

For Immediate Release August 11, 2020

### Council Connect: Highlights from the August 11, 2020 meetings of Council

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

**Zoning Application—North Talbot Road:** Council held a public meeting to receive public and agency input on the application to rezone a 1.0 hectare (2.4 acre) property situated on the south side of North Talbot Road, approximately 40 metres (130 feet) east of its intersection with Hennin Drive (3455 North Talbot Road), from “Industrial Zone (M1)” to a site-specific “Business Park Zone (BP)”. The change will permit the addition of general/business offices, professional offices, a union hall, restaurants, craft industries/specialty workshops and retail sales as permitted uses. A follow-up Administrative Report will be prepared to summarize public input and prepare a by-law for Council’s consideration.

**11870 Tecumseh Road:** Council recommended that the County of Essex approve the Proposed Plan of Condominium for the Gateway Tower developed by Valente Development Corporation to be built at 11870 Tecumseh Road, north of the intersection with Southfield Drive. Valente plans to construct a six-storey, 99 unit apartment building on the site. Council previously approved a site control plan agreement in May of this year.

**Boundary Adjustment Agreement and the County Road 43 Class Environmental Assessment Study:** Council received a report on the current status of a Boundary Adjustment Agreement reached with the City of Windsor and County of Essex in 2003. While the Town and the City of Windsor have completed their agreed upon terms within the agreement, the County of Essex has not completed its obligations under the agreement, most notably the diversion of County Road 43 to connect Banwell Road with the 11<sup>th</sup> Concession. The County of Essex completed the Environmental Study Report for County Road 43 in 2009 and, in accordance with the Boundary Adjustment Agreement, design and construction was to be completed within 5 years. The County has not completed design and construction more than 10 years later.

Tecumseh Administration has been in discussions with County Administration since 2018 for various studies and projects including the detailed design of County Road 42 which includes the diversion of County Road 43. County Roads 42 and 43, in the general area of Lesperance and Banwell, frame the Tecumseh Hamlet settlement area, one of the last remaining designated growth areas within the Town. Council has prioritized development as a strategic priority in this term of office. The lack of progress on this matter has a direct impact on the Town’s ability to ready the adjacent lands within the Tecumseh Hamlet for development.

Council approved Administration’s request that Town Council formally advise County Council of the outstanding obligations of the Agreement and requested a motion of County Council to:

- honour the County’s obligations set out in the 2003 Boundary Adjustment Agreement;
- complete a detailed design that is consistent with the recommended solution identified in the 2009 Environmental Study report;
- prioritize detailed design in 2020/2021, with construction to commence no later than 2023.

**Golden Age Parkette:** Council declined a request to purchase lands within the Golden Age Club Parkette on Tecumseh Road. One of the property owners that abuts the Golden Age Parkette had requested to purchase some of the greenspace to extend their property.

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**Face Covering Policy:** Council adopted By-law 2020-55 “Face Covering Policy for Visitors and Contractors” thereby approving a policy to provide for the wearing of face coverings/masks within Town buildings during a pandemic and/or when recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. The policy follows the Order of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) Medical Officer of Health that face masks be worn inside commercial/business establishments throughout Windsor-Essex. The Town policy will prohibit entry to anyone not wearing a mask during a pandemic. The policy is now in effect and all visitors and contractors must wear a mask while inside Town facilities unless otherwise specified (for example while using the ice surface in the Tecumseh Arena or if exempt through the WECHU Order).

**2021 Business Plan and Budget Timetable:** Financial Services presented the schedule for the 2021 Business Plan and Budget consultation and delivery. As part of the schedule, Council consultation will occur on September 22, 2020 with public consultation to follow September 24 to October 16. Council deliberation is scheduled for January 2021 with adoption January 26, 2021. The ongoing COVID-19 situation has required that some additional time for business plan and budget development to occur this year. Full details on the schedule and opportunities for consultation will be shared publicly on the Town’s website and social media as well as in the Essex Free Press.

**Budget Variance:** Council approved the Budget Variance Report for amounts at June 30, 2020. The variance report looks at both operating and capital budgets. Based on contributions from all departments, the 2020 June Variance analysis projects a year-end deficit of \$144,000. Final budget variances will be known in early 2021.

**Tecumseh Transit:** Council received a six-month report on Tecumseh Transit for January to June of this year. The ridership from showed a higher rate of users relative to the first two months in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in declining ridership from a high of 89 riders per day in February to a low of 9 riders per day in April. The Tecumseh Transit Service feeds into Windsor Transit which was idled from March 26 to May 4. Transit fees in Tecumseh were reduced to \$0 in March in an effort assist citizens with their transportation needs. Riders became more comfortable with the service and ridership increased to an average of 25 riders per day in June. The most popular transits stops include the two stops on Tecumseh Road in the vicinity of Southfield Drive (coming from/going to Tecumseh Mall) and the Food Basics Store on Manning Road. There is a decrease in revenue of 55% compared to 2019, directly related to the drop in ridership due to the pandemic. The contract for transit service expires at the end of 2020 with an option for extension. Administration will evaluate the service options and report back to Council in the fall.

**Six month Permit Report:** Council received a report summarizing the permits issued for the first six months of 2020 and compared the values of the same period over 2019. The Provincial Emergency regarding COVID-19 was declared March 17, 2020 and continued through the six month period. There was a general decline in construction activity overall while the Town continued to process and issue permits through the period. For the period of January to June 2020, 156 permits were issued, 17% less than this time last year and had a value of \$7,950,095 or 38% less than this time last year.

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The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca). The agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council will be made available on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

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

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