



Subject: COVID Update June 2021

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-185

Meeting Date: June 28, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-185 be received for information.

Purpose:

This CAO generated report is provided as a follow up to the COVID-19 pandemic update that was provided to City Council on May 25, 2021.

Background:

The City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020 by bringing together the City's Emergency Control Group (ECG). The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the nation and the City continues to prepare, respond, and plan recovery from the impacts of the pandemic to the municipality. As described in a previous staff report, the City's response is based on four principles:

- Maintaining essential City services to the community throughout the emergency;
- Continuing to ensure the safety and security of the public and City staff;
- Ensuring the organization remains financially stable throughout COVID-19; and
- Continuing to remain consistent in the City's actions with the actions of other agencies.

In order to respond appropriately to the impacts of the pandemic and adhere to these principles, the City's response has been divided into three phases:

- First phase – initial response and precautions for users and staff
- Second phase – maintaining essential services

- Third phase – recovery and reopening

Currently, the City is in the third phase, recovery and reopening, as staff continue to execute plans that were developed for reopening the City's programs, services, and facilities.

Discussion:

In the time since the last COVID update to Council, the Province's stay-at-home order and emergency shutdown have both expired. The Province also announced a three-step "Roadmap to Reopen" that is a departure from the previous colour-coded recovery framework. The roadmap provides a gradual opening of private and public services based on the "progress of provincewide vaccination rates and improvements of key public health and health care indicators" (ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario). The province is currently in Step 1 of the roadmap, as of June 11, 2021, and it is expected that movement to further steps will take place in increments of about 21 days.

Staff are monitoring the roadmap to determine the schedule that governs the reopening of municipal services. Some municipal services such as splash/spray pads, marinas, and outdoor recreation venues are permitted to open, and Port Colborne has followed suit. Other facilities such as arenas and indoor recreation facilities will be permitted to open in the future and staff is preparing for that process.

Financial Implications:

While the pandemic has had financial impacts on the City in 2020 and 2021, there are no new financial impacts since the most recent report to Council. City staff project a balanced budget for 2021.

Public Engagement:

The City continues to provide high-quality communication to the community by giving frequent updates of City initiatives and sharing information from other agencies such as the Federal government, the Provincial government, and the Region of Niagara and Niagara Region Public Health.

Conclusion:

The City's Emergency Control Group continues to meet during the pandemic to make operational decisions for the City's programs and services in order to maintain essential

operations within the community. Staff will continue to report to Council for the duration of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Luey
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.