

For Immediate Release June 23, 2020

Council Connect: Highlights from the June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

Temporary Patios: Council acted to permit temporary patios for the hospitality sector to help facilitate COVID-19 Economic Recovery, authorizing By-Law 2020-48 setting out the process and guidelines for business owners.

As part of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses in the hospitality sector were closed to both dine-in and patio service with some businesses able to offer take out and delivery service instead. As part of the Province of Ontario's Framework for Reopening, restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food and drink establishments will be able to open for dining in outdoor areas only under Stage 2 of the Framework.

Additionally, hospitality businesses with a valid liquor licence who wish to temporarily extend the physical size of their existing licensed patio or temporarily add a new licensed patio will be authorized to do by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. This temporary measure will end on January 1, 2021 at 3:00 a.m. Licensed establishments must ensure they have municipal approval and meet all other applicable requirements to put these patio spaces in operation.

In preparation for Stage 2 of the reopening process, many local businesses have been looking at either extending their existing patios or temporarily establishing new patio space to welcome back and safely service patrons for food and beverage.

To facilitate these plans, Administration developed the Temporary Outdoor Patio Guidelines (the Guidelines) to assist business owners extend existing or establish new temporary patios on private and public property. The streamlined application process includes a template for a drawing of the proposed temporary patio or patio extension, an internal review process, inspection before opening and an agreement where the expanded patio encroaches onto public lands. While there are no application fees, a business owner who expands onto public lands will be required to cover the costs associated with entering into an agreement with the Town. The Guidelines are focused on maintaining public health and safety. The Town's Chief Building Official is authorized to inspect temporary patios and require adjustments to the patio in order to achieve compliance with the Guidelines.

The application and Guidelines will be available on the Town's website and provided to the Tecumseh Business Improvement Area to share with their business members. Temporary patios will be permitted to operate up to January 1, 2021.

Cancellation of Summer Recreation Programs: Council decided to cancel summer recreation programming including the Summer Day Camp and the Leisure Pool for 2020. The cancellation is a direct result of the current restrictions associated with COVID-19. Guidelines and recommendations for the operation of such programs are outlined in the Province of Ontario's Stage 2 Framework. Upon Administration's consideration of the format, facilities, staffing and operation costs, it was recommended that the 2020 Summer Day Camp and Leisure Pool programs be cancelled for 2020.

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In 2019, the Town provided summer camps for up to 70 children per day. Under the Stage 2 Framework guidelines, only 16 participants per day would be allowed. With this limited registration, the program revenues would not cover program expenses.

Similarly, for the pool, swimming instruction could not be offered as physical distancing could not be maintained. Recreational swim occupancy would be reduced by 75% under the Stage 2 Framework guidelines. Revenues from such reduced occupancy would not cover the cost of lifeguards or the pool's mechanical system costs.

Lakewood Park Food and Beverage Concession: Council approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to operate a concession operation at Lakewood Park. The previous agreement to operate Lakewood Café ended May 30, 2020. The RFP would provide for the concession operation at the former Lakewood Pro Shop Building and could include other commercial offerings that would fit within the envelope of the building and cater to the users of the park. The RFP will be released in July with a closing date in August. With the current COVID-19 restrictions it is not expected that the successful applicant would be operational until late 2020 or 2021. A report on the results of the RFP will be provided to Council at a later date.

Windsor-Essex Provincial Offences Act Annual Report 2019: Council received the Windsor-Essex Provincial Offences Act (POA) Annual Report for 2019. Net profit received from POA charges was \$143,867 or 54% over 2018. The increase was due to significant increases in fines collected. POA revenues are highly dependent on the volume of charges laid and the type and quality of new charges laid. POA tickets are primarily made up of *Highway Traffic Act* offences but could include other provincial offences.

2020 Asphalt Paving Tender Award: Council approved the award of the approximately \$900,000 asphalt paving contract to Coco Paving Inc. for 2020 work. The following streets are included in the 2020 Asphalt Paving Program:

- Beachgrove Road (full extent)
- Pentilly Road (Beachgrove Road to cul de sac)
- St. Thomas Street (Centennial Drive to Amberley Crescent)
- Papineau Court (full extent)
- Shields Street (Lesperance Road to St. Alphonse Avenue)
- Odessa Drive (full extent)
- Shawnee Road (Gouin Street to County Road 22)
- Wellwood Court (full extent)
- Thalthorpe Court (full extent)

2020 Tar and Chip Tender: Council approved the award of the approximately \$181,000 Tar and Chip tender to Shepley Road Maintenance. The 2020 Tar and Chip Program includes the tar and chip of the 9th and 10th Concession Roads from County Road 8 to South Talbot Road as well as tar and chip repair work and crack sealing at various locations throughout Town.

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The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at www.tecumseh.ca. The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at www.tecumseh.ca, Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook (www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh).

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Media Contact:

Lesley Reeves, Manager Strategic Initiatives, 519-735-2184 Ext. 150

