

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Brad Hammond, Development Officer

Re: Purchase of a Small Lot Between 563 and 565 Dundas Street

AIM

To seek Council approval to purchase a small strip of land between 563 and 565 Dundas Street.

BACKGROUND

The subject site (see Schedule 1) is a 13-foot-wide remnant parcel that was deeded to Mr. George Adams in 1903. It is presumed that the parcel would have historically been used to access the rear of businesses in the immediate area. A curb-cut still exists today which allows vehicles to pass through from Adelaide Street to Dundas Street, crossing the pedestrian sidewalk.

At some point in time over the past 122 years Mr. Adams passed away and, for lack of a better description, the property became orphaned or unattached. Given the delinquent tax status of the property the City Treasurer elected to offer this property for “tax sale” using the required process.

Prior to submitting a bid for this property staff from the Economic Development Department presented a report at a Closed Session of City Council seeking direction to submit a bid on the City’s behalf. As a result, staff were directed to offer as much as \$15,000 to purchase the subject site.

COMMENTS

City staff believe there is merit in purchasing this property for the public good. City ownership would allow for creation of a pedestrian walkway to the City’s Adelaide Street East Parking Lot at some point in the future.

A tax sale is a competitive bidding process in which the highest offer wins the right to purchase the property. The public bid opening for the tax sale for this property occurred at 3PM on April 24, 2025 and the City’s bid of \$12,500 was accepted as the highest offer.

The purpose of this report is to request funding to complete the purchase of this property and seek approval for the Mayor and Clerk to sign any necessary documents.

RECOMMENDATION

That Woodstock City Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk and or Treasurer to sign any necessary documents associated with the purchase of the subject property and that the necessary bylaw be read. And that funding for the purchase of the subject property be taken from the Reserve for Capital Projects.

Authored by: Brad Hammond, Development Officer

Approved by: Len Magyar, Development Commissioner

Schedule 1

