## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>City of London</td>
<td>Payment of new licensing and licensing renewal requirements</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>City of London</td>
<td>Fee Deferrals/ Waiving/ Reductions</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Municipality of West Elgin</td>
<td>Reliable access to affordable broadband</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Municipality of West Elgin</td>
<td>Universal Basic Income</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kingsville</td>
<td>Rent Assistance Program</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The City of Cambridge – Corporate Services</td>
<td>Briefing Note #: BR20-010(CRS) Review - Sewer Rebate Program</td>
<td>11-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 8, 2020

G. Kotsifas
Managing Director, Development and Compliance Services and Chief Building Official

C. Saunders
City Clerk

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on April 7, 2020 resolved:

That the following actions be taken with respect to the payment of new licensing and licensing renewal requirements:

a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to defer payment of the required licence fee for new applications for Food Premises business licences under the Business Licensing By-law L.-131-15, as amended, for three months from the date of the issuance of the licence;

b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to defer payment of the required licensing renewal fee for Cab Drivers, Cab Owners, Accessible Cab Owners, Accessible Cab Drivers and Limousine Owners under the Vehicle for Hire By-law L.-130-71, as amended, for three months from the date of the expiry of the current licence;

c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back on other actions that could be taken to reduce the burden on other businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19;

   it being noted that these actions are being taken to ease the financial impacts on those businesses and services that have been deemed to be essential and non-essential services by the Federal and Provincial Governments; and,

d) subject to the approval of a) and b) above, the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to bring forward the required amendments to the Business Licensing By-law L.-131-15, as amended and the Vehicle for Hire By-law L.-130-71, as amended, to implement the above-noted changes. (2020-D09/F02/P09A) (5.1/4/CPSC)

B. Westlake-Power
Deputy City Clerk
/ap

cc: M. Salih, Councillor – Ward 3
O. Katolyk, Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Licensing and Municipal Law Enforcement
June 17, 2020

L. Livingstone
City Manager

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on June 16, 2020 resolved:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario on June 8 announced the next phase of business reopenings previously ordered closed during COVID-19 pandemic response;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario on June 8 announced an amendment to Regulation 719 under the Liquor Licence Act to support liquor sales licensees in temporarily extending their patios;

AND WHEREAS the municipality wishes to assist London businesses to achieve compliance with temporary regulations and requirements in a timely manner, with a focus on the principles of public safety and risk-based flexibility;

AND WHEREAS the Civic Administration has established a Back to Business Action Team and intake portal to receive and respond to requests from businesses;

AND WHEREAS the Civic Administration By-law permits the delegation of authority, the following actions be taken:

a) the City Manager and all Managing Directors and designates BE DELEGATED the authority to amend the regulations related to reopening supportive actions including business application and permit processing procedures until December 31, 2020 in the following By-laws: Business Licence By-law, Streets By-law, Traffic and Parking By-law, Sign By-law, Parks and Recreation By-law, Sound By-law, Building By-law and Council Policy By-law;

b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to proactively raise challenges to the reopening of businesses in London to other levels of government where specific changes to regulatory and/or operational mechanisms are required in order for the City to respond quickly to the needs of local businesses; and,

c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to the appropriate Standing Committee at an appropriate time to identify any impacts or changes made under this delegation;

it being noted the above delegations and amendments shall apply only until December 31, 2020 or as otherwise directed by Council;

it also being noted that the associated delegated authorities will assist with prompt reviews and approvals for business reopening items such as temporary restaurant patios, curbside pick-ups, vending stands and other applicable business practices;
it also be further noted the fees and charges associated with business applications, permits and encroachments can be considered with other financial matters at the June 23 meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.

C. Saunders
City Clerk
/ap

cc: K. Scherr, Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer
G. Kotsifas, Managing Director, Development and Compliance Services and Chief Building Official
O. Katolyk, Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Licensing and Municipal Law Enforcement
June 26, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Dear the Honorable Doug Ford:

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on June 25, 2020, the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2020-209
Moved: Councillor Cammaert
Seconded: Councillor Rowe

Whereas West Elgin Council wishes to support resolution number CW93-20 from Grey County; and

Whereas West Elgin recognizes that the need for reliable access to affordable broadband is required for education and business purposes to ensure continuity and success; and

Whereas reliable broadband will continue to play an essential role in economic and social recovery across Ontario post-pandemic; and

Whereas not all residents of West Elgin are within a connectivity coverage area and that rural areas often receive inadequate or disproportionately low levels of service; and

