

L-2017-02 February 14, 2017

- **REPORT TO:** Mayor James M. Diodati and Members of Municipal Council
- **SUBMITTED BY:** Legal Services

SUBJECT: L-2017-02 Permanently Close and Declare Surplus Part of River Lane Our File No. 2016-133

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. In the event that Council determines that it is in the public interest to do so, that part of River Lane, lying between Philip Street and John Street, designated as Part 1 on the draft Reference Plan attached to this Report as Attachment "1", be permanently closed and declared surplus to the City's needs.
- 2. That the Mayor and Clerk and City Solicitor, be authorized to take whatever steps and sign whatever documents are required to carry out Recommendation 1 above.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Description:	Part of Lane, Plan 294, Town of Niagara Falls Lying Between Philip Street and John Street, being part of PIN 64342-0337 (LT) of the Land Registry Office of the Land Registry Division of Niagara South (No. 59).
Total Area:	845.4 sq. m.
Zoning:	R2, R5E and P
Type of Property:	Laneway
Location:	Lying between Philip Street and John Street
Appraised Value:	\$11,400.00
Offered Price:	\$12,000.00
Special Considerations:	There is one abutting owner who has an encroachment upon the subject lands.

The City has received a request from the owner of all but one of the properties abutting the subject lands, to purchase the subject lands in order to construct a residential development. Prior to any conveyance, the subject lands must be permanently closed and declared surplus to the City's needs.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to permanently close, declare the subject lands surplus and convey has been circulated to various City departments. Municipal Works has recommended that the City retain an easement over the subject lands in the event that the existing infrastructure is not removed.

The proposal has also been circulated to local utility companies for comments. Hydro One has confirmed that it has no objection to the conveyance. Niagara Peninsula Energy has advised that they currently have distribution equipment on the subject lands, specifically 4 wood poles, which may be removed in the event that the City no longer requires lights on the subject property. Enbridge Gas Distribution has confirmed that it has a gas main located within the subject lands and will therefore require a permanent easement with the City prior to any conveyance taking place. Bell Canada has advised that based on the proposed plans for development on the lands, they will have no need to retain the cable/pedestals on the subject lands and staff will endeavour to have Bell remove their equipment from the subject lands prior to closing.

Staff commissioned an appraisal of the subject lands from Ronald C. Ellens Appraisals Inc. who provided an estimated hypothetical value of \$11,400.00 on August 31, 2016.

Public notice of the permanent closure, declaration of surplus and sale of the subject lands was given in the February 2, 2017 issue of the Niagara Falls Review in accordance with the City's By-law No. 2003-02.

At the time that this proposal was first put to Staff, the proponent intended to acquire all of the properties abutting the subject lands and this proposal was put to Council. However, at this time, the proponent has not been able to purchase 4434 Philip Street.

The owner of 4434 Philip Street has enclosed a part of the subject lands with a fence. The enclosed area is illustrated in yellow on Attachment 1. The proponent has advised Staff that the owner of 4434 Philip Street is supportive of the proponent's project however, Staff are not so certain of the owner's support following a telephone conversation with that owner.

The owner of 4434 Philip Street has been notified by telephone, e-mail and regular mail about tonight's public meeting.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE

The subject lands can be combined with the abutting lands to create a much larger parcel allowing for the construction of a residential development, thereby providing housing and increasing the tax base.

In the event that Council is concerned about the interests of the owner of 4434 Philip Street, the Mayor and Clerk can be instructed not to execute the by-law closing and declaring the lane surplus until such time as arrangements satisfactory to the City have been made with the owner of 4434 Philip Street. The Chief Administrative Officer would be the City's delegate to determine the City's satisfaction with whatever arrangements are made.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Disposing of the subject lands will relieve the City of all maintenance costs, i.e. plowing, etc., together with any potential liability, while increasing the tax base as a result of the residential development.

CITY'S STRATEGIC COMMITMENT

The proposed transaction is in keeping with Council's commitment to customer service excellence, organizational efficiency and effectiveness, and the creation of a well-planned City.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment "1"

Draft Reference Plan

Recommended by:

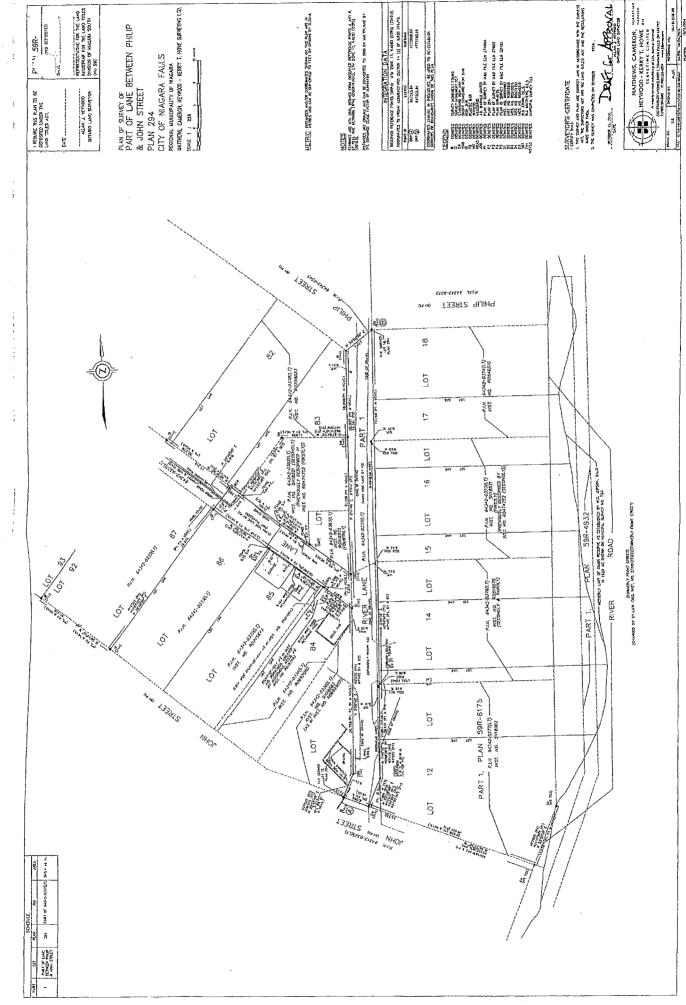
Ken Beaman, City Solicitor

Respectfully submitted:

Entra

Ken Todd, Chief Administrative Officer

KB Attachment



ATTACHMENT "