



# TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

## **Council Meeting Minutes** **Monday, June 22, 2020** **Regular Council Meeting** **Electronic Online Participation** **7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Mayor L. Armstrong, Councillors A. Hallman, C. Gordijk, B. Fisher, J. Gerber and J. Pfenning

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer G. Whittington, Director of Information and Legislative Services D. Mittelholtz, Director of Public Works and Engineering J. Molenhuis, Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services S. Jackson, Director of Development Services H. O’Krafka, Fire Chief R. Leeson, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer P. Kelly, Director / Curator Castle Kilbride T. Loch, Manager of Information and Legislative Services T. Murray

- 1. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**
- 2. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**
- 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- 4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- 5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- 6. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

None disclosed.

### **7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **7.1 Council Meeting Minutes June 8, 2020**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-74**

**Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as presented:

Council Meeting June 8, 2020.

CARRIED.

## **8. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### **8.1 REPORT NO. DS 2020-006**

**Zone Change Application 02-20**

**Jeffrey Van Gyssel**

**407 Fairview Street, New Hamburg**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-75**

**Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman      Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning**

THAT Council approve Zone Change Application 02/20 made by Jeffrey Van Gyssel, affecting 407 Fairview Street, to amend the zoning of the subject property to permit two additional dwelling units within the main residential building on the property.

CARRIED.

Mayor Armstrong declared the public meeting open and stated that Council would hear all interested parties who wished to speak. He indicated that if the decision of Council is appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, the Tribunal has the power to dismiss an appeal if individuals do not speak at the public meeting or make written submissions before the by-law is passed.

Mayor Armstrong stated that persons attending as delegations at this meeting are required to leave their names and addresses which will become part of the public record and advised that this information may be posted on the Township's official website along with email addresses, if provided.

The Manager of Planning / EDO outlined the report.

Mr. Jeffrey Van Gyssel, applicant, addressed Council with an overview of his proposed project. Mr. Van Gyssel confirmed that changes to the driveway will allow for 2 additional spaces.

Mayor L. Armstrong asked 3 times if anyone else wished to address Council on this matter. There were none and the public meeting was declared closed.

**9. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

**10.1 REPORT NO. FD 2020-02**

**First Quarter Activity Report**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-76**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor J. Gerber**

THAT Report No. FD 2020-02 be received for information purposes.

CARRIED.

The Fire Chief clarified that Assistance not Required referrers to initial calls for assistance from police or EMS that are then cancelled.

**11. REPORTS**

**11.1 CORPORATE SERVICES**

**11.1.1 REPORT NO. COR 2020-025**

**FCM – Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-77**

**Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher      Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

THAT Council direct staff to apply for the grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program for asset management capacity building; and further

THAT the Township of Wilmot commits to conducting the following activities within 2020, as submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program to advance our asset management program:

- Asset Risk Framework and Development,

- Asset Lifecycle Framework and Development, and
- Asset Management Training, Systems/Software Training and Staff Workshops

THAT the Township of Wilmot commit \$36,300 from the 2020 Capital Budget toward the costs of these works, as per Council approved report FIN 2020-07.

CARRIED.

The Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer outlined the report and noted that should the grant not be successful, OSIF funding can be used with no impact on the levy.

## **11.2 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **11.2.1 REPORT DS 2020-10**

#### **Waiving of Penalties**

#### **Construction without Permits (March 17 – June 15)**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-78**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor A. Hallman**

THAT Report DS 2020-10 be received for information; and,

THAT the Township extend additional financial and economic support to residents and businesses by:

- a) Waiving penalties (the doubling of permit fees) for projects which commenced prior to the issuance of building permits initiated without permits during the period March 17, 2020 to June 15, 2020.

CARRIED.

The Director of Development Services outlined the report.

