated. It kind of reminds me of the old city hall when we were having the conversation in council about this new building and I had a couple friends come after me about it and I said listen, if you had to work in those conditions, because I've seen them. If you want to know the conditions those people have been working in, go to the old city hall. And here we have a facility that's going to be here for 50-60 years. I'm not going to be here. My time here is short so I'm not as selfish to think okay this is for me forever and ever so, I kind of liken the hospital to that because our hospital system is just outdated. I heard that time and time again and I know that's the truth. I was born at Hotel Dieu in 1960. So I remember in the very beginning when we were first presented with the information and we were showed a map of the whole province with all these dots where all these mega hospitals were around

the region. They were just everywhere. So many dots around the province, and then you come down to Essex County and there's like nothing. There was just absolutely nothing but the map presented like these hospitals were absolutely everywhere so why not Windsor-Essex? Why not us? And I think its time for us to have a state of the art hospital. Fundamentally for me, it's just about having a hospital, a state of the art hospital for our kids, our grand kids and that's why I'll support it.