

## St. Catharines City Council set to meet March 27 using videoconference technology

**March 25, 2020** – St. Catharines City Council will hold a special meeting this Friday, utilizing an online videoconferencing system, ensuring the meeting remains available for the public to watch.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, and protect public health and well-being, the City will temporarily hold Council meetings through electronic participation, starting with the special meeting Friday, March 27, at 2 p.m. All City facilities, including City Hall, remain closed to the public. New Provincial legislation allows municipalities to hold electronic meetings in place of regular council meetings as all levels of government move to slow the spread of the virus. Community members will be able to view the feed by accessing the link to the City's YouTube channel at [www.stcatharines.ca/council](http://www.stcatharines.ca/council).

“Protecting public health must be our top priority at this time, so holding virtual meetings eliminates the need for councillors and residents to leave their homes to participate,” said Mayor Walter Sendzik. “We appreciate the community’s effort and understanding as we all make adjustments to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

An agenda for the meeting will be published Thursday at [www.stcatharines.ca/agendas](http://www.stcatharines.ca/agendas). Members of the public who wish to comment will be able to do so by calling or emailing Mayor Walter Sendzik or a City Councillor prior to the meeting. Contact information for the mayor and councillors is available at [www.stcatharines.ca/citycouncil](http://www.stcatharines.ca/citycouncil). Correspondence can also be shared with Legal and Clerks Services at [clerks@stcatharines.ca](mailto:clerks@stcatharines.ca) to be officially recorded.

“During these circumstances, it is critical for the City to move forward with important services that affect our residents and businesses,” said City CAO Shelley Chemnitz. “We’re fortunate to have the technology in place to meet remotely in a way that will allow the meeting to remain open and available for the public to see the meeting, as well as protect the health and well-being of the public, staff and City Council.”

Updates on upcoming meetings will be posted on the City’s website. Residents can visit [www.stcatharines.ca/council](http://www.stcatharines.ca/council) and [www.stcatharines.ca/COVID19](http://www.stcatharines.ca/COVID19) for details.

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**Contacts:**

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk  
City Clerk  
[bdunk@stcatharines.ca](mailto:bdunk@stcatharines.ca)