Whereas while it is important for the Provincial Government to look at both the number of people and the number of businesses that can be serviced by broadband expansion, it is essential, as well, that the Province provide broadband service to areas that have a small number of people, yet cover a vast geographical area; and

Whereas the need for broadband infrastructure improvement is now;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of West Elgin representing our residents and business owners alike, call to action Premier Ford, Minister of
Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honorable Jeff Yurek to champion the implementation of broadband in the under-serviced areas of West Elgin;

For (3): Councillor Tellier, Councillor Carnmaert, and Councillor Rowe
Abstain (1): Mayor McPhail

**Carried (3 to 0)**

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,

Jana Nethercott
Clerk
Municipality of West Elgin

cc. Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
All Ontario Municipalities
June 26, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier
Premier’s Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park

Dear the Honorable Doug Ford:

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on June 25, 2020, the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2020-210
Moved: Councillor Rowe
Seconded: Councillor Tellier

Whereas West Elgin received a resolution from the Municipality of Grey Highlands with regard to the creation of a Universal Basic Income for citizens; and

Whereas the Council of West Elgin agrees that the creation of a Universal Basic Income would assist in reducing the financial strain on its citizens and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Where a basic income ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status and has the potential to improve individual physical and mental health, labour market participation, food security, housing stability, financial status and social relationships and generally raise the standard of living for vulnerable members of society; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin urges the Ontario Provincial government and the Federal government work together to investigate the feasibility of implementing a universal basic income program.

For (3): Councillor Tellier, Councillor Cammaert, and Councillor Rowe
Abstain (1): Mayor McPhail

Carried (3 to 0)

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

P: 519.785.0560
F: 519.785.0644
E: clerk@westelgin.net
www.westelgin.net
Yours Truly,

[Signature]

Jana Nethercott
Clerk
Municipality of West Elgin

cc. Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
    All Ontario Municipalities
June 29, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca)
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

-and to-

The Honourable Rod Phillips (rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South; 7th Floor
7 Queen’s Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Phillips:

RE:  Kingsville Council request that the Rent Assistance Program to include all businesses in a lease agreement within all “residential-above-commercial” properties without a cap on commercial/residential ratio

At its Regular Meeting of June 22, 2020, Kingsville Council resolved the following:

391-2020
Moved By Councillor Kimberly DeYong
Seconded By Councillor Larry Patterson

Whereas the COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly impacted the business community in the Town of Kingsville;

And Whereas the Province of Ontario has provided financial assistance including a multi-level Rent Assistance program to the business community impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic;

And Whereas the Rent Assistance program offered by the Province of Ontario established an arbitrary cap on multi-use properties where it is common for “residential-above-commercial” developments, especially in downtown and Main Street corridors;
And Whereas Kingsville, particularly in our downtown business centres, has several properties with residential-above-commercial where the ratio of commercial storefront businesses represents less than 30 per cent of the entire building, thus leaving a gap where local business owners cannot qualify for rent relief with their willing landlords;

And Whereas the Town of Kingsville’s newly adopted Business Retention and Expansion Project Report identified that Kingsville businesses would benefit from the Province expanding the Rent Assistance program to include all commercial lease properties regardless of overall footprint.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Town of Kingsville requests that the Province of Ontario expand their Rent Assistance program to include all businesses in a lease agreement within all “residential-above-commercial” properties without a cap on commercial/residential ratio;

And Finally, That this Resolution be circulated to the Premier, Doug Ford, the Minister of Finance, Rod Phillips, our local MPP Taras Natyshak, and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

CARRIED

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Corporate Services Department
jastrologo@kingsville.ca
/sjk
CC: Taras Natyshak, MPP (tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca)
CC: All Ontario Municipalities
Background

As the summer gets going and residents start to receive their first water bills, which may include summer usage for filling pools, watering gardens/lawn and washing cars, some customers have inquired about a rebate to the sewer portion of the water utility bill. The suggestion is that water used for summer purposes does not return to the sewer system and should therefore not be subject to sewer charges. Customer service staff will advise customers that wastewater returned to the sewer is not measured and the choice to use tap water for watering gardens or topping up the pool comes with an understanding of the rates that apply. Sewer rates are set based on the projected cost of operating the system, so they already incorporate any reduced summer sewer flow. The City of Cambridge does not have a program to reduce fees related to this type of usage, but there are alternative water supplies that could be explored, such as bulk delivery and may come at a lower cost. Residents have suggested that other municipalities offer alternatives that would make the system fair to people with pools and gardens who chose to use City supplied water, although such alternatives may be seen as unfair to other users of the system. It has been suggested a flat rate water charge that is associated with the taxes for a property, could be a better alternative.