## **11.3 PUBLIC WORK AND ENGINEERING**

### **11.3.1 REPORT NO. PW 2020-11**

#### **Bridge Street Bridge (34/B-T-9) Municipal Class**

#### **Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design – Award of Contract**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-79**

**Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

**Seconded by: Councillor A. Hallman**

THAT RFP 2020-18 be awarded to K. Smart Associates Limited for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary engineering design for Bridge Street Bridge (34/B-T9) as per their proposal submitted on May 26, 2020, in the amount of \$46,247.95, plus HST.

CARRIED.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering outlined the report and confirmed that no anticipated COVID-19 related restrictions are anticipated through the process.

### **11.3.2 REPORT NO. PW 2020-012**

**Award of Contract – Two Single Axle Dump Trucks with Cab,  
Chassis and Snow Plow attachments**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-80**

**Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

**Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning**

THAT RFP 2020-05 be awarded to Altruck International Truck Centres to supply and deliver two (2) Single Axle Dump Trucks with Cab, Chassis and Snow Plow Attachments as per their proposal dated June 3, 2020, in the amount of \$523,834.00 plus HST.

CARRIED.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering outlined the report.

## **11.4 PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES**

### **11.4.1 REPORT NO. PFRS 2020-006**

**Procurement of Phase B Pool Tile Grout Project**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-81**

**Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

**Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning**

THAT the extension of the existing contract with PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group, for Phase B of the Pool Tile Grout Project, in the amount of \$75,000, plus HST, be approved; and further,

THAT funding for these works be included within the 2021 Capital Budget and 10-Year Capital Forecast.

CARRIED.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services outlined the report.

Further clarification was provided regarding the reopening of the Splash Pad. Direction was provided to consider an earlier request from Council regarding handrail access in the pool.

#### **11.4.2 REPORT NO. PFRS 2020-007**

##### **Permanent Dog Park Location**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-82**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor A. Hallman**

THAT Council approve William Scott Park, 84 Bleams Road W., New Hamburg as the location for construction of a permanent dog park, as approved in the 2020 Capital Budget; and

THAT a future capital project be added in 2021 capital forecast to improve parking at William Scott Park pending Grand River Conservation Authority approval.

CARRIED.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services outlined the report.

Council thanked staff for the work on the Dog Park and asked if there would be consideration for other locations and the Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services advised that can be a consideration in future capital projects.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **12.1 Resolution Support [ink-stainedwretches.org](http://ink-stainedwretches.org)**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-83**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor J. Gerber**

WHEREAS a healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels;

AND WHEREAS the Public Policy Forum declares — on its website for the 2017 report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* (commissioned by the federal government) — that “real news is in crisis” in this country;

AND WHEREAS the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) cited eight “critical information needs” the media help to provide including emergencies; other public risks to health; education; the environment; economic opportunities; civic and political knowledge of policy initiatives; and the conduct of public officials, and candidates for office (*The Shattered Mirror* p.4);

AND WHEREAS Canadians have lost the essential services provided by roughly 2,000 media workers in 100 communities across Canada due to layoffs in only six weeks from the time the COVID-19 pandemic began — a time it became clearer to the public how important it is for Canadians to receive accurate information — and advertising revenues have plunged, prompting an emergency \$30-million advertising-buy by the federal government;

AND WHEREAS residents of 190 Canadian communities — including residents of Kitchener, Elmira and Guelph — lost 250 established news outlets due to closings or mergers between 2008 and 2018;

AND WHEREAS nearly two thirds of Canadians agree or somewhat agree that because of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak the federal government should treat widespread media bankruptcies and lay-offs as an emergency, according to a Nanos Research poll of April 2020;

AND WHEREAS the federal government allocated nearly \$600 million in aid for Canadian media over five years in its 2019 budget, including a 25-per-cent tax credit for newsroom salaries; a 15-per-cent tax credit for digital media subscribers; and charitable tax status for non-profit news outlets;

AND WHEREAS Canada’s federal government acknowledged in its 2019 budget (p. 173) that “A strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.”;

AND WHEREAS the news media in Waterloo Region have been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have accurate local information

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Township of Wilmot Council recognizes that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in the township; urges other municipal councils within the region and across Canada to recognize that a robust news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in their jurisdictions; endorses legislation and regulations to support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada; and urges the federal government to move quickly to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians. And that the resolution be forwarded to M.P. Tim Louis, M.P.P. Mike Harris, the Waterloo Region area municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED, AS AMENDED.

