

# COUNCIL Highlights

## Council Meeting – Oct. 16, 2023

**Below are highlights of what Council Committee recommended when it convened on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. The recommendations are subject to ratification at the next Council meeting scheduled for Oct. 30, 2023:**

- An Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group was established with the following guiding objectives:
  - Identify a location and funding opportunities for a drop-in centre/community hub which would meet people's basic needs, build community connections, and provide one location access to harm reduction, housing, and other partner services;
  - Develop a public awareness and education campaign with a focus on reducing stigma and building support and funding for a drop-in centre/community hub;

The Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group be comprised of the following members:

- Councillor Cipolla
- Councillor Durnford
- A representative from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- A representative from the Lighthouse
- A representative from the Couchiching Family Health Team
- A representative from the Ontario Provincial Police
- A representative from the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County;

The Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will invite Indigenous groups, as well as people with lived experience, and other organizations and resources to meetings, at the Working Group's discretion. Administrative support for the Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will be provided by staff from the Office of the Mayor and Council. A copy of the working group's report be provided to the Member of Parliament for Simcoe North Adam Chambers, Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe North Jill Dunlop, the County of Simcoe Warden Basil Clark, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all municipalities in Ontario, all Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Couchiching Ontario Health Team, and the Ontario Provincial Police to acknowledge and ask for their support in addressing the gaps identified in Schedule "A" to the report. The Opioid Crisis Working Group was dissolved and the addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will be required to report back to Council by April 2024.

- The report regarding the feasibility and costs associated with installing and providing daily sanitation of four portable toilets, as well as establishing a regular garbage pick-up schedule near larger encampment sites located throughout the City was received as information at this time.
- The report regarding the rationale for the increased number of municipal beach swim advisories and an analysis of potential solutions to improve beach water quality including targeted stormwater management strategies was received. Staff, in consultation with the Environmental Advisory Committee, was directed to undertake and report back to Council on a comprehensive review of the City's existing Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plans, as well as the associated resource plans and budget allocations. Given the complex nature of the various contributors of contamination and the potential cost to improve water quality, staff, in consultation with the Environmental Advisory Committee, was directed to investigate and report back to Council on the feasibility and costs associated with Microbial Source Tracking to determine the specific types and sources of contamination that result in public beach swim advisories.
- Chapter 22 of the City of Orillia Municipal Code - Council - Procedure was amended to enable an additional opportunity for Open Public Forum at the end of the meeting to enable a speaker to speak to issues within municipal jurisdiction with similar provisions as set out in Section 22.7.9 speak only to issues within municipal jurisdiction.
- Staff was authorized to pursue a re-scoped design project for the aeration system, primary screening upgrade and automating valves, as well as digester and boiler building retrofits at the Wastewater Treatment Centre. Funding for the alternate designs and options for the Wastewater Treatment Centre Aeration Dividing Wall Retrofit were appropriated from the existing Capital Project Number 04775. Any additional funding required for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Centre Aeration Dividing Wall will be requested through future budget processes.

**Below are highlights of what Council adopted at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023:**

- Council adopted the recommendations as set out on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, October 16, 2023.
- The confidential report from the Commemorative Awards Committee regarding inductees into the 2023 Orillia Hall of Fame was received as information.
- The confidential report regarding a request to extend the option to purchase Lots 10-15 of Horne Business Park was received and the confidential staff direction be adopted.
- As recommended in the confidential report regarding a prospective land acquisition, Option 1 was adopted. The confidential staff direction was also adopted.
- The report regarding the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, was received as information.

- The report regarding recommendations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the 2022 Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force was received. Further to the correspondence dated September 15, 2023 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the 2022 Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force, the top five Task Force recommendations were ranked as follows:

1. A.1 Implement Appendix B4

Amend legislation to:

- a) Allow cash-in-lieu payments for Inclusive Zoning units at the discretion of the municipality.
- b) That Orillia be deemed eligible to require development to provide affordable housing with each build (allow Inclusionary Zoning).

2. A.2 Amend Recommendations #3 a)

Limit exclusionary zoning in municipalities through binding provincial action:

- a) Allow “as of right” residential housing up to four storeys on a single residential lot.

3. A.3 Amend Recommendations #12 b)

Create a more permissive land use, planning and approvals system:

- a) Exempt from site plan approval and public consultation on all projects of 10 units or less that conform to the Official Plan and require only minor variances.

4. A.4 Implement Appendix B2

Develop and legislate a clear, province-wide definition of “affordable housing” to create certainty and predictability.

5. A.5 Implement Recommendation #48 a) b) c)

The Ontario government should establish a large “Ontario Housing Delivery Fund” and encourage the federal government to match funding. This fund should reward:

- a) Annual housing growth that meets or exceeds provincial targets
- b) Reductions in total approval times for new housing

The Mayor was authorized to respond to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's request with respect to Orillia's top five Task Force recommendations. A copy of the report will be attached to the response letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

- \$360,000 was authorized to begin the implementation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 solution and upgrades for the Orillia Fire Department Public Safety Answering Point, with funding appropriated from the Capital Levy Reserve.
- Staff was directed to report on the estimated cost and potential completion timeline to resurface the portion of Cedar Island Road that begins approximately 140 metres southeast of the intersection of Elgin Street/Cedar Island Road, and crosses the box culvert that spans the small creek that runs under Cedar Island Road, and ends approximately 220 metres southeast of the intersection of Elgin Street/Cedar Island Road.

- Staff was directed to prepare a report with respect to the feasibility of placing an infill sidewalk on the south side of Fittons Road East between Jamieson Drive and Fitton Heights, as well as establishing a pedestrian crosswalk across Fittons Road East at Jamieson Drive.
- Staff was directed to prepare a report with respect to options regarding the establishment of a managed encampment site or sites within the City of Orillia, which include independent structures with 24-hour support for chronically homeless individuals, as defined by the County of Simcoe. The report will consider possible locations, infrastructure requirements, term of service, partners, operating and capital costs, mitigation of risks and safety considerations, management options for the site(s), and feasibility of the project(s). Staff was directed to consult with the County of Simcoe, and local agencies that provide services for the City's most vulnerable and report back to report back to Council by March 2024.

The full agenda is available on the City's website at [orillia.ca](http://orillia.ca).