



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

June 17, 2025 | Issue 16



PROPERTY TAXES

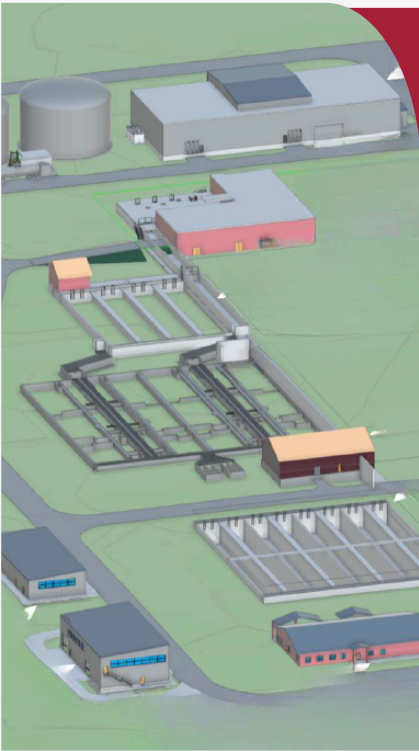
Council received a report on 2025 property taxes as information and authorized the preparation of by-laws to set the year's tax ratios and rates.

The 2025 property tax rates will result in a 3.93% increase for residential properties, while education rates remain unchanged from 2024. The final billing will be issued in two instalments, due July 31 and October 31, with penalties applied the following day on any unpaid amounts. Monthly payment plans will continue as scheduled.

These rates will generate a total tax levy of \$72,964,325, ensuring the City meets its 2025 budget requirements.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Dalewood Water Reclamation Facility
2. Burwell Road Tender Award
3. Health Recruitment Partnership
4. Secondary System Watermain Shutdown



DALEWOOD WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Council has approved a change order to JLR Consulting with an upset limit of \$375,000, as part of a commercial update for the Dalewood Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). This supports keeping the major infrastructure project on track to deliver additional capacity by mid-2029.

JLR will design two forcemains connecting the Woodworth Sewage Pumping Station to the new facility, a critical component for system capacity and redundancy. Staff developed the scope with JLR and recommended issuing the contract as a change order under the existing Woodworth SPS project to streamline coordination and reduce costs.

BURWELL RD TENDER AWARD

Council has received the Burwell Road Forcemain Construction report as information and awarded the \$1,917,755.34 contract (excluding HST) to Birnam Excavating Ltd.

The project will upgrade infrastructure to support the growing PowerCo site and Yarmouth Yards Industrial Park. Construction begins mid-July with completion expected by mid-October. Traffic impacts will be managed through phased work and temporary lane closures.

MILLERS POND TRAFFIC CALMING PETITION

Council received report ES23-25 for information in response to a petition requesting traffic calming measures, including all-way stops and reduced speed limits, in the Millers Pond subdivision. Following a review of traffic data, staff found that most roads in the area are not yet assumed by the City and therefore do not qualify under the Traffic Calming Policy. Additionally, traffic speeds and volumes did not meet the thresholds required for calming measures or all-way stop controls. As a result, no changes are recommended at this time.



HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP

Council has approved over \$71,000 in Health Recruitment Partnership funding to support the recruitment of three healthcare providers, aiming to boost access to local medical services.

Nurse Practitioner Shelby Ethier will receive \$5,000 to support her new urgent care clinic offering same-day and next-day appointments. Physicians Dr. Michael Pellizzari and Dr. Chris Allanah will each receive \$33,000 to establish new practices. Dr. Pellizzari investing in AI software to improve efficiency, and Dr. Allanah using the funds for office setup and overhead.

All recipients are required to commit a minimum of four years of service in the St. Thomas-Elgin County area. The approvals bring total 2025 HRP spending to \$223,300, putting the program over budget, with the shortfall to be addressed in year-end reconciliation.

