

City waives 2021 licence fees for certain types of businesses

Feb. 2, 2021 — St. Catharines City Council has approved the waiving of business licence fees for 2021 to assist a number of businesses including restaurants, theatres and public halls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Council recognizes the challenges local businesses have experienced during the ongoing pandemic. Small businesses are vital to the backbone of our economy and this is just one of the few tools the City has to support them and try to reduce the financial burden," said Mayor Walter Sendzik. "This is a small, but important, move to assist them as we continue to navigate the pandemic and enter recovery."

Business Licence fees for 2021 will be waived for amusement arcades, auctioneers, hawker/peddlers (e.g. food trucks), public halls, refreshment stands, restaurants and theatres.

"The types of businesses included in the waiving of fees are based on the anticipated impact that COVID-19 will have on them during 2021," said City Clerk Bonnie Nistico-Dunk. "Not being able to hold their annual events, programs or welcome residents into their establishments has been very difficult and this is something we can do at a municipal level to lessen the burden."

The motion passed by Council to waive 2021 business licence fees will have an estimated cost of \$92,000 on the City's budget.

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