

For Immediate Release December 8, 2020

## Council Connect: Highlights from the December 8, 2020 meetings of Council

### Highlights from the Policies and Priorities Meeting

**Commemorative Tree Program:** A new Commemorative Tree Program was approved that will replace the Tree Replacement, Donation and Memorial Policy. The new program outlines the process to be followed for requesting a commemorative tree under a user pay model. Existing trees will fall outside this new policy and if they need to be removed, the existing sponsorship will cease and the existing sponsor or a member of the public will have the opportunity to make a contribution towards a new tree under the new policy. The policy covers all trees on land or property owned by the Town. The fees for the program are: \$500 for the tree only and \$850 for the tree and custom plaque.

**Tree Maintenance and Removal:** following a request from Council in September 2018, Administration reviewed the Town's Tree Trimming Policy (no. 40/2002) and presented a new policy for Tree Maintenance and Removal. The new policy respects tree planting, maintenance and removal which will support the Town's tree cover, but also adheres to Section 270 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* which requires all municipalities to adopt and maintain policies with respect to the protection and enhancement of the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality. The purpose of the new policy is to protect and enhance the Town's tree cover and includes standards and procedures for consistently managing the planting, pruning and removal of trees on Town property. A key addition to the policy addresses requests from property owners to remove a healthy tree for nuisance reasons in that requests for this purpose will not be considered. As well, the policy outlines removal of a tree if it is determined the tree creates an immediate danger to person or property. Notification will be provided to adjacent property owners when a tree on Town property is scheduled to be removed.

**Management and Non-Union Administrative Support Staff and Council Economic Adjustment for 2021:** A report was received on amendments to the Compensation and Salary Administration Policy 67 in accordance with the annual update. The decision to adjust salaries for 2021 has been deferred.

### Highlights from the Regular Meeting of Council

**Tecumseh 2021 Budget:** Council received the proposed 2021 Business Plan and Budget, and heard from the Town's Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Financial Services. The proposed budget outlines a tax rate increase of 3.05% for 2021, which is equivalent to \$55 increase on a \$250,000 home. Taken together, the overall consolidated levy increase (Town, County and Education) is expected to be 1.5% or \$61 increase on a \$250,000 home. Deliberation on the proposed budget will be held Wednesday, January 13, 2021 beginning at 4 p.m. and if needed, Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4 p.m. The budget document will be posted online on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at: [Tecumseh.ca/2021budget/](https://tecumseh.ca/2021budget/).

**Tecumseh Police Services and Police Services Board Budget:** Council received a presentation from the Tecumseh Police Services Board on the 2021 Proposed Budget. The presentation outlined that Tecumseh's six-year contract with the OPP is set to expire at the end of 2020 and contract negotiations are underway. Cost of policing in Town is calculated by a base service (53.1%) plus calls for service (46.9%).

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Tecumseh ranks third in lowest cost per household for policing services in the region at \$160 per capita and \$418 per household (2019). The 2021 budget for Police Services Board proposes an 18.5% decrease, primarily as a result of reduced expenses for professional development due to the pandemic. The 2021 budget for contract police services through the OPP proposes approximately a 1% increase.

**Parks and Recreation Capital Works Plan:** Council approved spending \$180,000 on various renovations and repairs to Town buildings as part of the 5-year capital works plan for buildings. The works include:

- replacing the yard gate at the Water Department building;
- replacing the concrete pad at the Oasis Water Fill Station;
- repairing a section of the original Town Hall Roof;
- replacing the building management system at the OPP building;
- improvements to the Public Works South Building; and,
- improvements at Fire Hall #2.

Three items from 2020 were carried forward to 2021 including:

- replacement of Town Hall Roof HVAC Units;
- an architect for the Cada Library improvements; and,
- improvements to the Carling Pavilion.

For Parks, Council approved spending \$455,000 in parks projects including:

- improvements to the St. Mary's Park tennis courts;
- replacement of the playset at Rocheleau Park;
- a new Pickleball Complex at Lacasse Park;
- a new irrigation system at Town Hall;
- a Town wide tree inventory;
- planting additional trees to expand the available forest cover; and
- various other improvements like wood chips in parks, sports field top dressing and clay refurbishment on baseball diamonds.

All of the funds will come from Reserves.

**Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan:** Council pre-approved spending more than \$15 million on projects on the 2021 Public Works and Environmental Services capital works projects. Major works for 2021 include:

- the annual asphalt paving and sidewalk repair programs (including tar and chip);
- watermain replacements throughout the Town;
- implementation of active transportation facilities, including multi-use pathways and sharrows;
- finalization of various studies such as the Shoreline Management Plan, the Stormwater Rates Study, the Oldcastle Stormwater Master Plan and the Sanitary Sewer Model;
- Phase 2 construction of improvements on Manning Road;
- Commencement of detailed design on the Scully, St. Marks and P.J. Cecile storm pump stations, as part of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) grant received; and,
- improvements to designated bridges and culverts throughout Town.

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Administration recommended moving forward with these on-going projects in 2021 and further that a strategic planning session be arranged with Council to confirm the desired focus of the Town for the next Five Year PWES Capital Works planning horizon. Administration plans to bring forward a separate report to Council in early 2021 regarding the 2021-2025 Public Works & Environmental Services Five Year Capital Works Plan following these future discussions with Council regarding project prioritization.

**2021 Water and Wastewater Rates:** Council received the report on the 2021 Water and Wastewater Rates, and approved an increase to the water rate, wastewater rate and fixed rate. The water rate increases by 1%, the wastewater rate increases by 2% and the fixed rate increases by 6%. The impact of the proposed rate increases to a typical homeowner using 240 cubic metres would be \$32. Residents will see this change on their Essex Powerlines water bill in the new-year.

**Tecumseh Multi-Use SportsPlex Costing Update:** Council received a report on up-to-date costing for a phased approach to developing the Multi-Use SportsPlex. The report does not provide a recommended option or funding proposal for the Multi-Use SportsPlex, but rather recommends that Council defer direction on their preferred option and funding proposals until early 2021 when all major Town capital projects will be reviewed and prioritized by Council

**Inclusive Communities Grant:** Council authorized an application to the Ontario Government's Inclusive Communities Grant to install barrier free entrances at the Golden Age Club and the south-west entrance to Tecumseh Town Hall. The requested amount is \$60,000 plus HST for eligible costs.

**Desro Drive:** Council authorized the closure of a portion of Desro Drive, declared these lands surplus and authorized they be sold to Eleven Windsor Holdings Inc. The lands will be used for parking and other improvements to the property at 13375 Desro Drive. This authorization follows the Public Meeting held on November 10, 2020 on zoning amendments. The lands are a municipal right of way that was once part of a cul-de-sac. The cul-de-sac no longer exists as Desro Drive now extends westerly to connect to Sylvestre Drive.

**Assignment of CIP Grant for 11870 Tecumseh Road:** Council approved the assignment of the CIP grant previously awarded to 11870 Tecumseh Road (the Gateway Tower/Valente Development) to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The owner applied to CMHC under Canada's National Housing Strategy Program which aims to promote the construction of new affordable housing within communities. As a result, the owner has assigned all rights, including its rights to the CIP grants, to CMHC as collateral security for its loan. In the event the owner defaults on the development, CMHC would assume control. As such, CMHC requested the Town agree to assign the grant to them.

**Pathway to Potential Funding Agreement 2020:** Council received a report on the Pathway to Potential (P2P) Funding Agreement for 2020 and authorized the execution of a Service Agreement between the Town and the City of Windsor. Since 2009, the Town has entered into a yearly Service Agreement for the P2PI program. The City of Windsor transfers monthly payments to the Town and the funding is administered by the Parks and Recreation Department to assist low-income families to participate in recreation programs.

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In January 2020, the Town received confirmation that the 2020 amount was \$50,000. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, recreational programs were postponed or cancelled and therefore the volume of requests for funding support was down. As of December 2020, there is a surplus of funds remaining and the Town is required to return any unused money to Windsor. As such, Administration will be returning \$4,539.62.

**Bill 229-Schedule 6—Conservation Authorities Act:** Council passed a motion regarding the passage of Bill 229 and asking the Province to:

- delay proclamation of Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);
- continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions that reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;
- respect the current conservation authority and municipal relationships; and,
- embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed role.

The resolution will be sent to the Premier of Ontario; Minister of Finance; Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Essex Region Conservation Authority; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and area municipalities.

**Windsor International Airport:** Council supported the motion from County Council that Navigation Canada (NAV Canada) remove Windsor International Airport from their list of airports currently being studied for possible removal of air traffic controllers, and noted the economic impact that loss of air traffic would have on the region.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca). The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca), Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh](http://www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh)).

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