



ABOUT LAST NIGHT

May 13, 2025

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Deputy Mayor Jason Corbett
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Councillor Clark
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Councillor Steve Featherstone
905-531-5367

Councillor Dan McInnis
705-358-2469

More Questions?

Contact the Township Office at:
705-776-2641

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. Council adopts proposed bylaws as presented.

After nearly two years of dedicated effort to resolve the ongoing discussion around trailer use and short-term rentals, Council passed the governing and licensing bylaws at last night's meeting.

These bylaws represent a balanced approach that thoughtfully considers both perspectives—those in favor and those opposed—while directly addressing the key concerns raised by residents during the extensive public consultation process.

This outcome would not have been possible without the active participation of the community. We extend our sincere thanks to the residents of Bonfield for sharing your insights and feedback through phone calls, emails, and in-person meetings. These are truly your bylaws, shaped by your voices. Thank you.

For more details about the bylaws please see [All about Bylaws | Community News & Alerts | Community | Township of Bonfield](#). The final bylaws are listed here, including:

- 2025-09 and 2025-10 regulating the use of Trailers
- 2025-11 adding provisions for Hunt Camps, Shipping Container and Additional Dwelling Units
- 2025-16 governing the Licencing of Trailers
- 2025-17 governing the licensing of Short-Term Rentals

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Trailers: Council also passed a special resolution to phase out trailers on the waterfront through contract agreements with vacant waterfront property owners. Those affected must complete the licencing application within the next 45 days to signify they would like to take advantage of this opportunity. If an application is not received in that time it will be deemed that the owners will be removing their trailer immediately and will not be taking advantage of the program.

Short-term Rentals: Those rental properties that have bookings in 2025 have the next 30 days to submit a licensing application to take priority over all other applications so the bylaw will not negatively impact the rental operations.

2. Strong Mayor Powers

Although strong mayor powers have not been extended to smaller municipalities such as the Township of Bonfield, Bonfield Council has passed a motion formally opposing them. Several municipalities that were granted these powers have since requested their removal, a position Bonfield Council fully supports.

These powers allow a mayor to almost unilaterally pass the annual budget, restructure the municipality, and veto Council decisions. Bonfield Council believes that granting such authority to a single elected official undermines democratic principles. The residents of Bonfield elect a five-member Council to represent them, and the Council believes all members should have an equal voice in decision-making to ensure fair and effective representation for the entire community.