



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council - January 25, 2021

## MAYOR UPDATE

Mayor Clarke opened up the meeting by reminding residents that the Province of Ontario is still in lock-down as a result of the Province declaring the **second Provincial Emergency** on January 12th and the **Stay-at-Home Order** that came into effect on January 14th, 2021. Basil reported that due to the restrictions, there is no new Council business to report; however, he does recognize that many families and small businesses are feeling the financial and mental struggle that the pandemic has caused. Basil reported that families and friends can still get together virtually through an online meeting platform, such as Zoom, and to have fun with the process. He also reported that due to the pandemic, YMCA Geneva Park has decided to close and sell; unfortunately, it is not a Township property and the Township could not offer any financial relief, such as tax relief, to Geneva Park because it did not pay taxes due to having church status. For access to funding relief for small businesses from the province, visit [here](#) and information on federal funding, click [here](#).

## CAO UPDATE

CAO, John Pinsent, reported that some staff are working from home/virtually while others continue to work in municipal buildings. He reported that a 'Virtual Lunch' session has been organized in order to allow staff to come together and enjoy their lunch virtually with other staff members.

**Next Council meeting is on February 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

## RAMA ROAD CORRIDOR

The Township of Ramara sent a letter to the City of Orillia regarding the engagement process with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to discuss potential alterations to the uses and designation of the Ramara Road Economic Employment District under the **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**. On November 3, 2020, Council directed staff to submit a letter to MMAH to provoke discussion on making these changes to the designations in the Rama Road Corridor. The current restrictions require commercial land uses to occur prior to any residential uses, which has hindered, as opposed to promoted development within the corridor. As well, the only residential use permitted has to be secondary to a permitted use (Commercial project such as a hotel) and can only be seasonal. The discussion with MMAH will investigate how the Township can have some permanent residential uses in order to help with the development along Rama Road. For more information on the Rama Road Corridor and the process with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), please visit [www.reachoutramara.ca/rama-road-corridor](http://www.reachoutramara.ca/rama-road-corridor).

Mayor Basil Clarke also mentioned the history of the Rama Road Corridor and that 25 years ago the land around the Rama Road Corridor was at one time designated Prime Agriculture, but due to the development of Casino Rama, the lands surrounding the area was re-zoned Destination Commercial.

# COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

Mayor Basil Clarke reported that a report is on the Committee of the Whole County meeting agenda for January 26th, regarding a Request for Approval for a Township of Ramara Official Plan Amendment No.19 Gun (shooting) clubs and/or firearm shooting ranges. For a copy of the County's Agendas and/or minutes visit their [Agenda and Minutes](#) page. For access to their live stream, visit the [County of Simcoe's YouTube Channel](#).

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

## INTERNET UPDATE

The Township of Ramara is working with Xplornet in order to get information out to residents on frequently asked questions (FAQ) and comments that Council members have heard over the last few months. This information piece will provide information on future plans for internet, maps, contact information and more. Check out [www.ramara.ca/internet/](http://www.ramara.ca/internet/) for information. We also want to hear about your internet needs. Send an email to [responses@ramara.ca](mailto:responses@ramara.ca). Please note that this email is not being monitored daily.

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

## WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

Did you know that the Township of Ramara is completing a Ward Boundary Review? Ramara's current ward boundaries have not been reviewed in 25 years, so the review will ensure that Ramara's ward boundaries continue to provide a system of effective and equitable representation for all residents in accordance with the guiding principles of *effective representation* as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada.

There will be two rounds of public consultation. The first is running from **January 11 to February 1st, 2021** and will give members of the community the opportunity to learn more about Ramara's ward boundaries and to provide their comments and feedback. Missed the public meetings, visit the Township of Ramara's [YouTube Channel](#) to listen to residents' questions and information around the Ward Boundary Review. Also, give your feedback now by filling out the survey at [www.reachoutramara.ca/ward-boundary-review](http://www.reachoutramara.ca/ward-boundary-review).

This is your chance to provide **YOUR SAY**, so please take the time to participate in the process as **YOUR OPINION MATTERS!**

For access to the survey and to register for one of the public meetings, please visit our [Ward Boundary Review Page](#) on our community engagement site [Reach Out Ramara](#). For more information about the Ward Boundary Review please visit the [Township Website](#).



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### CONTACT US - MEDIA

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Visit the Township website at [www.ramara.ca](http://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](http://www.ramara.ca)