The Director of Information and Legislative Services / Municipal Clerk was directed to relay back to the organization that Council is interested in further support if required.

### **13. BY-LAWS**

#### **13.1 BY-LAW NO. 2020-019 Zone Change Application 02-20**

407 Fairview Street

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-84**

**Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

**Seconded by: Councillor B. Fisher**

THAT By-law No. 2020-19 be read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

CARRIED.

### **14. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

#### **14.1 Councillor J. Pfenning brought forward the following Notice of Motions:**

Whereas we stand in solidarity with all residents whose rights have been disrespected, and;

Whereas it is a simple gesture that communicates that support and solidarity, and;



Therefore, be it resolved that the Pride flag shall be flown on all Township of Wilmot facility flagpoles for the month of June each year.

**14.2** Councillor A. Hallman brought forward the following Notice of Motions:

That we pause any further investment and expansion of the Prime Ministers Path immediately until we consult with First Nations groups and Friendship Centers in Waterloo Region and any other impacted groups until a sufficient, respectful and transparent consultation process is completed with accountability;

Further, I ask that this conversation include at least two members of council be part of this ongoing process and discussion.

**15. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**15.1** Councillor J. Pfenning read the following prepared statement:

Over the past weeks the Black Lives Matter conversation has been a source of hope and inspiration, that has risen above the horror of violence and lives lost.

Mr Mayor, I know you to be a man who is capable of compassion and empathy. The post you made over the weekend and the subsequent comments do not display that empathy or compassion.

As evidenced by the many messages and phone calls I have received, this has harmed our community.

From family members and friends to coworkers and colleagues, there are many people of colour who are dear to my heart. I cannot be silent on this.

We are all free to post what we like and think what we wish. It is our right. At the same time, we must be responsible for the impact of our actions and words. As leaders in this community, our actions and words carry even more weight.

I ask you tonight to acknowledge the hurt it has caused and remove the post.

**15.2** Councillor J. Gerber provided the following statement:

I also want to reflect this evening on the importance of anti-racism and to reflect on a memo issued by our CAO, a strong anti-racism statement from the Township, and how appropriate it might be to be shared publicly and for Council to support that publicly as well.

Also, as Councillor Hallman alluded to, (I reflect on) National Indigenous Peoples Day on Sunday and the political act at the Prime Ministers Path which we must acknowledge, and to having a conversation on moving forward in reconciliation and in proper relationship with the members of the community around that particular project, and the business of the Township in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on and share publicly the thoughts I had during the Moment of Silence today.

**15.3** Councillor B. Fisher read the following prepared statement:

I know that this is a time for white people and for men to listen and to learn. But I also know that my silence at this time is unacceptable. So I would like to go on the record to say that I support Black Lives Matter and Indigenous-led justice initiatives. It is heartbreaking to see the anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in our society and in our own community. It is not enough for any of us to “not be racist,” we must learn to be anti-racist so that Wilmot can become a place where all people of colour, Black, and Indigenous individuals are truly safe and valued members of our community.

But words are not enough to bring this about, so, knowing that I still have a lot to learn, I will personally be donating to Black Lives Matter.

**15.4** Councillor C. Gordijk read the following prepared statement:

Recently, we’ve seen Black Lives Matter protests around the world amplify the conversation about anti-Black racism, including here in Canada. It lifts my spirits to see that discussion taking place on our own doorstep.

