

February 28, 2023

Committee of the Whole – Operations and Planning & Administration Report #2022-02-13

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members  
City Council

Your Committee of the Whole – Operations, Planning and Administration submits the following recommendations from its meeting held on February 13, 2023:

**12.3.1 Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2022 Status Update [Financial Impact – None], 2023-111**

THAT Report 2023-111 regarding the Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2022 Status Update BE RECEIVED.

**12.3.2 Brantford Municipal Housing Pledge [Financial Impact: None], 2023-103**

- A. THAT the Brantford Municipal Housing Pledge, attached in draft format as Appendix B to Report 2023-103, BE ENDORSED; and
- B. THAT the Mayor BE AUTHORIZED to sign the Municipal Housing Pledge; and
- C. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of Report 2023-103 and a finalized Brantford Municipal Housing Pledge, as endorsed by City Council and signed by the Mayor, to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Will Bouma, MPP Brantford-Brant, prior to March 1, 2023; and
- D. THAT Planning and Development Services Staff BE DIRECTED to provide City Council with a semi-annual status update regarding progress toward achieving Brantford's assigned housing target.

**12.3.3 Road Closing and Conveyance – Pipe Street [Financial Impact – None], 2023-110**

- A. THAT Report No 2023-110 entitled "Road Closing and Conveyance of Pipe Street", BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to initiate the process to close Pipe Street described as: Pipe Street, Plan 2M-1963; City of Brantford; Being all of the PIN 32275-0659(LT).; and
- C. THAT the necessary closure by-law BE PRESENTED to City Council for adoption.

**12.3.4 By-law Enforcement Corporate Policy Updates [Financial Impact – None], 2023-109**

- A. THAT Staff Report #2023-109 titled “Bylaw Enforcement Corporate Policy Updates” regarding a policy to notify City Council of Property Standards Orders repairs exceeding \$10,000 for confirmed Property Standards Orders BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT By-law Enforcement-001 Property Standards Orders – Notification – Repairs Policy as amended BE APPROVED; and
- C. THAT the necessary By-law to amend By-law 70-2010, being a By-law to adopt various City of Brantford policies to create a corporate policy manual, to include the updated By-law Enforcement-001 Property Standards Orders – Notification - Repairs Policy BE PRESENTED to City Council for Adoption.

**12.3.5 Payday Loan Establishment Licensing Update [Financial Impact: New Business Licence Fees of \$1,014.00], 2023-23**

- A. THAT Report No. 2023-23, Payday Loan Establishment Licensing Update BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to make the necessary by-law amendments to reduce the existing limit of business licences available for Payday Loan Establishments in the City of Brantford, from nine (9) to seven (7) representing the closure of 603 Colborne St. Unit 15 and 151 Darling St; and
- C. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to continue to advise Council when a payday loan establishment ceases operations in order to review the limit of business licences available.

**12.3.6 Native Species Planting Policy [Financial Impact: None], 2023-16**

- A. THAT Report No. 2023-16 Native Species Planting Policy BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT PUBLIC WORKS-025 Native Species Planting Policy BE APPROVED and ADOPTED; and
- C. THAT the necessary By-law to amend By-law 70-2010, being a By-law to adopt various City of Brantford policies to create a corporate policy manual BE PRESENTED to City Council for Adoption.

**12.3.7 Renewal of the Grand River Notification Agreement [Financial Impact: None], 2023-137**

THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to place the revised Grand River Notification Agreement on the Council signing by-law for consideration and ratification by City Council and execution by the Mayor and Clerk.

**12.3.8 Review of City Owned Lands for Development Opportunities [Financial Impact: None], 2023-138**

THAT Report 2023-138 regarding a Review of City Owned Lands for Development Opportunities BE RECEIVED.

