



Keeping Track

City Council Highlights



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NEXT MEETING

June 5, 2023 at 5pm

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 15, 2023

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Director of Social Services presented a report to Council on the Employment Services Transformation.

In February 2019, the Ontario government announced its plan to transform the province's employment services. The three employment services systems currently operating concurrently in Ontario are: Employment Ontario, Ontario Works, and Ontario Disability Support Program. By integrating the three systems into one seamless service, it is anticipated that it will reduce barriers and provide easier access for job seekers.

The City of London has been selected as the Service System Manager for the London catchment area and will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and delivery of employment services. The transition plans are in progress with training, consultation, and planning taking place.

The new employment services system will launch in January 2024. Ontario Works staff will shift their focus to providing integrated supports, and funding for OW administration will be reduced by 22% beginning January 2024. The total reduction will be \$579,000 which includes approximately \$214,000 in Employment Related Expenses (ERE). A budget review is underway, and one-time funding may be available for the transition.

Council voted to receive the report as information.

2023 FINAL PROPERTY TAX RATES

Council received a report as information from the Director of Finance and City Treasurer on the 2023 final property tax rates. The final billing for property taxes in 2023 is split into two installments. The initial payment is required by July 31, 2023, and any unpaid amounts will incur a penalty starting from August 1, 2023. The second installment must be paid by October 31, 2023, and any unpaid amounts will be subject to a penalty starting from November 1, 2023. If you choose to pay through monthly installments, your tax payments will continue to be automatically deducted on a monthly basis. The total residential tax rate increase for 2023 is 2.14%.

VALLEYVIEW REPAIRS



The Valleyview Administrator presented a report on a ductwork insulation project at Valleyview. This project would replace the 17 year old insulation that has been exposed to outside elements. The project has been deemed critical

to ensure the roof top units work within their assigned capacity and deliver the most energy efficient air product to the home. A budget of \$275,000 was previously approved for this project.

Council has awarded the tender to Cimco Refrigeration in the amount of \$325,000 (excluding HST) and authorized \$55,720 of additional funds from the infrastructure reserve be allocated to the project.

ROAD CLOSURE

Council has authorized the closure of Prince Albert Street (between Metcalf Street and Isabel Street) from 4:00pm Saturday, June 17 to 12:00am Sunday, June 18 to allow the Courthouse Neighbourhood Street Party.



NOTICES

- Administration intends to introduce a report on June 5 requesting approval of an increased capital expenditure relating to the construction of an Animal Services Centre

BY-LAWS

First, Second, and Third Reading

- Confirm proceedings of the May 15 Council Meeting
- Establish tax ratios for the year 2023
- Adoption of the estimates for municipal purposes for 2023, the adoption of tax rates for Municipal, Business Improvement Area and Education purposes for 2023, and further to provide for penalty and interest on payments of taxes in default.
- Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute and affix the Seal of the Corporation to a certain agreement between the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas and:
 - Countryside Cannabis Corp
 - Ontario Health

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