

Public Meeting of Council

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Electronic meeting live streamed at:
<https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>.

Present: Mayor, Gary McNamara
Deputy Mayor, Joe Bachetti
Councillor, Bill Altenhof
Councillor, Andrew Dowie
Councillor, Brian Houston
Councillor, Tania Jobin
Councillor, Rick Tonial

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Margaret Misek-Evans
Director Parks & Recreation Services, Paul Anthony
Director Public Works & Environmental Services, Phil Bartnik
Director Information & Communication Services, Shaun Fuerth
Director Planning & Building Services, Brian Hillman
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer, Tom Kitsos
Director Corporate Services & Clerk, Laura Moy
Deputy Clerk & Manager Legislative Services, Jennifer Alexander
Manager Planning Services, Chad Jeffery
Manager Strategic Initiatives, Lesley Reeves

A. Roll Call

B. Call to Order

The Mayor calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

C. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There is no pecuniary interest declared by a Member of Council.

D. Introduction and Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to hear public comment on a proposed Housekeeping Zoning By-law amendment to the Sandwich South Zoning By-law 85-18 pursuant to the provisions of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990*. The purpose of the proposed housekeeping amendment is to restrict cannabis greenhouse operations in the Agricultural (A) Zone of Zoning By-law 85-18, in accordance with the policies of the newly-adopted Town of Tecumseh Official Plan. The newly-adopted Official Plan establishes that cannabis greenhouse operations are

not permitted as-of-right in the Agricultural designation and are only permitted by way of site-specific Zoning Bylaw amendments that are required to meet a number of locational and design criteria.

E. Delegations

The Director Planning & Building Services highlights report PBS-2021-13, as appended on the agenda.

In response to an inquiry, the Director comments that this meeting is not in relation to retail cannabis sales. He explains the purpose of the meeting is in relation to cannabis greenhouse operations and planning elements that need additional consideration prior to being permitted by way of a site specific zoning by-law amendment. He mentions the scale of greenhouses within Essex region, and the planning factors to consider in relation to light and odours.

The Director clarifies the legislation that governs growing cannabis as an open field crop, including reference to the Provincial Policy Statement wherein a full range of agricultural uses are encouraged on provincially significant agricultural lands such as those found in Tecumseh and the broader Essex County region. He advises that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs confirmed that growing cannabis in open fields is a normal farming practice within the province and does not have any site plan control or special zoning provisions attributed to it. The Director explains the Town's Official Plan and the policies addressing current trends with cannabis greenhouse operations and the additional planning measures needed through a re-zoning process.

A Member inquires if there are cannabis crops in open fields. The CAO advises that a farm in the Brantford area has cannabis growing in open fields.

F. Communications

1. Notice of Public Meeting dated April 6, 2021

Re: Proposed Housekeeping Zoning By-law

2. Essex Region Conservation Authority dated April 12, 2021

Re: Proposed Housekeeping Zoning By-law

3. CN Rail dated April 6, 2021

Re: CN Proximity

4. Email from Judy Robson dated April 20, 2021

Re: Cannabis Greenhouse Operations

5. Email from Michelle Mitchell dated April 21, 2021

Re: Zoning By-Law 85-18

Motion: PCM - 16/21

Moved By Councillor Tania Jobin

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

That Communications - For Information 1 through 5 as listed on the Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Public Council Meeting Agenda, **be received**.

Carried

G. Reports

1. **PBS-2021-13 Housekeeping Amendment to Sandwich South Zoning By-law 85-18 Restriction of Cannabis Greenhouse Operations in the Agricultural (A) Zone in accordance with the Policies of the Tecumseh New Official Plan, Scheduling of a Public Meeting**

Motion: PCM - 17/21

Moved By Councillor Brian Houston

Seconded By Councillor Andrew Dowie

That Report PBS-2021-13 entitled "Housekeeping Amendment to Sandwich South Zoning By-law 85-18, Restriction of Cannabis Greenhouse Operations in the Agricultural (A) Zone in accordance with the Policies of the Tecumseh New Official Plan, scheduling of a Public Meeting", **be received**.

Carried

H. Adjournment

Motion: PCM - 18/21

Moved By Councillor Bill Altenhof

Seconded By Councillor Rick Tonial

That there being no further business, the Tuesday, April 27, 2021 meeting of the Public Council Meeting **be adjourned** at 6:17 pm.

Carried

Gary McNamara, Mayor

Laura Moy, Clerk