



Keeping Track

City Council Highlights



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NEXT MEETING

June 12, 2023 at 5pm

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 5 , 2023

BACKYARD CHICKEN/HEN PILOT PROJECT

In it's April 11, 2023 meeting, council directed staff to prepare a report regarding the potential start of a backyard chicken/hen pilot project.

In last night's meeting, the Manager of Planning Services provided a report to council detailing the proposed draft regulations for a pilot project. The report also noted concerns staff would like to explore more thoroughly before moving forward with the pilot, and ultimately recommended that council defer the matter one year to allow time to further explore these issues.

The concerns from staff included the impact the pilot may have on biosecurity and the potential spread of the avian influenza (HPAI). The fact that the City Animal Services Centre is not currently equipped to handle chickens should they need to be confiscated due to abuse or illness. The lack of veterinarians qualified to treat these animals locally. As well as the high potential cost estimates other similar municipal pilot programs have discovered when operating similar pilot programs.

Council voted to defer the matter for one year to allow staff the time to monitor the outbreak of avian influenza and further examine the associated costs and challenges of the pilot.

OPTIMIST CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 2023 REPTILE SHOW

The St. Thomas Optimist club requested an exemption to Animal Control By-Law 71-2011 so that they could hold a reptile show at their 2023 Children's Festival. Council voted to grant the exemption for the event.

This will be the first time the local Children's Festival has been organized since the 2020 pandemic began. The festival will be held at Optimist Park on September 16, 2023.

2023 AMO DELEGATION REQUESTS

Council received a report from the City Manager's Office outlining the proposed delegation requests for the 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference.

The proposed delegation requests highlight some of the local issues the City intends to work collaboratively on with the Province of Ontario. Some of the proposed delegation requests include meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss support for local affordable housing initiatives, discussing expanded mental health support with the Ministry of Health, as well as a delegation with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks to discuss support for environmental remediation of former rail lands commonly known as brownsites.

Council voted to accept the proposed delegation requests. The 2023 AMO conference is being held in neighboring London this year from August 20 - 23.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Chris Herridge and Brittany Howard were recognized for their contributions to our community. Chris Herridge received the Special Contribution Award for his outstanding 34-year career with the St. Thomas Police Service and his unwavering commitment and invaluable service to our community. Brittany Howard was recognized for her extraordinary achievement as a local athlete and for her dedication to the sport of hockey which led her and the Toronto Six to victory in the Premier Hockey Federation Championship.

FIRE BAN IN EFFECT

Effective June 5, 2023, all open-air and recreational fires are prohibited anywhere in the City of St. Thomas, Town of Aylmer and the Townships and Municipalities within the County of Elgin. Open air fires are defined as any fire outside of a building and include bonfires, campfires, burn barrels, outdoor fireplaces/chimineas or any other fires set in open air. For more information contact the STFD 519-631-0210.

BY-LAWS

First, Second, and Third Reading

- Confirm proceedings of the June 5 Council Meeting
- Appoint 3 Noise Control Officers.
- Adopt Official Plan Amendment No. 107 to the City of St. Thomas Official Plan to permit a new hospice facility.
- Appoint 1 new Building Inspector, By-law Officer and Noise Control Officer.

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