

AIM recycling asking for patience after council resolution

By **Dan Gray** - December 15, 2021 @ 1:25 pm



Auto Recycling stock photo - Urban Auto Recyclers

One of the last items that City Council dealt with this year was the possibility of forming a by-law to manage issues around recycling companies in the community.

The motion before council was in relation to noise coming from AIM Recycling in the West end of the city. Brought forward by Councillors Corey Gardi and Matt Scott after hearing complaints, it seeks to manage the noise coming from the location.

"There are a handful of residents who have been quite vocal, who live in the vicinity of AIM's Manufacturing and Recycling plant about how it's impacting their day to day lives in and around their home and that of their homes," stated Gardi to Council. "You know, as I see it, they always resided close to a property that was zoned for such such a facility and for such a business. But I think, with AIM taking over, they've expanded not only some of what they do there beyond what the previous operator did, but the footprint as well."

Councillor Paul Christian wanted to know if this by-law would target just AIM or take a more global approach. CAO Malcolm White responded to his query.

"Staff will review whether a business licensing bylaw approach is appropriate to address some of these concerns," replied White. "That approach would need to address all businesses that are in this have this type of use, you can't have a bylaw that just is targeting one single business."

Gardi did say he is aware that City staff are having internal discussions about the issue and that AIM has reached out.

"I can tell you that AIM reached out to myself and Councillor Scott, looking to kind of see what they can do alleviate things even more," said Gardi. "I know City staff has met, and met internally about tackling this issue and I look forward to a meeting hopefully soon by City staff and AIM's management to see what further can be done."

SaultOnline reached out to AIM recycling and spoke with the Sault Ste. Marie Manager, Kelvin.

"We've been working with the Ministry of Environment for about a month now," stated Kelvin.

He was able to tell us they are working with various consultants, as well as the City, getting studies done to resolve some of the concerns which have been raised. He asks local residents to have some patience while they work on a plan to address concerns.

It was noted that, with the installation of the ARC furnaces in the steel plant, scrap steel is going to become more in demand. In this scenario, increased demand for scrap steel would exacerbate the situation, potentially creating more noise pollution.

Given that the issues have been such that residents are now reaching out to Council for assistance in mediating this situation, no clear solution is visible in this moment. That it has come to residents vocalizing complaints, it was noted by one councillor that it was a disappointment that it had come to this point at all.

"I'm glad to hear that AIM has reached out to counsellor Gardi and counsellor Scott but it really ought not to get to this point. I know some of the residents in the areas, counsellor Christian does, personally, and they've reached out without much success," said Councillor Shoemaker. "It ought not to get our table, to the bring them to the table. It's unfortunate that it has, but I'm glad that they're now communicating with the counsellors of the area."

Stay with SaultOnline as we continue to follow this story as it develops in our community.

Dan Gray

A native of Centre Wellington, Ontario, I have worked as a freelance journalist all over the province of Ontario. Most recently I ran a local news page in my hometown of Fergus, Ontario. I look forward to bringing my experience covering breaking news, municipal matters and general interest stories to the team at Superior Media and communities we serve.

