



*City of Sarnia*

***MEDIA RELEASE***

DATE: May 13, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Dianne Gould-Brown, City Clerk

SUBJECT: City Council Highlights – May 11, 2020

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At its regular meeting held via teleconference on Monday, May 11, 2020, Sarnia City Council:

- Authorized Staff to proceed with the following transfers:
  - The amount of \$638,423 from the 6581 Operating Contingency Reserve to cover the 2019 preliminary Operating deficit.
  - The 2019 preliminary Sarnia Police Services operating surplus of \$335,533 to the 6565 Police Operating Contingency Reserve Fund.
  - The 2019 preliminary Sanitary Sewer surplus of \$46,053 to the 6590 Sewer Rates Stabilization Reserve.
  - The 2019 preliminary Water surplus of \$162,050 to the 6450 Water Rates Stabilization Reserve.
- Received the Q1 Budget Status Report for the period ending March 31, 2020.
- Accepted the following mitigation strategies to provide financial relief to community members in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency and directed Staff to:
  - Waive the \$40 NSF fee to anyone whose May and June monthly PAP payment is returned.
  - Waive the penalty and interest charges on property taxes until June 30, 2020.
  - Waive the late fees on utilities (water and sewer only) until June 30, 2020.
  - Waive the late fees on miscellaneous invoices until June 30, 2020.

- Extend the validity of current parking passes by the number of months of the Emergency Declaration.
  - Defer rent on its leased premises and land until June 30, 2020 with the stipulation that the businesses or non-profits apply for COVID funding from upper levels of government. Any funding received is to be reported and submitted to the City in lieu of rent.
  - Reduce the Sarnia Sting fees by \$14,918.47 ( $\$126,807 * 4/34$ ), which is the equivalent value of the gate fee portion of the lease payment for 4 games.
- Adopted a By-Law to identify a special service and to authorize a special local municipal levy and tax rate for repayment of the costs of construction for the Donohue Bridge.
  - Appointed the Canadian Radiocommunications Information and Notification Service (CRINS-SINRC) as the designated representative to receive and process all applications for radiocommunications facilities on behalf of the City of Sarnia.
  - Authorized and endorsed the hosting of Public Meetings online in order to meet Planning Act and Drainage Act requirements for applications that require Council and Committee of Adjustment decisions.
  - Adopted the By-Law to Levy Taxes for the Year 2020.
  - Received information regarding an update on the 2020 Lead Reduction Program.
  - The next Regular Council Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020.

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**For further information contact:**

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