



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: June 24, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Dianne Gould-Brown, City Clerk

SUBJECT: City Council Highlights – June 22, 2020

At its Regular Meeting held via video-conference on Monday, June 22, 2020, Sarnia City Council:

- 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 July monthly PAP payment is returned.
 - Waive the penalty and interest charges on property taxes until July 31, 2020.
 - Waive the late fees on utilities (water and sewer only) until July 31, 2020.
 - Waive the late fees on miscellaneous invoices until July 31, 2020.
 - Waive the service fees for online payments until July 31, 2020.
 - Offer a seven-month PAP repayment plan to property owners with only 2020 tax arrears and to waive any penalty attributable for the duration of the seven month plan.
 - Waive the administration fee for the addition of water/sewer accounts in significant arrears to the property tax roll until August 31, 2020.
 - Waive rent for the City's commercial or non-profit tenants from April 1, 2020 through the earlier of (i) the date of re-opening of operations or (ii) June 30, 2020.
 - Waive interest accrued on the loan for Bluewater Gymnastic Club during the pandemic-related closure and direct Staff to modify the By-Law and loan agreement for Council consideration.

- Waive the late fees for business license renewal applications until August 31, 2020.
- Accepted additional and extended mitigation strategies to provide financial relief to community members in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.
- Endorsed recommendations to proceed with temporary amendments to the Zoning By-Law and refreshment vehicles section of the Business Licensing By-Law which will increase flexibility for existing business owners.
- Directed Staff to consult with the public and prepare an amendment to the City`s Zoning By-Law to permit secondary dwelling units in areas of the City with septic systems.
- Approved the renewal of the Pound Services Agreement with the Sarnia and District Humane Society.
- Amended the Site Plan Control Guidelines to include a recommendation for the use of bird safe glass.
- Approved the request for \$50,000 for a Traffic Impact Study for the Research Park Lands.
- Adopted the 2021 Budget Process Schedule.
- Directed Staff to apply for a \$50,000 grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities` Municipal Asset Management Program to advance our asset management program and committed \$70,000 from the City`s budget toward costs of this initiative.
- Accepted the proposal by JS Marine in the amount of \$75,333.64 and allocate \$10,333.64 of the Accessibility Plan project fund for an accessible kayak and canoe launch system in Sarnia Bay.
- Requested that the County of Lambton Warden and CAO be invited to make an annual presentation to Sarnia City Council.
- Directed staff to complete a high level traffic assessment at the intersection of Brock St. and London Road and report back.

- Directed staff to send a letter to all Ontario Municipalities requesting that they urge Premier Ford to start implementing immediate changes in Ontario's Long Term Care homes due to the conditions exposed by the pandemic.
- Authorized amendments to the Zoning By-Law and the Lot Maintenance By-Law to allow for seasonal parking of recreational vehicles on private residential property from May 1 to October 31, and requested a report back within one year.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2020.

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For further information contact:

The Office of the City Clerk

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