



**Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 16, 2024

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held February 14, 2024.

*For more information, contact **Tia Fraser-Dupuis, Acting Economic Development & Communications Officer** at 613-543-2673 ext. 4772*

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**2024 Budget**

Council approved the final 2024 Budget. The overall annual net tax levy for 2024 is \$8,811,024, a \$618,296 increase (7.55%) over that of 2023. In comparing the residential tax rate from 2023 to 2024, ratepayers will see an increase of approximately \$79.03 or 6.67%, for lower tier municipal purposes, on a residential assessment of \$211,148. The passing of the budget will allow staff to proceed with calculating the final tax rates for the Municipality for the 2024 taxation year, which taxpayers will see on their final tax bill.

For more information, contact Julie Stewart, Treasurer at 613-543-2673 ext. 4770

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**Proposed Subdivision and Zoning Amendment - Valecraft Homes Ltd.**

Council and several members of the public were presented an overview of a Subdivision Application & Zoning By-law amendment submitted by applicant, Valecraft Homes Ltd. SDG County Planner, Stephanie Morin explained that no decision is made during this process, but it does serve as an opportunity to gather information, and members of the public and Council may ask questions or provide comments. Morin explained that the proposed zoning amendment would increase the range of permitted residential uses to accommodate the proposed draft plan application and remove setback requirements. Agency comments from Enbridge and South Nation Conservation were received to date and only one landowner submitted comments in writing in advance of the public meeting.

Councillor Danielle Ward expressed “It’s a really well-planned subdivision...I really like the flow, and the mixture of houses.” The proposed subdivision includes 58 single detached homes, 24 semi-detached units, 105 townhouse units, 112 apartment units, 1 park, 2 stormwater management ponds, totaling 299 residential units. “It offers our community the much need housing that we’re looking for. We really appreciate you looking at Iroquois as your next destination...it will not only accommodate seniors, but young families too,” said Ward. Following this public meeting, SDG Counties will review all submissions from the public and agencies before deciding. If approved, conditions are drafted to include development requirements and any concerns raised through public and agency consultation.



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## 2024 Grants & Donations Requests

During the January 15th and 16th budget meetings, Council provided guidance to staff for the approval of the 2024 grants and donations requests. The total funding amount requested in 2024 from various volunteer and community organizations was \$66,700.00. Council determined that the amount to be approved in 2024 was \$31,700 directly to groups and leaving \$3,300 as a reserve for requests that may be received throughout the year. The final amount approved was a total of \$35,000 which includes the donations and reserve.

“In-Kind” requests can include the use of municipal property and/or facilities, materials or resources that can support the event/group and does not include cash fund. Several requests were received that would not fall within the scope of an “In-Kind” contribution or the Municipality would not have the ability to approve certain requests. Community groups will be notified, and Council has directed staff to work with these groups to the best of their ability.

“A lot of these events are on municipal property, and I think it’s really beneficial that we help them through this process”, said Councillor Ward.

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## Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meetings: February 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (COTW)

March 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.