FIRE STATION DESIGN WORK

Council has approved a \$255,000 (excluding HST) contract to DPAL Architecture Inc. for design work on Fire Station 2 and Fire Station 3. Fire Station 2 will be expanded to include a larger apparatus bay, updated systems, new staff dorms, and extra parking. Fire Station 3, currently unfinished, will receive interior design for HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and layout. The project is fully funded through the Yarmouth Yards project and development charges, supporting the council's commitment to public safety.

STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

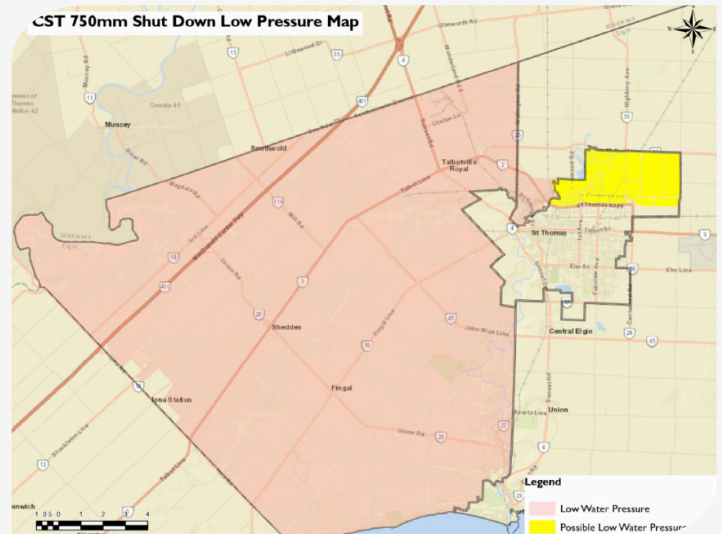
Council received the updated Strategic Asset Management Policy for information and approved changes to align with the City's 2024 Strategic Plan and provincial regulations (O. Reg. 193/21). The policy now covers lifecycle planning for all infrastructure assets and incorporates the City's core values. It supports sustainable growth and ensures continued eligibility for government funding.

SECONDARY SYSTEM WATERMAIN SHUTDOWN

Council has received a report for information regarding two planned shutdowns of the secondary watermain system as part of the Highbury Avenue widening project.

The first shutdown is scheduled for Friday, July 11 at 8pm lasting up to 24 hours. It will cause low water pressure in Old Lynhurst, New Lynhurst, Southwold, and potentially areas north of Highway 3 in St. Thomas.

A second shutdown is expected in September. Dutton Dunwich will backfeed water to Southwold to avoid a full outage. The project supports the City's goal of strategic, sustainable growth and is fully funded within the existing Highbury Avenue budget.



TEMPORARY PARKING LOT CLOSURE

Council has approved the temporary closure of two rows in the Moore Street Parking Lot for the Destination Church Car Trunk Sale on June 21, 2025, from 7:30am to 2:30pm. The event, a fundraiser for the Moore Food Garden, received full support from the Special Events Committee. No major parking disruptions are expected, and all costs will be covered by the city's 2025 budget.

EXEMPTION TO ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW

Council has granted a temporary exemption to the Animal Control By-law, allowing pony rides at the Railway City Music and Arts Festival this August 14–17 in Pinafore Park.

The exemption permits up to 10 ponies for the event, following a request from festival organizers aimed at adding family-friendly activities.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

09
SEP

International FASD Awareness Day
🕒 9:09 AM 📍 CITY HALL

30
SEP

Orange Shirt Day
🕒 TBD 📍 CITY HALL

16
OCT

Light it Up for NDEAM
💡 PURPLE & BLUE

Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! To submit your request, write a formal, signed letter addressed to the Mayor and Members of City Council, explaining your cause and desired date. Letters must be sent to the City Clerk at least one month in advance. See the [website](#) for more information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday, July 14, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, August 11, 2025 at 5PM
- Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5PM

To view the council meetings live, visit:
www.stthomas.ca/watch

PAST MEETINGS

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www.stthomas.ca



info@stthomas.ca



519.631.1680 '0'



545 Talbot Street, St. Thomas



@cityofstthomasontario



@cityofstthomas



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@cityofstthomasontario