I am so proud that people like New Hamburg’s Olivia Miller showed leadership and initiative by attaching messages of solidarity on Hartman Bridge a couple of weeks ago. I am also saddened that someone chose to secretly remove them the next day.

I love Canada, and I love the community of Wilmot. It is a privilege to live and serve here. I made this my home because it's a place that is rich with compassion and empathy, a place where we stand together for what is right.

Sadly, it is not perfect.

Local Black students like Bryan Peralta experience racism while growing up in Wilmot, including being the target of racial abuse from fellow students. Bryan said that he was called the N-word so many times, he became desensitized to it.

My 15-year-old granddaughter tells me about the racist comments she overhears from her peers at school. That is a serious cause for concern.

My extended family includes people of colour, some of whom have also faced incidents of racism in their lives. It causes them pain, and it causes me pain, too.

I do not believe that Wilmot is a racist community, but I know that racism exists *within* our community. As a white person, it is not my lived experience. Nevertheless, I know that inequality is degrading and dehumanizing.

As a community leader, I am privileged to have a voice and an opportunity to use it. I'm honoured to have this responsibility, and I pledge to use my voice in support of those who are demanding to be heard.

**15.5** Councillor A. Hallman read the following prepared statement:

I stand in solidarity with individuals working to end systemic racism in our community. I recognize my white privilege and I recognize it stems directly from the history of Canadian colonization. We must work together to dismantle systems that sustain discrimination and work to build something new. We need to amplify the voices that are unheard. I will listen, learn from, stand alongside and support people of colour who are proactively working to end racism.

**15.6** Mayor Les Armstrong stated the following:

I understand the ire of people and I think a lot of people have misread what I have done. I did not at any point when I shared that expressed my belief that they are true. I do not believe the comments that were said and I have no proof that they are accurate. The unfortunate thing about Facebook is

those things are not scrutinized and proven to be right or wrong, whether they are a farce or not somebody does it as a joke or not we don't know, but I have been reading Facebook over the last few weeks and there have been other comments similar to that by various people and I find it frustrating that it is out there and the reason that I shared it is as I stated, another view, it's interesting which means I do believe that we need more discussion and we do need to erase racism and we do need to get to a point on this planet that there is one race, human race. That is my belief and always has been and I continue to fight for that and if my share caused people to have a conversation that's good and as usual people will either take it out of context or not it is how they determine it and I know people are going to do that.

As to the incident on Sunday with Sir John A, I have been doing press conferences all day and people do not understand what this project is about. This project is about education and about people learning what this country is all about and part of that is to learn that the men who created it since 1867 to date, today, have done a job that we are all proud of this country. Certainly there are a lot of things that we have to fix yet, but we do live in a great country that a lot of people want to come and live here, I understand that but we cannot allow ourselves to say, we will get rid of that statue and that will erase what happened, that won't happen. What we want to do here, people have the opportunity, there is a website people can go to and visit and that website is all about education and a curriculum for schools to use that was prepared by professors so everyone can learn. It is not about one person or one man, it is about 23 men plus those that are going to come yet. So that is what this is all about and what I want people to understand because if we do not teach and remember what has happened then we tend to repeat what has happened and that is an adage that has gone on for a long time.

I didn't do anything to hurt anybody because what I did was to make a conversation, the title of that statue is A Canadian Conversation, which we need to have about what has gone on and what has gone right. The things that occurred since 1867, those things were done at a different time and things have very much changed since 1867 in this country. There is a lot of attitude that needs to be changed and corrected so we can have a whole planet of people who are all equal and see each other as equal. That is what we need to do and I support the idea that we make sure people are well protected and they can live their lives as we all want to.

**16. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

**17. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

**17.1 By-law No. 2020-20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-85**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor B. Fisher**

THAT By-law No. 2020-20 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting held on June 22, 2020 be introduced, read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

CARRIED.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-86**

**Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning      Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk**

THAT we do now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED.