



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 20, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Dianne Gould-Brown, City Clerk

SUBJECT: City Council Highlights – April 20, 2020

At its meeting held via videoconference on Monday, April 20, 2020, Sarnia City Council:

- Accepted the following strategies recommended by staff to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the City's financial position:
 - A) *Personnel reductions (through vacant positions not being filled until further notice):*
 - Full Time Vacancies - 20 positions \$278,652
 - Part Time - 2 positions \$31,160
 - Seasonal/Students - 113 positions \$198,000
 - Contract – crossing guards 29 positions \$66,700
 - Total 164 positions \$574,512; and
 - B) *Cancellation of the following non-essential projects until the 2021 Budget Deliberations:*
 - Germain Park Greenhouse/Conservatory\$ 750,000
 - Accessible Sun Shelter \$ 600,000
 - Showmobile \$ 150,000
 - Miscellaneous (smaller projects) \$ 150,000
 - Transit Facility Renovations \$ 108,000
 - Total \$1,758,000
- Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the letter of agreement as required under the 2019/2020 Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transit Program.

- Endorsed the City's projected water demand growth rate of 11.2% from 2016 to 2031, for updating the LAWSS Water System Master Plan, and requested that the LAWSS Master Plan update include a sensitivity analysis to compare the impact of various projected water demand growth rates on capital infrastructure needs.
- Amended the Interim Property Tax Levy By-Law.
- Accepted the proposal submitted by Summa Engineering Limited in the amount of \$491,229.10, including non-rebateable HST, for upgrades to the existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system at the Water Pollution Control Centre.
- Accepted the tender submitted by Neptune Security Services Inc. in the amount of \$351,072.00, including non-rebateable HST, for installation of new HVAC equipment and electrical panel for the Sarnia Public Library facility.
- Accepted the tender submitted by 1197245 Ontario Limited (Sevcon Paving) in the amount of \$1,474,106.42, including non-rebateable HST, for asphalt resurfacing for select streets.
- Directed staff to prepare a comparative assessment between the City and the high growth areas in Lambton County related to single family residential home construction.
- Directed staff to prepare a report regarding the potential for a secondary street repaving strategy utilizing quadrants of the City receiving an equitable allotment of a rotating allocation of repaving monies.
- Directed staff to undertake research, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district office, regarding the extensive work that was carried out along the Sarnia and Bright's Grove shoreline in the 1980s, and report back to Council.
- Requested that the County of Lambton allocate \$120,000 of the Emergency Funding it received to local food banks.
- Directed staff to explore the possibility of holding Online Public Meetings and Public Engagement through electronic means, as is recently permitted by legislative amendments adopted through the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

- The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020.

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For further information contact:

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