



**Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 24, 2025

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held June 23, 2025.

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

---

**Development Charges - Options for Consideration**

The purpose of Development Charges is to recover the capital costs associated with residential and non-residential growth within a municipality. The Municipality of South Dundas retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to undertake a Development Charges Background Study, as prescribed by the Development Charges Act 1997. The complete Development Charges Background Study addresses the forecasted amount, type, and location of growth for the community, the requirement for "rules" governing the imposition of development charges, and provides sufficient background information on the legislation, recommendations and the basis for these recommendations.

The Municipality of South Dundas is in a position to implement development charges at the discretion of Council. At this point, more internal work will be completed to understand the specific costs, and calculations provided in the Development Charges Study, as well as bring forward growth related expense examples, in order to move forward with next steps.

"I think our infrastructure is something that we need to protect and prepare for," commented Councillor Ward. "I think as a Council, we need to decide what we want our municipality to look like in the next 5-15 years, and then we can go through these charts and eliminate items as we see fit. I would really like it to be data driven."

For more information, contact: [planner@southdundas.com](mailto:planner@southdundas.com)

---

**Progress Update on the Fire Master Plan**

South Dundas Fire and Emergency Services (SDFES), in collaboration with key stakeholders and with the support of Gervais Emergency Consulting, developed a comprehensive Fire Master Plan (FMP) to assess and address current and future fire protection needs of the community. The Fire Master Plan (FMP) was presented to Council on December 11, 2024, by Michelle Gervais from Gervais Emergency Consulting. The FMP was designed as a strategic roadmap to carefully evaluate existing fire protection services provided by SDFES, deliver data-driven insights to inform decision-making processes, and recommend strategies and resources to effectively meet both present and emerging needs.



Significant progress has been made across multiple recommendation areas since the Fire Master Plan's presentation in December 2024, including but not limited to:

- Fire Prevention Division Enhancement
  - Successfully hired a full-time Fire Prevention Officer who is now certifies and assisting with inspections
  - Cross-training plans implemented
- Operational Efficiency and Resource Management
  - Joint training initiatives established with neighboring municipalities to maintain progress while controlling costs; Lead Instructor committee being implemented
- Capital Asset Investment and Equipment Enhancement
  - Capital budget approved for new radio pagers and municipal fleet radio integration; service provider now monitoring systems remotely
  - Successfully procured wildland truck, acquired wildland coveralls through grant funding, standardized forestry hose across all stations, wildland training scheduled
- SDFES Health and Wellness program launched early 2025
- Inter-Municipal Agreements and Shared Services

Council has directed staff to move forward with the following next steps:

- Investigate the benefits of a ladder truck prior to purchasing the apparatus
- Investigate cost sharing options, rather than a user-pay model

For more information, please contact: [jalldredhughes@southdundas.com](mailto:jalldredhughes@southdundas.com)

---

### **Morrisburg and Iroquois Plaza Follow-Ups**

A fulsome discussion was had where Council provided guidance for the next stages of the future management and funding of the Iroquois Plaza and Morrisburg Shopping Centre. At the May 28th Council meeting, Council indicated their preference to continue to maintain ownership and see businesses providing a financial contribution to the two sites' continued operation. Staff will continue to engage with business owners throughout the process, and return to Council with exact costs, prior to holding in depth roundtable meetings with businesses.

---

### **Potential Joint Water Servicing Project – North and South Dundas**

The Township of North Dundas has recently passed a bylaw expressing a desire to work collaboratively with South Dundas to explore potential water servicing opportunities between our two municipalities. North Dundas' drinking water is derived from groundwater sources, which can be challenging from both a quality and quantity perspective. Inversely, South Dundas is in the fortunate position of being able to access a reliable source of surface water for our drinking water needs.



Council has authorized the Clerk and Mayor to sign North Dundas Bylaw 2025-4, and staff to initiate collaborative efforts such as:

- Identify the collective capacity needs of each municipality in the 25-year growth window
- Review the capital and operational costs that are anticipated in the next 25 years
- Identify operational restrictions that could impede the expansion of our systems and the construction of a water transmission main
- Complete an engineering and planning review to better establish the feasibility and costs associated with a transmission main and in-line service connections
- Study the potential of a future shared municipal utility commission

For more information, contact: [bdehaan@southdundas.com](mailto:bdehaan@southdundas.com)

---

### Follow us on Social Media



Municipality of South Dundas



@southdundasLIVE



South Dundas Council



@southdundas

---

### Upcoming Meetings

July 16, 2025 – 6:00 pm

August 13, 2025 – 6:00 pm