



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

February 10, 2026 | Issue 33



TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE TENDER 2026-001 AWARD

Council received Report ES03-26. This report requested Council to award EARTH Holding Inc. the Tender 2026-001 for Traffic Signal and Streetlight Maintenance Services for 5 years with an option to extend an additional 3 years. Services provided by EARTH will include: Streetlight relamping and rewiring, underground and above-ground wiring repairs, installation and addition of new streetlighting and traffic signal maintenance and emergency repairs. With a five year term, the successful contractor can reduce overall costs by amortizing fleet, staffing, equipment and operational base costs. This allows for consistent maintenance standards across the municipal road system and supports service continuity.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Traffic Signal and Streetlight Maintenance Tender 2026-001 Award

2.

Wind Phone Installation - Pinafore Park

3.

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment - 18 Centre Street

4.

Brighter Future Monthly Update: Pillar #2: Thoughtful, Strategic, and Sustainable Growth



WIND PHONE INSTALLATION - PINAFORE PARK

Council received Report PR-05-26 - Wind Phone Installation - Pinafore Park. This request was brought to Council on May 5th, 2025 in support of individuals and families experiencing grief and loss. The request outlined the value of a wind phone as a quiet, reflective space for private connection and remembrance. City staff reviewed locations throughout the parks that were assessed based on accessibility, setting and alignment with the intended purpose of quiet reflection and remembrance. Staff will consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to confirm accessibility and site design prior to installation. The installation of the Wind Phone will be located in the Memory Garden in Pinafore Park as it is an established space to honour loved ones and provide residents with a peaceful environment. The planned date of installation is spring 2026 which will also include signage.



PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES - 2026 RATES AND FEES BYLAW



Council received Report PR-04-26. The City sets user fees for municipal programs, services, and facilities through its annual Rates & Fees By-law to support cost recovery while keeping Parks and Recreation programs accessible and sustainable. Following a review of the 2025 rates, staff are proposing updates for 2026 along with a new three-year outlook. This approach offers greater predictability and transparency for facility user groups planning their budgets and future programming. After pausing increases during the pandemic, modest 5% annual adjustments have been recommended to address inflation and rising operating costs, align with similar municipalities, and avoid sudden spikes while maintaining quality services and programs for the community. Staff will look at returning to a 3% annual increase beginning in 2029. Some new rates have been introduced to support partnerships and services needs. The \$5 drop in programs will remain unchanged.



BRIGHTER FUTURE MONTHLY UPDATE: PILLAR #2: THOUGHTFUL, STRATEGIC, AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Council received Report CMO-11-26 related to Brighter Future Monthly Update. The Strategic Plan is focusing on Pillar #2 Thoughtful, Strategic, and Sustainable Growth. Brighter Future, the City's Strategic Plan, is a primary tool for setting priorities and guiding corporate action. The new approach is to have more focused strategic level discussions. These discussions will support the following:

- direction setting by Council
- alignment with budget and resource decisions
- maintain clear connections between Council priorities and department work
- the Strategic Plan visible and active

Each month, there will be a rotating pillar focus, a standardized template that all leadership members will complete, and a corporate report format.

The following departments have updates for Pillar #2 which can be found in the full report:

- *Parks and Recreation* - advancing the City's Trail Development Program through capital investments that improve safety, accessibility and connectivity within existing parkland.
- *Environmental Services* - 30 strategic action items - 8 are completed, 16 are In-Progress, 6 have not been started, delayed or no funding available to advance. A key achievement in 2025 was the completion of the City's Transportation Master Plan.
- *St. Thomas Public Library* - completed the Scoped Addendum to the 2022 Master Plan: Library Space Assessment & Branch Development Strategy.
- *Planning and Building Services* - relaunching the update of the City of St. Thomas Official Plan
- *Clerk's Office* - Approved funding from the Airport Runway Reserve to construct a turn pad on the main runway to support larger aircraft at the St. Thomas Municipal Airport.
- *City Manager's Office* - advancing two key priorities: the development of a corporate Climate Mitigation Strategy and support for the update and implementation of the Elgin-St. Thomas Age Friendly Plan.

Priority #2 focuses on responsible land use planning, investment in critical infrastructure, and the development of policies that support environmental stewardship and social well-being.





PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT - 18 CENTRE STREET

Council received report PD-08-26 relating to a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment - 18 Centre Street. An application was submitted for a Zoning By-law Amendment be approved for a development of two townhouse blocks and one block of stacked townhouses at 18 Centre Street. The lands are designated Residential in the City of St. Thomas Official Plan. The current area is zoned for maximum of six units per lot however it has been requested to amend the Zoning By-law to a Fifth Residential Special Provision Zone (R5-_) to permit 24 dwelling units. A proposal from Staff to prohibit driveway access from Centre Street to ensure pedestrian safety along Centre Street when the multi-use path is developed has been noted. After the public meeting has been completed and an opportunity for comment has been provided through the circulation process, a recommendation on the application will be made in a follow-up report.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS



23
FEB

World Thinking Day
⌚ 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

23
FEB

Human Trafficking Awareness Day
⌚ 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! The Proclamation, Flag-Raising, and Jumbo Lighting Request Form can be found on the City's website or is available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible to ensure they can be placed on a Council agenda. Request forms can be submitted in electronic or hard copy format.



FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:
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