



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2023

Here are the highlights from the Special South Dundas Council meeting held February 22, 2023

Draft 2023 Budget Presented to Council

A revised Draft Budget was presented by staff to the Council of South Dundas which included additions and deletions as directed from the previous budget deliberations on February 3, 2023. Council took a balanced approach to maintaining or improving services while keeping the tax rate below the rate of inflation. With the Cost of Living at 6.8% and construction and fuel costs rising over 12% in the last fiscal year, Council was able to bring the residential tax rate down to 5.5%. Mayor Broad expressed *“The bottom line is that things are costing more, and we are taking money from our reserves to complete projects and help offset the tax rate. Deputy Mayor St Pierre added ‘This budget was not created in one meeting. There has been a lot of transparency with this budget, and I appreciate the efforts of staff and Council’”*.

Facts and Highlights of the Draft 2023 Budget include:

- Council closes in on a 5.5% residential tax rate increase for 2023
- Council will not proceed with the Food Cycler program and curbside compost collection in 2023, estimated savings of \$37,100
- Council proposes increase to Grants & Donations allocation to \$107,500, an increase of \$36,500

“Our job doesn’t end today.” Mayor Broad stated. *“We will continue coaching, monitoring, and coming up with solutions and strategies to save money. We will be entering a strategic planning event with staff in April 2023, and this will drive the long-term vision and specific improvements we can implement along the way.”* Mayor Broad closed the meeting by thanking all members of staff and the Council team for their diligent work on the 2023 budget. Staff is expected to bring back a budget By Law for Council vote on March 13th, 2023.

Council Appoints Members to Committees of Council

The Council of the Municipality of South Dundas accepted a report appointing community members to its various committees. Committees of Council will provide Council with advice and updates on specifically mandated areas of interest. Mayor Broad expressed his appreciation saying, *“Thanks to all the applicants for stepping up and putting their names forward to serve on the various South Dundas committees.”* Mayor Broad further explained that there are still vacancies for the Youth Advisory Committee and staff will continue to seek to recruit young members in the upcoming weeks. CAO Gerghy expressed that staff will be working with the various committees to distribute the Committee Handbook and ensure they have a strong



understanding of the process for submitting their agendas and minutes and ensure they are added to future Council Meeting Agendas.

Council Appoints new Municipal Clerk

Council passed a motion appointing Crystal LeBrun as the Municipal Clerk for the Municipality of South Dundas. Mayor Broad welcomed Ms. LeBrun and expressed how happy Council is to have her as part of the team.

Council Supports Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is a national anti-bullying campaign, now in its 12th year. Every February, Canadians put on a Pink Shirt to let everyone know that they choose to be Bully Free. South Dundas Council members joined thousands of people in S.D.&G by showing their support for Pink Shirt Day.



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Looking Ahead: Upcoming Meetings

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