



*City of Sarnia*

***MEDIA RELEASE***

DATE: July 16, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate  
FROM: Amy Burkhart, Deputy City Clerk  
SUBJECT: City Council Highlights – July 13, 2020

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At its Regular Meeting held via video-conference on Monday, July 13, 2020, Sarnia City Council:

- Approved a number of COVID-19 mitigation strategies to assist in implementing the City's Phase 3 Service Delivery Options, including:
  - Commencement of the recruitment, hiring and returning to work of certain full-time positions that are currently vacant;
  - Re-opening of some City owned facilities including City Hall, Public Works, and the Transit office;
  - Re-opening of Rink 2 at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena on Tuesday August 4, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$175,000.00;
  - Re-opening of Rink 1 at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena on Monday September 14, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$120,000.00;
  - Re-opening of the Clearwater Arena on Monday September 14, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$113,000.00;
  - Re-opening of the Sarnia Arena on Monday September 21, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$80,000.00;
  - Re-opening of the Tecumseh Pool and Splash Pad from Saturday August 1 through to Sunday August 30 at an estimated cost of \$69,000.00;
  - The addition of lifeguarding services for Canatara Beach from Saturday August 1 through to Sunday August 30 at a cost of \$19,500.00;
  - The hiring of 4 seasonal staff to provide an increase in the level of service for garbage removal, park maintenance and the

opening of all public washrooms seven days per week for 15 weeks from July 20 through to October 30, at a cost of \$164,000.00;

- The endorsement of re-opening all city owned sport fields and the hiring of additional Staff to administer the fields for outside programming;
  - The reinstatement of modified Saturday level transit service on weekdays effective Tuesday, August 4, 2020;
  - The full reinstatement of transit service effective Sunday, September 6, 2020; and,
  - The filling of vacant operator positions in preparation for return to full transit service.
- Authorized the issuance of the Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP) to support re-imagining and re-creating the land use conditions for economic investment.
  - Authorized the next phase of the Economic Development Strategy project.
  - Approved temporary accommodations for users of the Vendome parking lot while the lot undergoes reconstruction.
  - Approved recommendations to reconfigure the Charlotte Street parking lot, including the removal of the existing e-charging station, in order to increase utilization and provide additional permit parking spaces.
  - Endorsed the request by the Chamber of Commerce to close Christina Street, from George Street to Wellington Street, in support of the Pedestrian-Friendly Street pilot project on weekends (from 4:00 pm Friday to 8 pm on Sunday) commencing July 17 and concluding September 27.
  - Deferred the one-year pilot project allowing a Dog Friendly Beach to spring 2021.
  - Tabled the consideration of a Downtown Business Improvement Area to allow for a revote in light of the unanticipated economic impact caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic.
  - Amended By-Law 100 of 1996 to designate Community Safety Zones and impose speed limit reductions on Hamilton Road, Indian Road and Russell Street.

- Accepted the proposals submitted by ESRI Canada Ltd., in the amount of \$666,445.80, for the purchase and implementation of the Cityworks Asset Management System and Permitting, Licensing and Land Management System, and the amount of \$457,787.71 for software license costs.
- Endorsed the Rapids Parkway Extension Schedule "C" Environmental Assessment as complete and directed Staff to publish the Notice of Completion.
- Accepted the tender submitted by Cope Construction & Contracting Inc., for the amount of \$750,785.49, for the paving work required at Sarnia Arena South lot and the Vendome municipal parking lot.
- Directed Staff to consult with the public on possible amendments to the existing Streets By-Law relative to sidewalk maintenance during the winter.
- Accepted the tender submitted by 1197245 Ontario Limited (o/a Sevcon Paving) for the amount of \$966,428.82, for asphalt resurfacing for areas of Maxwell Street, Stacy Court, Roger Street and Blackwell Sideroad.
- Accepted the tender submitted by Birnam Excavating for the amount of \$1,052,847.25, for the replacement of pump stations located on Scott Road, Briarfield Avenue, and Hollands Avenue.
- Directed Staff to write-off the outstanding property taxes on the property located at 1616 Blackwell Road, except for \$1,000, re-advertise the property under the tax sale process with this amount indicated as the minimum bid, and contact the Province and Conservation Authority to explore the development of this land into a conservation area.
- Authorized the Mayor and Clerk to sign Agreements of Purchase and Sale for the Scott Road Sewage Lagoons and 1630 Murphy Road.
- Agreed that the Sarnia Declaration of Emergency may not necessarily be ended at the same time as when the Government of Ontario ends their Declaration of Emergency on or about July 15, 2020.

- Authorized Rezoning Application 10-2020-85 of 2002 to permit secondary dwelling units in single detached dwellings on partially serviced lots in the Suburban Residential (SR1), Rural Residential (RR1) and Rural 1 (RU1) Zones.
- Authorized existing businesses a temporary exemption from adhering to the provisions of various By-Laws for a two-year period, to assist in their economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2020.

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**For further information contact:**

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