In a response to one of these inquiries through Councillor Devine, a request was made for staff to review alternatives to our current sewer water billing process.
Operational Issues

Currently the City of Cambridge water system is only designed to measure water supply. Measuring water supply and assuming wastewater usage is a standard billing practice for most water utilities. In general it has been understood that it is not economically practical to equip all residential homes with sewage flow meters in addition to the water flow meter. A review of alternative billing practices and programs was undertaken to identify possible alternatives.

As outlined in the chart below, 12 Municipalities were contacted and 11 responded with information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitchener</td>
<td>No rebate program – no way of measuring outflow and rates would have to be increased to cover a program that would have to be made available to everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Region</td>
<td>No specific rebate program - wastewater usage fees are charged on 85% of the water usage for all residents to account for watering lawns/gardens and filling pools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brantford</td>
<td>No specific rebate program – May 1st to Sep 30th wastewater usage volume is capped at 30m3 per month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guelph</td>
<td>No program – was determined cost of measuring outflow exceeded cost to customers for alternate water usage. Rates are set by determining the cost of treatment and therefore any volumetric adjustment would have to be compensated for with an increased rate.</td>
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<td>Woodstock/Oxford County</td>
<td>No rebate program – customers are encouraged to compare alternative supplies for pool filling</td>
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<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>No rebate program – have a web tool to allow residents to estimate volume and charges for using City water vs. private supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>No rebate program – they have a high bill adjustment program that does not include filling pools, hot tubs, rinks and garden/lawn usage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>No rebate program – standard practice to charge 100% of water volume to wastewater. Impractical to install effluent meters to every home and rates already reflect actual cost of operating sewer program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford</td>
<td>No rebate program – all water that flows through the meter is included in the wastewater charge</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Municipality | Program
---|---
Halton Region | Wastewater cap program – bi-monthly usage over 220m³ is capped for wastewater charges. They are phasing this program out and will have it eliminated for 2020.
St Catherine’s | No rebate program – wastewater volume is assumed to be the same as water volume. Rates are set to cover all treatment including wastewater and stormwater that is treated in the system.

Of the 11 respondents 8 aligned with the City of Cambridge billing process and a 9th is moving into alignment in 2020. This represents 82% of municipalities in our sample who charge equal volume on water and sewer, regardless of usage type. The two alternative options were used by Peel Region and the City of Brantford.

Peel region presents a reduced wastewater volume at 85% of the water usage volume for all residents. This process appears to suggest a break on wastewater volume, but in fact the rate is still established to cover the costs of wastewater treatment, so there would be no overall change in a resident’s bill if we adopted this process. Rates would have to be increased to reflect the reduced volumetric amounts and the total collected from each resident would remain static.

The City of Brantford offers a volume cap over the summer months on wastewater volume of 30m³ monthly. This program would in some cases reduce the wastewater charges for some users. It does not however take into account normal or average consumption. For example, two households have a pool and top-up the pool over the summer months. One family has low regular monthly consumption of 15m³ and the second uses 30m³ in a regular period. They both use an additional 30m³ in May filling their pools. The first family would save 15m³ in wastewater charges and the second family would save 30m³, which makes the rebate system inequitable. There is also the concern that some families will in fact be using over this cap in normal/average monthly consumption and would thereby receive a discount on their wastewater treatment over the summer months.

Financial Impact

The overall cost of operating the water utility will not change under any of the rate structure options utilized by other Municipalities in our study and only the City of Brantford’s program would redistribute those costs in a modified way.

Corporate Impact

N/A
Comments

Best practices in water and wastewater billing at the municipal level align with current City of Cambridge practices. The only alternative identified in this review is a season specific wastewater volume cap program in the City of Brantford. The cap program has inherent inequities, may in fact discount wastewater costs for higher usage households and could have negative impacts on conservation efforts. A wastewater seasonal cap program would result in some bill reductions and reduced revenue for the overall wastewater treatment program, which would need to be offset by an increase to wastewater rates to all other users of the system.

Given that the source of water use is a choice for residents and alternative options are available like rain water diversion and bulk water purchases, it is recommended that there is no change to the current water billing program. No change will ensure the City of Cambridge water utility billing practice is aligned with the majority of municipalities.

Attachments

N/A

Please note a copy of this briefing note has been emailed to Mario Thomas.