



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2024

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held December 11, 2024.

*For more information, contact **Tia Fraser-Dupuis, Acting Economic Development & Communications Officer** at 613-543-2673*

Fire Master Plan/Critical Risk Assessment

Michelle Gervais of Gervais Emergency Consulting provided a delegation to Council regarding the findings of the Community Risk Assessment and the Fire Master Plan.

The purpose of a Community Risk Assessment is to identify and prioritize community risk. This information is then used in the Fire Master Plan. A Fire Master Plan is a strategic roadmap for ensuring the continues effectiveness and sustainability of fire and emergency services within a community.

There are 9 mandatory profiles to assess when conducting a Community Risk Assessment. These are Geographical, Building Stock, Critical Infrastructure, Demographic, Public Safety and Response, Community Services, Hazard, Economic, Past Loss and Event History. There were 26 critical findings prioritized as 2 high risk, 16 moderate risk and 2 low risk. Recommendations were made in accordance with each finding. Recommendations such as hiring multiple staff members, the purchase of a new fire apparatus, collaborating with neighboring partners, replenish inventory, purchase new PPE, etc.

“I can appreciate that there are many recommendations here... but I think we need to discuss levels of service, because when I read this, I think we are moving towards a full-time fire service and I don’t think our municipality can sustain that,” said Councillor Ward when addressing the lack of public and fire staff feedback and the large scope recommendations.

“We’re coming in with an 11% increase to property taxes as we sit today....The reality is, we are a small municipality, and we can not afford the recommendations presented in this report,” said Deputy Mayor St. Pierre.

“The Deputy Mayor and I are the only two people sitting at the County Council table advocating for collaboration... so yes, we need to get to that collaboration piece,” said Mayor Broad. “We just have to figure out what we are going to service and what we can pass to the taxpayers... but it’s certainly not a three-million-dollar truck and fire hall,” he continued.

For more information, please contact jallredhughes@southdundas.com



Habitat for Humanity

Breckyn Caers provided Council with an overview of Habitat for Humanity and their services. Habitat for Humanity has been building homes for 25 years, and in that time have completed 21 homes – 3 of which have been in 2024. To date, three families have been able to be placed in these homes built on land donated by South Dundas. Seven families have been moved out of Cornwall Affordable Housing thanks to Habitat for Humanity.

Currently underway, is the launch of a Critical Repairs Program. This program has been piloted by multiple other Habitat organizations, and will be able to help seniors, families, and other vulnerable populations. “We will be able to serve more people, who are willing and able to partner with us,” said Caers. A “critical repair” is something deemed essential for a resident to maintain a legal safe habitable home, or an accessibility modification. The Habitat team will assess projects to ensure that the repair/modification is appropriate and suitable for the home. If so, the Habitat team will complete the project. Eligibility criteria includes that the home must be the primary residence of the owner, the owner must be low-income, valid home insurance, and property taxes must be up to date. Homeowners will then be required to pay back an interest free loan.

Habitat for Humanity relies heavily on municipal partners and is requesting a \$10,000 one-time investment. “We need South Dundas’ help to preserve as much affordable housing stock as possible. Please keep in mind that any funding coming from South Dundas, will be earmarked for local projects,” said Caers.

“We are coming into budget time, so we will consider this in our Grants & Donations program coming into 2025,” said Councillor Smyth.

Updated Waste Collection Services By-law

Council has approved an updated Waste Collection Services By-law, as presented by Director of Transportation Hyndman.

During the November 27, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, Director Hyndman presented a report to Council seeking direction on accepting residential construction debris at the Matilda Landfill. Council gave feedback to Director Hyndman, and it was collectively agreed that Council was supportive of accepting construction debris on a cost recovery basis.

Notable changes made are:

- Elimination of the collection of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Waste (IC&I) at the Matilda Landfill.



- As of January 1, 2025, the onus will be on Industrial, Commercial and Institutional IC&I locations to set up and cover costs for their own recycling systems by self-hauling recycling to a waste drop-off or obtaining private collection.
- Residential Construction Debris terminology was updated, and an updated fee schedule will come back to Council in January

For more information, please contact jhyndman@southdundas.com

Disposal of Goods and Assets Policy

The final Disposal of Goods and Assets Policy was previously discussed in draft form on November 20th, has been approved.

A Disposal of Goods and Assets Policy provides guidelines and procedures for the disposal, sale, or transfer of assets owned by or funded by the Municipality of South Dundas. A disposition of surplus goods and assets policy would help the municipality operate with integrity, conserve resources, support sustainability, and serve the community responsibly.

This policy aims to ensure transparency, accountability, and the optimal use of resources when assets are no longer needed, obsolete, or require replacement. The policy applies to various types of tangible assets, such as real estate, vehicles, equipment, and furniture, technology as well as certain intangible assets like intellectual property.

For more information, please contact clebrun@southdundas.com

Proposed Levels of Service

According to Ontario Regulation 588/17, “Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure”, the Municipality is required to propose levels of service for each of the following 10 years. The Municipality’s asset management policy states that Council is responsible for proposing and monitoring levels of service. Past deadlines have included the approval of the Asset Management Policy in 2019, Asset Management Plan for core assets in 2022, Asset Management Policy Review in 2024 and Asset Management Plan for core and non-core assets in 2024.

At this stage, the creation of a 10-year plan is beneficial to ensure that the level of service provided, aligns with the infrastructure needs and funding abilities of the municipality. The 10-year plan will require several steps involving input from Council.

Asset Management Coordinator Nelson provided Council with many options regarding proposed levels of service for the upcoming years. Proposed concepts included surface treated roads, asphalt roads, gravel roads, streetlights, sidewalks, bridges, facilities, water and sewer equipment, water and sanitary sewer lines, etc. However, none of the suggestions made by my staff are finalized, as this is a preliminary discussion.



The Municipality will continue to improve data quality, collaborate across departments and use multiple data sources to provide updated information in the 2025 Asset Management Plan and beyond, to support strategic decisions by staff and Council. Discussions regarding this topic will continue in 2025.

For more information, please contact tnelson@southdundas.com

2025 Water and Wastewater Rates

Council has approved the Water and Wastewater rates for 2025.

Annual Water Fixed/Flat Rate

Residential: \$ 607.42
Multi-Residential: \$ 607.42
Industrial, Commercial, Institutional:

Meter Size	Fixed Rate
5/8" – 3/4"	\$ 607.42
1"	\$ 850.39
1 1/2"	\$1,093.36
2"	\$1,761.52
3"	\$1,761.52
4"	\$1,761.52

Water Metered/Consumption Rate

Residential: \$0.79 per m³
Industrial, Commercial, Institutional: \$0.79 per m³
Multi-Residential: \$0.79 per m³

Sewer Upfront/Service Connection Fee/Unit

Upfront/Service Connection Fee per dwelling unit: \$5,000.00

At the September 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, Derek Ali of DFA Infrastructure International Inc. presented the Water and Wastewater Rate study as commissioned by the Municipality. The report, as accepted by Council on October 11, 2022, recommended a 4% increase to each of the fixed and consumption water rates to become effective in 2023 and continue to increase the rates 4% annually for the next 19 years to support, in part, maintenance and future replacement of infrastructure. The municipality continues to follow the recommendations set out in the study.

For more information, please contact jstewart@southdundas.com



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Upcoming Meetings

Special Meeting (Budget): January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting: January 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.