



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2023

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held January 30, 2023

Council Orientation Continues Through Educational Delegations

As part of the orientation and onboarding process, Council continues to engage and hear from delegates at each respective meeting to learn more about programs and services offered throughout the Municipality and SDG Counties.

Jim Blanchette, Community Mobilization Officer from the Ontario Provincial Police provided an overview of the 2022 Police Services Board Report for South Dundas, which included a breakdown between violent, property and drug crime, as well as stats on clearance rates, and criminal record and vulnerable sector screening checks. "Policing is a commitment to serve and protect the rights of everyone. On behalf of Council, I commend the diligent work of the OPP to continue to meet the evolving needs our community," noted Mayor Broad.

[Habitat for Humanity Cornwall and The Counties](#) spoke to council regarding their Every One, Every Family, Every Build, Every Support, Every Community concept, while sharing their mission of providing affordable home ownership opportunities to local, working, low-income families to help build strength, stability and self-reliance. When asked, Mayor Jason Broad echoed the sentiments he previously shared in November, "I was offered an opportunity to visit the Habitat home build in Winchester Springs. As a resident of the Municipality of South Dundas, and your new Mayor, I commend the last Council for having donated the building lot for this project."

In keeping with the housing theme, Council heard from the City of Cornwall Human Services Department. The city, through a shared services agreement with SDG Counties oversees and provides services including Ontario Works, Children's Services and Housing Services. This high-level overview included the history of the social housing.

Mayor Broad noted "The Team would like to look at future property to support these housing projects to get South Dundas back on your list"

To learn more, click [here](#).

Council Reviews Cost of Living Adjustment Policy

Council approved a 5.20% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase based on the 2021 Ontario CPI (CPI) for the 2023 budget and directed Staff to return with options for Council deliberation following the compensation review currently underway.



Council was presented with a report outlining options for consideration relating to the annual cost of living adjustment for municipal staff, following a request from Deputy Mayor St. Pierre at the January 9 Regular Meeting. Currently, the municipality's Personnel Policy indicates that adjustments are based on Ontario CPI, dependent on Council approval.

Acting Treasurer Lachlan McDonald explained that there are many ways to remunerate employees and Council's must balance what is fair to the administration of South Dundas and what is fair to the taxpayer of South Dundas. Various options were presented for consideration.

The staff recommendation of a 5.2% COLA increase stems from discussion at the December 2021 Water & Wastewater Budget meeting. Since then, the final numbers for December 2022 have been published for Ontario sees CPI at 6.0%. Employee remuneration in South Dundas is lagging in comparison to our neighboring municipalities due to only a 0.7% COLA increase approval in 2021 and 2022. An increase above the bound 3% will enable South Dundas to be at more comparable with SD&G municipalities.

Deputy Mayor St. Pierre, who asked that this topic be reconsidered commented, "I have had time to think about this, and have some conversations with the CAO and individual members of Council and appreciate that this is somewhat tied to the compensation review, however when that is finished, I still will be in favour of a min to max ratio as it relates to COLA increases for staff, with min being 1% and max being 4%, and I would propose a 4% COLA increase for 2023. I think 4% is still fair for our staff. Let's get through budget and the comp review and then set the formula for the next three years."

Councillors Ward, Veinotte and Smith were in agreement of the 5.2% COLA for 2023 but echoed the sentiments of the Deputy Mayor to develop a formula following conclusion of the compensation review.

For more information, contact [Shannon Geraghty](#), CAO at 613-543-2673

Council Approves Exception to Municipal Alcohol Policy for Morrisburg Junior Lions Hockey Club

At the January 9 Regular Meeting, Council agreed to reconsider a request from the Morrisburg Junior Lions Club (the Club) to host a Special Occasion Permit to sell alcohol at home games. The Club proposed to make application to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for the permit, cover any additional insurance costs and provide Smart Serve attendants.

The request was supported following a motion by Councillor Ward and seconded by Deputy Mayor St. Pierre to exempt the Club from the Municipality's Alcohol Policy. "The Junior C Lions Hockey Club have been a good partner through our Tubie Weekend and have excellent results in this area." said Mayor Broad.

The Municipality's Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, David Jansen explained that Staff are happy to work with the Club in their application to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to seek approval of a Liquor Sales License at the facility.



Outlined in the report for councils consideration were pros and cons from a staff, facility and risk management perspective.

For more information, contact [Shannon Geraghty](#), CAO at 613-543-2673

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South Dundas Council



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Looking Ahead: Upcoming Meetings

2023 Budget Meeting: Friday, February 3, 2023 @ 8:30 am

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 6:00 pm