



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2023

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held on July 10, 2023.

For more information, contact **Shawna O'Neill, Communications Coordinator** at 613-543-2673 ext. 4768 or 613-577-3157.

Meeting to Consider — Donald Hanes Municipal Drain report and proposed realignment

Council provisionally passed two drainage-related By-Laws after hosting a Meeting to Consider for each item at the outset of the regular Council meeting.

Shade Group Inc.'s report for the Donald Hanes Drain & Branches (two to 15) including Hess Creek, prepared under section 76 of the *Drainage Act*, was accepted. The process to prepare this report began in January 2022 at the request of the Municipality's previous Council. Anyone wishing to appeal the assessment may still participate in an upcoming Court of Revision.

"This report has been prepared in anticipation of pending future maintenance works; however future maintenance will be scheduled and overseen by the Township's Drainage Superintendent," reads a statement in the report.

Shade Group Inc. presented a separate report for the Donald Hanes Branch No. 1 to allow for immediate maintenance, prepared under section 78 (5) of the *Drainage Act*. This report was also accepted by Council. The proposed minor improvement was requested by a singular property owner and the realignment is located entirely on their property.

Cost of Living Adjustments Action Request

CAO Mills spoke to the Cost of Living Adjustments for Employees Action Request. Staff recommended that a 1 per cent minimum and 3 per cent maximum increase be implemented for employees, volunteer firefighters and Council. The adjustment will be effective January 1 each year and based on the Consumer Price Index for Ontario.



“After doing some research... we feel it is fair, equitable and transparent... a number of Municipalities in SDG, including the upper tier (United Counties of SDG), have passed (similar) policies in the last year...” said Mills.

“One of the biggest things with this is to be consistent... and competitive for our employees... and deliver the best cost to our taxpayers,” said Mayor Broad.

Reduced arena rental rates for pickleball

Several local pickleball players were in attendance to observe the Morrisburg Arena Reduced Pickleball Rental Rate Action Request presented by Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities David Jansen. Council approved the request.

The report recommended reducing the Morrisburg Arena slab hourly rental rate of \$60 per hour to \$10 per hour for a volunteer led pickleball group. Volunteers have shown interest in running a drop-in program.

“It sort of mimics what we did for ball hockey — it’s almost identical...” said Jansen. He also spoke to requirements as outlined in the Action Request: the program must be open to all members of the public, insurance will be provided to/or purchased from the Municipality, a volunteer will be responsible for scheduling Arena usage and a volunteer will be responsible for opening/closing the facility.

“I’m excited to see the arena being used more and more (during the summer),” said Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre.

“I must say, the best type of recreation is volunteer driven,” said Jansen.

High Water Consumption Policy

CAO Mills spoke to a By-Law amendment for the High Water Consumption Policy, which will allow for the adjustment of abnormally high water/wastewater invoices incurred in the case of a leak beginning January 1, 2023. Requests will be capped at \$5,000 per claim and must meet 12 specific criteria.



"There's an application there (that the constituent or small business would apply for)... with our investigations with other Municipalities, it would be rather abnormal for anything higher than (\$5,000)..." said Mills.

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Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6 p.m.