



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council - December 14, 2020

MAYOR UPDATE

Mayor Clarke opened up the meeting by thanking everyone who wished him well while he had his surgery. He reported that he is recovering well and his voice is getting better each day. Mayor Clarke also wished everyone in Ramara a happy and safe Christmas, and advised residents to follow health and safety guidelines by finding creative ways to virtually reach out to their family and friends. As well, he recommended for residents to reach out to those who may be struggling with a phone call or Zoom chat. With the new vaccine in Canada, Mayor Clarke advised that 2021 will be a new year with new opportunities.

CAO UPDATE

CAO, John Pinsent, advised Council that the Twelve Days of Giving Campaign raised almost \$14,000.00 for local children and families in Ramara. He also extended his appreciation to the Township staff, Ramara Firefighter's Association, the Ramara Public Library and Brechin Foodland for assisting in this initiative to give back to the community they serve.

Next Council meeting is on January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Development charges are fees collected from developers at the time a building permit is issued to help pay for the cost of infrastructure, such as roads and water and sewer infrastructure, required due to growth. Development charges in Ramara are only waived for the industrial park that is located in Brechin, southeast of the intersection of Highway 12 and County Road 47. At times, an agreement has been made for an exchange of service with large developments such as the creation or fixing of roads, parks or water services. Residents can find out information on the Township's **Development charges** on our [website](#).

[Click here for the full Council Agenda and Minutes](#)

MZO FOR RAMA ROAD CORRIDOR

Mayor Basil Clarke reported that there has been some misinformation and some concern from the public that the Township is attempting to short cut environmentally and sound planning processes with the MZO application. The request for an MZO is to address potential changes to the uses and designation of the Rama Road Economic Employment District under the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It is to allow for a mixed and diversified use of housing types. This will help developers phase development in a different order by having construction of residential properties before commercial properties. This will help promote growth and allow development within the Rama Road Corridor. In the new year, the Township will provide detailed information on the process and provide answers to frequently asked questions made by residents.

NO TRUCK ZONE

Council amended the No Heavy Trucks Zones Bylaw 2018.60 to include all municipal roads between Highway 12, County Road 45 (Monck Road), County Road 44 (Rama Road) and County Road 169.

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

RAMARA OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS FOR GUN (SHOOTING) CLUBS AND RANGES.

Council adopted the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendments for gun (shooting) clubs and ranges and it will be forwarded to the County of Simcoe for their approval. There will be no designations or zones that will allow for gun (shooting) clubs and ranges, but if someone comes to Council to get amendment to the Official Plan and Zoning bylaw the following conditions must be met:

- Only permitted in rural designation
- Includes for profit and non for profit (indoor and outdoor)
- Property must be located 1000 metres from settlement areas, shoreline areas, designation commercial, Rama Road Corridor, and rural/residential clusters.
- If there is more than one proposal, they must be separated from each other by 500 m.
- They must be separated from sensitive land uses by 200 m. This may include a house, school, religious institution, etc.
- The proposal must get a zoning bylaw amendment and go through site plan control.
- The days and hours of operation are to be determined by Council in the Zoning Bylaw amendment or site plan approval.
- On private properties, shooting would be permitted but it must adhere to the **discharge of firearms bylaw.**

In order to get a Zoning Bylaw Amendment, it must meet also meet the following conditions:

- The proposed operation must be setback of 60 m from any property line.
- Parking provision that has 1.5 parking spaces for every shooting space.

The prohibition remains and any proposals must go through all of the above conditions. As well, any unapproved or illegal shooting ranges currently operating will make them illegal as they are not approved.

BUDGET 2021

It's budget time at the Township of Ramara. Each year the Township undergoes an annual budget process to create a budget that supports Township operations and capital to deliver the program and services required to maintain the quality of life we enjoy in our community. Council has passed the 2021 Budget with a 1.11% decrease. For more information, please review our **Budget Highlights document**. As well, residents can visit our Budgets page on our Community Engagement site at www.reachoutramara.ca/budget-2021.



NEW WARDEN AND DEPUTY WARDEN

Mayor Clarke congratulated the new Warden and Deputy Warden for the County of Simcoe. George Cornell, Mayor of the Township of Tiny, was acclaimed to serve as County of Simcoe Warden for a second term, 2021-2022. As well Lynn Dollin, Mayor of the Town of Innesfil was elected the Deputy Warden for 2021 and 2022.

Additionally, the following County's Business Section Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2021 and 2022 were elected/acclaimed on Tuesday to the following:

Councillor Don Allen, Business Section Chair of Performance Management; Councillor Rob Keffer, Business Section Chair of Human Services; and Councillor Richard Norcross, Business Section Chair of Corporate Services.

Councillor Harry Hughes, Business Section Vice Chair of Performance Management; Councillor Jennifer Coughlin, Business Section Vice Chair of Human Services; and Councillor Mike Ross, Business Section Vice Chair of Corporate Services.

XPLORNET

CAO, John Pinsent reported that more information will go out to residents in the new year that will provide information on how a resident can get access to internet and future plans for the Township. The delivery of internet services is an evolving process which will be described in greater detail in the new year. For more information about internet services, please call 1-866-790-5894.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Council and Staff at the Township of Ramara want to wish everyone in Ramara a Happy and Safe holiday season whether it is celebrated with family together or apart. The Township wants to remind residents to follow all health and safety guidelines and protocol by limiting your close contacts, maintain physical distancing, and thinking of creative ways to celebrate the season virtually.



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CONTACT US - MEDIA

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Visit the Township website at www.ramara.ca for up to date information on changes to services and programs.



HAVE A COMPLAINT?

Submit it online using our 'Report a Concern' form at www.ramara.ca