**12.3.9 Repealing and Replacing The City of Brantford Municipal Code, Chapter 429 – Building Code – Implementation (Financial Implications – None), 2023-51**

- A. THAT Report 2023-51, Repealing and Replacing The City of Brantford Municipal Code, Chapter 429 – Building Code - Implementation, be RECEIVED as information; and
- B. THAT the necessary by-law to repeal and replace The City of Brantford Municipal Code, Chapter 429 – Building Code – Implementation as set out in Report 2023-51 BE PRESENTED to Council for adoption.

**12.3.10 Building Construction Process Review Task Force Report 02.07.23**

- A. THAT Report 2023-45 titled “Planning Committee Pilot Project Update” BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT a permanent Planning Committee structured as a Standing Committee of City Council BE APPROVED in accordance with the changes noted in Appendix ‘A’; and
- C. THAT the necessary By-law to implement the committee structure set out in item “B” above BE PRESENTED to City Council for adoption.

**12.3.11 Community Heritage and Cultural Space Task Force Report #2023-01-26**

- A. THAT Report 2023-101 regarding the Results of Community Heritage and Cultural Space Visioning Session BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to cease further investigation into a community heritage and cultural space; and
- C. THAT the Task Force BE DISBANDED.

**12.3.12 Brantford Transit - Seniors Ride Free**

WHEREAS, Brantford Transit encourages the removal of barriers for Seniors to have safe, reliable transit services to access many community services and activities; and

WHEREAS, The City promotes and encourages the healthy aging plan and encourages our seniors to use public transportation to participate in community activities; and

WHEREAS, The City of Brantford currently sponsors Free Transit for all Youth 12 years of age and younger to introduce public transit as a long term commitment to utilizing public transit as part of their everyday life; and

WHEREAS, The City of Brantford understands seniors may have limited transportation options and encouraging public transit as a viable alternative to automobile use; and

WHEREAS, every June the City of Brantford joins cities across Ontario to celebrate Seniors Month with additional programming and recreational activities for older adults 50+;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to complete a feasibility study for a Seniors Ride Free program and present the findings to the May 2023 Committee of the Whole – Operations meeting; and
- B. THAT the feasibility study INCLUDE a roll out strategy, revenue/ridership impacts on both conventional and specialized transit, costs associated with implementation, analysis of capacity during on/off peak periods and an analysis of providing free parking to vehicles with accessibility permits; and
- C. THAT in recognition of Seniors Month in June staff BE DIRECTED to provide free transit ridership between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Sunday through Saturday on Brantford Transit Conventional Services who are 50+ for the month of June.

#### **12.3.13 Powerline Road Speeding**

WHEREAS residents of the Brantwood Park area are reporting on-going speeding concerns on Powerline Road; and

WHEREAS residents have raised concerns about the safety of pedestrians and the children in the area; and

WHEREAS the Pate family business is located on the north side of Powerline Road and holds several very well attended community activities through the seasons; and

WHEREAS numerous requests have been received by Ward Councillors to implement traffic calming measures on Powerline Road to improve the safety of Brantwood Park residents crossing the street to visit Brantwood farm activities and business; and

WHEREAS Ward Councillors have been very concerned with the speed of traffic that travels through this neighborhood on Powerline Road from Wayne Gretzky Parkway east to the city limits; and

WHEREAS several collisions have occurred at this location and most recently a young boy was struck and seriously injured by a vehicle while attempting to cross Powerline Road;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to conduct various traffic studies with a focus on road user safety, speeding, street lighting, pedestrian facilities, traffic control and traffic calming on Powerline Road from Wayne Gretzky Parkway to the east city limits; and
- B. THAT funding BE PROVIDED from the Council Priorities Reserve (RF0558) fund to complete these studies and report back to the Vision Zero Road Safety Committee in Q2 2023.

