

For Immediate Release December 10, 2019

Council Connect: Highlights from the December 10, 2019

Here are the highlights from the Meetings of Council this evening:

Local Government Week Award Winners: local students Maya Wadi, Allisyn Teti and Alex Acanne were celebrated at Council this evening for their entries in the Local Government Week contests. Maya won the Time Capsule contest and Allisyn and Alex came in first and second place (respectively) for their essays. Allisyn and Alex will shadow the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a day in the new-year as part of their win.

Climate Change Declaration: Following an established trend in Canada—including recent declarations by the City of Windsor, Essex County, the Essex Region Conservation Authority and Chatham-Kent—Council declared a Climate Emergency based on the knowledge that climate change is an emergency with no foreseeable conclusion. Council acknowledged a response that is more sustainable in how Tecumseh conducts business. Going forward, Administration will identify action items, implementation measures and cost requirements to assist Council in prioritizing emissions reductions and preparing for our climate future.

Urban Hens Pilot Project: Council approved a two-year pilot program to keep hens in the urban area of Tecumseh. As part of the pilot, residents must file an application to keep urban hens, pay a \$25.00 fee, have an on-site inspection and meet all conditions outlined in the program. Properties up to 10,000 square feet will be permitted to have 6 hens with an additional hen per 3,000 square foot over 10,000 up to 12 hens. This decision follows public consultation via an online survey and Public Information Centre (PIC). The program will get underway in 2020 upon by-law adoption. Council asked staff to make two amendments to the program to allow a variance process for proposed hen facilities that may extend beyond the rules set out above and to provide for the keeping of hatchlings identified as pullets at an age younger than 4 months. Full details on the program start and how to apply will be posted at www.tecumseh.ca.

Alley Closing Policy: following public consultation, Council approved the Alley Closing Policy presented at the Policies and Priorities Meeting in October 2019. The policy establishes a fair and consistent manner to address requests for closures and sales as well as the disposal of alleys deemed surplus.

Monroe Island Servicing: Following a request from the Town of Lakeshore, Council directed Administration to negotiate an agreement with the Town of Lakeshore and the property owner of 454 Brighton Road historically known as Monroe Island to provide road access and municipal services to the island to facilitate its development for a single detached residence. The agreement will be returned to Council for consideration of approval. Council also agreed to cooperate with Lakeshore, should a request be forthcoming to adjust the municipal boundary to bring Monroe Island into Tecumseh.

Tecumseh Vista Trail: Council approved the 5-year extension of the easement agreement for the Tecumseh Vista Trail, which physically traverses two private properties, one owned by 2041235 Ontario Ltd (Mr. Michael Valente and Mr. Steven Valente) and the other owned by Mr. Clement Lachance and Mr. Eugene Lachance. The agreement allows for the continued public use of the trail that extends from Tecumseh Vista School to McAuliffe Park. The trail provides an active living connection for students, cyclists and pedestrians.

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Fire Services Capital Works Plan: Council approved spending \$32,800 on new equipment in 2020 as part of the five-year capital works plan for equipment. The items to be purchased next year include phone pagers, helmets, leather boots and bunker gear. Administration will also undertake a review of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus replacement program and replacement of Fire's Communication System with a report back in 2020.

Parks and Recreation Capital Works Plan: Council approved spending \$374,000 on various renovations and repairs to Town buildings as part of the 5-year capital works plan for buildings. The works include: refurbishments to Town Hall, the Public Works buildings on Lacasse and one of the salt sheds; an architect for the Cada Library improvements; and improvements at Fire Hall #1, the St. Clair Beach Community Centre and the Carling and St. Mary's Pavilions. For Parks, Council approved more than \$1 million in parks projects funded mainly through reserves. New projects for 2020 include installation of a new splashpad at McAuliffe Park; new community electronic signs at both Lakewood and McAuliffe Parks; pier boardwalk repairs at Lakewood Park; and, public consultation and design work on the replacement of the Lacasse grandstand. Also included at various parks throughout the Town are sign replacements, playsets, improvements at existing playgrounds and park benches and waste receptacles.

Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan: Council approved spending more than \$10.5 million on projects in the 5-year Public Works and Environmental Services capital works plan. Major works for 2020 include: the annual asphalt paving and sidewalk repair programs (including tar and chip); watermain replacements on Highway 3 and Walker Road; sanitary sewer replacement on Tecumseh Road from Southfield to Lesperance; design of improvements on Lesperance Road at the VIA Rail tracks; design of improvements on Lanoue Street; design of the Manning Road Secondary Plan Area stormwater management facility; commencement of the stormwater management analysis and Class Environmental Assessment for the Tecumseh Hamlet Secondary Plan Area; a Shoreline Management Plan; and a Stormwater Rate Study.

2020 Fees and Charges By-Law: Council adopted a by-law for the 2020 Administrative Fees and Charges. Fees and charges are increased annually in the order of approximately 2%. Some changes exceed that increase for 2020, including the fire alarm registration and false alarm fees previously approved by Council; an increase to Tecumseh Transit fees of 25 cents for a single fare and \$5 for a monthly pass; \$16 increase to the fee for a police check for employment purposes; and \$294 increase for a traffic collision report. Full details on the new fees and charges is posted on our website at www.tecumseh.ca/userfees.

2020 Water and Wastewater Rates: Council received the report on the 2020 Water and Wastewater Rates, and approved an increase to the water rate, wastewater rate and fixed rate. The water rate increases by 3%, the wastewater rate increases by 2% and the fixed rate increases by 6%. Residents will see this change on their Essex Powerlines water bill in the new-year.

Storm Drainage Master Plan: following a legislated 30-day review, Council approved the Storm Drainage Master Plan filed earlier this year. The plan addresses the impacts of surface flooding on the urbanized residential areas of Tecumseh. A list of recommended solutions identified in the study will be incorporated into the annual Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Works Plan going forward. Grant opportunities for funding of these projects will be explored going forward.

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Sylvestre Drive Environmental Assessment: Council adopted the Sylvestre Drive Sanitary Sewer Extension, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA), Schedule B with costs associated with design and



construction included in the Public Works and Environmental Services 2020-2024 Capital Works Plan. There were no Part II Orders submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks during the 30-day review period, and as such, the Class EA is now considered approved and may proceed to the detailed design and implementation phases.

Investing in Canada Grant Funding: Council authorized Administration to submit an application to the Federal Government for funding under the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Green Stream 2019* for a future commitment to the Riverside Drive Trunk Sanitary Sewer. The project consists of replacing the existing sanitary sewer along Riverside Drive between Kensington Boulevard and Pentilly Road to provide a peak flow storage facility. The effect of the project is to reduce sanitary sewer surcharging and reduce the risk of basement flooding within the sewer service area. An approximate population of 1,400 people representing 400 properties would see a direct benefit from the project. The project was identified in the 2020-2024 Public Works and Environmental Services five-year Capital Works Plan with design commencing in 2022 and construction in 2023. The project has an estimated cost of \$2.8 million and should the Town's application be successful, the Town's share of the cost would be approximately \$1.2 million.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the **Tecumseh Arena, 12021 McNorton Street** in the **Horwood Room**. The agenda will be made available on Thursday, January 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

