



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2022

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held November 28, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccination Verification Policy Rescinded

South Dundas Council has determined that the time is right to rescind the vaccination mandate required for municipal employees, council, firefighters, volunteers and students. “The highest risk is behind us, the need for this vaccination policy within the municipality is no longer necessary. We will keep safety at the forefront and adapt as required; we have been participating in meetings with the EOHU and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis to ensure we know the current recommendations. This Standardization with surrounding townships will ensure we can continue to recruit and retain the best qualified individuals.”

“The Policy was developed based on a recommendation from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) strongly encouraging that all local employers institute and ensure compliance with a workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy to protect staff and customers/clients from COVID-19, preventing the spread in workplaces and the community”, said Chief Administrative Officer Shannon Geraghty. “We’re obviously in a much better position now with the risk of serious illness to staff significantly reduced so it’s time to move forward. Administration, in consultation with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit will continue to monitor the best practice in this regard.”

For more information, contact [Shannon Geraghty](#), CAO at 613-543-4756.

Council Approves 2023 Water and Wastewater Rates

On January 1, 2023 the water flat rate and consumption charges will increase by 4% and continue through to 2031. A single family dwelling on both services, assuming 2m³ of water consumption per month will see an increase of \$3.26 (Morrisburg) and \$3.72 (Iroquois).

These increases were recommended as part of the [Water and Wastewater Rate Study](#) presented to Council in September by DFA Infrastructure International Inc.

The Municipality, successful in its submission under Intake 2 of the Provincial Municipal Modernization Program, commissioned DFA to conduct a Water Service Delivery Review in April 2022 to provide opinions and recommendations on a sustainable water rate structure as it relates to annual operation costs and future capital investments. The Study was formally endorsed by Council on October 11, 2022.

“Council believes that the recommended rate increases are fair and will support projects that are ongoing and expected in the future,” said Mayor Jason Broad. “The increases are especially important for the Municipality’s [Asset Management Planning](#).”



The South Dundas Asset Management Plan, that was accepted by council on June 27, 2022, identifies annual contributions to water and wastewater reserves of \$1.4 million and \$1.1 million respectively. Current revenue levels of the water and wastewater systems will not support contributions of that magnitude.

The Municipality is responsible for water treatment and for a local water distribution system. There are approximately 2,100 connected properties in the Municipality. Additionally, the Municipality is responsible for local wastewater collection and treatment with approximately 2,000 individual accounts. The Municipality recovers its water and wastewater costs through a flat rate and per cubic rate system depending on various classifications. Meter reading, billing, and collections are contracted to Rideau St. Lawrence Utilities which collect the user charges on behalf of Municipality. The current rate structure is based on several past rate review exercises, but now requires an in-depth analysis as to current rates and long-term funding requirements of operational and capital infrastructure needs.

For more information, contact [Shawn Mason](#), Deputy Treasurer at 613-543-4752.

Support for Regional Waste Management Working Group

Council has endorsed the actions identified in the Executive Summary of the Regional Waste Management Action Plan and authorized the CAO to represent the Municipality by participating as part of the Regional Waste Management Working Group.

Following a presentation by SDG Counties Director of Transportation Ben deHaan, Council was briefed on the four immediate actions recommended by the County and six local municipalities. The four recommendations include: obtaining a commitment from the six local councils to pursue a regional approach to solid waste management through the formal creation of a Regional Waste Management Working Group; focusing efforts on a collaborative transition strategy during the Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) transition; annually summarizing and comparing financial data on local solid waste management activities; and, adopting a regional base level of service for solid waste management. The complete [Report](#) by DFA Infrastructure International Inc. can be found here, starting on page 45.

“Although solid waste management is currently managed individually by all six local municipalities within the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG), joining forces to review programs and discuss short, medium and long-term opportunities that could improve efficiencies, increase collaboration, and provide potential solutions to the challenges facing each municipality is something I wholeheartedly support”, said Mayor Jason Broad. “Working together with our neighbouring municipalities is the way of the future and something I look forward to enhancing over the next four years.”

For more information, contact [Shannon Geraghty](#), CAO at 613-543-4756.



Council to Consider Continued Partnership with Foodcycler

An overview of the 2022 Pilot Project and proposed opportunities for continued partnership was well received by South Dundas Council following a presentation by Christina Zardo, director of municipal solutions for Ottawa's Food Cycle Science.

The Foodcycler is easy to use, requires one cubic foot of space on your counter and a power outlet to get started. The unit dries and grinds food waste into a dry, odorless, nutrient dense by-product that is significantly reduced in weight and volume from its unprocessed state. The product is free from bacteria and food-borne pathogens are eliminated in the process.

"Constituents want solutions to reduce their environmental impact," stated Mayor Jason Broad. "Waste is perceived as a government problem and regulations are coming. Food waste is low-hanging fruit to achieving higher diversion and addressing the environmental impact of waste."

It was unanimous to receive the information and ask staff to follow up with a report with consideration for the 2023 budget.

For more information, visit the South Dundas website: [Foodcycler Pilot Program](#)

2022 Municipal Election Feedback Sought

The Municipality is looking for residents' opinions on the 2022 municipal election, inclusive of voting methods, poll locations, access to assistance and information, etc. "We want to hear from you, the residents of South Dundas; positive, negative or neutral; feedback is a gift, and it is how we improve," stated Mayor Jason Broad.

"We're always looking at ways to make it easier for people to participate in municipal elections," said Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO. "It is important that we hear from the public while the recent municipal election is fresh in everyone's mind. We will document all feedback and ensure improvements are made for the next election in four years time."

Residents are invited to provide their feedback through an anonymous online survey at www.southdundas.com until March 31, 2023. Alternatively, you may call the municipal office at 613-543-2673 or email your comments to mail@southdundas.com.

For more information, contact [Leslie Drynan](#), Clerk/Deputy CAO at 613-543-4766.

Committees of Council

Council received an information report from staff regarding the current structure of committees of Council. At the start of each term, Council shall establish or confirm the Committees of Council and assign both elected and public representatives to each committee.



“It’s exciting to get started talking about our Committees of Council; our team will be fully engaged to make these committees a valuable asset to the council table discussions,” said Mayor Jason Broad.

Council will approve the 2022-2026 Committee of Council structure at the next regular meeting scheduled for December 12, following which applications will be accepted from members of the public looking to volunteer. Stay tuned for further information.

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Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, December 12 at 6:00 pm

2023 Water & Wastewater Budget Meeting: Thursday, December 15 at 1:00 pm

2022 Holiday Closures

South Dundas Municipal Office will be closed at 4:30 pm on Friday, December 23, 2022 and re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 8:30 am.

Matilda Landfill will be closed Saturday, December 24 to Tuesday, December 27 and again Friday, December 30 to Monday, January 2, 2023. **The landfill will be open Wednesday, December 28 and Thursday, December 29 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.**