#### **12.3.14 Brantford Landfill Gas Project**

WHEREAS a clerical error was made in the initial application for the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP) for the landfill gas project that saw the option for “Bio Gas” not checked off, and as a result prevented the second phase of the project from proceeding; and

WHEREAS without the second phase of the project completed, Brantford Generation was unable to meet its financial obligations to Infrastructure Ontario (IO) which led to the sale of the assets to the City of Brantford at a discount; and

WHEREAS because of the discount, the deal included a clause that any profit made from the sale of electricity during the balance of the RESOP agreement will be split 50/50 with the province; and

WHEREAS because the project is currently at about a break-even point financially at this time, any profit from new generation will be split with the province; and

WHEREAS if phase 2 is allowed to proceed it would generate approximately an additional 570 kw of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS we are currently receiving rates of \$0.1175/kWh off peak and \$0.1527/kWh on peak; and

WHEREAS all of this generation would be “profit”, the net cost to the province would be \$0.05875/kWh off peak and \$0.07635/kWh on peak for “green” electricity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The City of Brantford makes a formal request to the Ministry of Energy to authorize the Independent Electricity System Operator to allow the use of "Bio Gas" within the current RESOP program for Brantford's Landfill Gas Project so that both the city and the Province would benefit and profit from the agreement.

#### **12.3.15 Brantford Expositor Printed Publications**

WHEREAS The City of Brantford has continually committed to age-friendly planning and to work with individuals and families, to meet the changing needs of an aging population; and

WHEREAS access to information is a key concern for older adults across Canada and locally. Our community believes that all community residents, including older persons, deserve to fully and meaningfully participate in and contribute to the social fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS a goal of The City of Brantford's Age-Friendly Strategy is to increase digital inclusion of older adults through skill training and access to technology. Access to digital information remains a hurdle for some older adults, and maintaining current access points to community information is crucial to maintaining social participation; and

WHEREAS the goal of The City of Brantford's Age-Friendly Strategy is to improve access to municipal and community information; and

WHEREAS many older adults in The City of Brantford rely on receiving their information through printed format;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT The City of Brantford respectfully CALLS UPON the Brantford Expositor, which is a primary printed source for community information for many older adults, rescind its decision to reduce the number of print editions each week from 5 to 3; and
- B. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to The Honourable Larry Brock, Member of Parliament, Brantford-Brant and to The Honourable Will Bouma, Member of Provincial Parliament; and
- C. THAT, as an expression of support for our community newspaper, Brantford City Council ENCOURAGES residents to subscribe to and support the Brantford Expositor.

### 12.3.16 City of Brantford International Women's Day Campaign

WHEREAS, International Women's Day takes place on March 8th every year to celebrate women's rights and inspire people to act in the ongoing fight for gender equality; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognize the progress made to advance women's equality to date, and to recommit to breaking down barriers and resolving challenges women continue to face; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day pays tribute to women's achievements, and provides an opportunity to honour, support, and celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in our community as activists, workers, artists, entrepreneurs, caregivers, educators, volunteers and leaders; and

WHEREAS, The City of Brantford is committed to promoting equity and justice: and ensuring women have the necessary supports to succeed; and

WHEREAS, on the 112th International Women's Day, we encourage everyone to take actions against gender bias and inequity in support of the 2023 International Women's Day theme of "Embrace Equity";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT The City of Brantford will recognize March 8, 2023 as "International Women's Day" and will continue to commit to working to secure the rights and full potential of women and create lasting solutions to social, economic and political barriers women continue to face; and
- B. THAT Communications and Community Engagement staff work with Councillor Sicoli, Councillor Samwell and Councillor Hunt to develop a 2023 International Women's Day Public Awareness Campaign highlighting the achievements of local women and promoting actions to fight gender inequality; and
- C. THAT a maximum of \$5,000 for the 2023 International Women's Day Campaign BE FUNDED from the Council Priorities Reserve (RF0558); and
- D. THAT City staff BE DIRECTED to coordinate a flag raising on March 8, 2023 to officially proclaim March 8th, 2023 as "International Women's Day" in the City of Brantford in appreciation of the many achievements of the women of Brantford and those across Canada and globally.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councillor Martin, Chair