



## **The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee MINUTES**

Date: February 24, 2021  
Time: 3:30 P.M.  
Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Vassilakos - Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach - Vice Chair, Councillor Gaffney, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Johnny Bowes - Manager of Environmental Services, Nathan Bottema - Project Engineer

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

#### Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the February 24, 2021 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

### **3. Delegations**

None scheduled.

### **4. Report of the Manager of Environmental Services**

#### **4.1 Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2020 Infrastructure Review (ITS21-003)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the DWQMS 2020 Infrastructure Review and associated documents, be received to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Manager of Environmental Services advised that under the Safe Drinking Water Act, an annual water infrastructure review is required. The review is completed by a Quality Management System representative and results conveyed to top management and Council, as the owner of the system.

The review consists of three components as follows:

- maintenance review, which looks at main breaks, frozen water services, valve hydrant programs, water loss and customer complaints;
- major projects review, which looks at ongoing projects;
- major projects completed.

In response to a question regarding the number of main breaks, the Manager noted that the report states 12 main breaks in 2020, however, the report was completed in November and there were actually 17 main breaks in 2020. To date in 2021, there have already been 12 main breaks. It was noted that January and February are typically the months in which breaks occur and sometimes once a break first occurs, the integrity of the pipe is affected and further breaks may occur. As of right now, 2021 is trending towards the average of 25-35 main breaks per year.

A member requested that the unidirectional flushing system be explained. The Manager advised that a common complaint is that the water is discoloured due to high iron content. The unidirectional flushing system is intended to possibly replace the current practice of twice yearly flushing of the fire hydrants. Jacobs Consulting has been hired to create a model of the City including information such as pipe size and age. Based on the data, only certain sections of pipe will be flushed as required. This

method improves water conservation. Staff are currently in the process of data sharing with the consultant. They will then get the tools and create the flushing program internally. In response to whether once yearly flushing will be enough, the Manager advised that one section of the city will be done as a pilot project to determine its effectiveness. Maintenance will continue to be completed on the hydrants.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the DWQMS 2020 Infrastructure Review and associated documents, be received to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.**

**Carried**

#### **4.2 Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2019 Management Review (ITS21-004)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the summary report entitled QMS Report to Council 2020 – Top Management Review, be received to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Manager of Environmental Services advised this report relates to a review of the drinking water quality management system under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

There are three components to the review:

- review of the annual inspections, in which there were no non-compliances. There were some minor best practice recommendations which is standard.
- Internal and external audit findings, in which there were no significant deficiencies. There were some opportunities for improvement noted which will be built into next year's action plan.
- Operational performances.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the summary report entitled QMS Report to Council 2020 – Top Management Review, be received to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.**

**Carried**

## **5. Report of the Project Engineer**

### **5.1 Argyle and McKenzie Street Reconstruction (St. David Street to Cambria Street) – Public Engagement and Recommendations (ITS21-005)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the description of the proposed design for the Argyle and McKenzie Streets Reconstruction, be received for information;

THAT the comments from the online public engagement session, be received for information;

AND THAT the proposed design for the project be accepted and authorization given to proceed to tender for construction.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Project Engineer provided an overview of the project, advising that the Engineering Division is planning a full reconstruction of Argyle and McKenzie Streets as the current infrastructure does not meet current standards.

A virtual public engagement session was completed and all documents were uploaded to the City's website. Website traffic increased significantly to the page and a number of residents called in to discuss the project with staff.

It was questioned whether this type of online engagement could continue in lieu of or in addition to in-person sessions. The Director advised that staff will continue with both as they recognize having the information available online enables those who cannot participate in person to review the documents and call in to speak to staff at their convenience. It was noted that councillors can also review the drawings to be able to respond to questions from the public.

Members were reminded that a temporary watermain is being installed on the surface so that the trees can be saved.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the description of the proposed design for the Argyle and McKenzie Streets Reconstruction, be received for information;**

**THAT the comments from the online public engagement session, be received for information;**

**AND THAT the proposed design for the project be accepted and authorization given to proceed to tender for construction.**

**Carried**

## **6. Capital Project Update**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services thanked Sub-committee for asking questions about the drinking water quality management reports. Members were reminded of the importance of remaining engaged in the matter as Council is the owner of the system and liable for any deficiencies.

Referring to the February Project Update, the Director provided some highlights as follows:

- the footings are in place for the footbridge replacement in Upper Queens Park and the pre-fab bridge was being installed that day;
- Erie Street sidewalk project is completed;
- Huron Street reconstruction project is having an open house scheduled in March;
- design for the first section of the TJ Dolan multi-use trail is being completed. An open house is scheduled in March for the potential second portion.

With respect to engineering projects, there is a lot of activity on subdivisions and site plans. A public meeting was held on Tuesday for a 500 unit proposal north of McCarthy Road. There has been more building permit activity this January/February compared to last year.

With respect to water, a variable frequency drive has been installed at the Chestnut Well. This type of pump increases efficiency and lowers electrical

use. It was noted that there are many items completed over the years that are reducing the City's energy footprint, such as this.

A new ultraviolet tertiary treatment installation will be required at the City's wastewater plant next year as the current system is nearing end of life and parts are no longer being manufactured. It was suggested there is an opportunity to look for a more energy efficient system here as well.

Staff are working on a report for a potential mattress recycling system and implementation of the next phase of organics recycling.

With respect to the organics program, it was questioned whether there could be a drop-off location at the landfill for organics for those who cannot participate in the curbside program. The Director responded that staff would have to look at the certificate of approval for the landfill and logistics around receiving and transporting to the processing centre.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT staff investigate the potential for a drop-off location at the landfill for organic materials and cooking oil, and the number of residents that would need to participate to ensure the program was economically viable.**

**Carried**

In response to what to do if a green bin goes missing, the Director requested that residents call the Waste Reduction Coordinator.

With respect to the Queen Street storm sewer project, the Director advised that environmental compliance has been received, it will be tendered in the spring and construction is expected to start in the fall.

The Chair advised Sub-committee that the Walkerton Clean Water Centre has a course that helps councillors understand their responsibilities relating to the City's drinking water system. All members were encouraged to take the course, if they have not already. The Director advised that staff can look in to what is offered online and advise Council.

## **7. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of November 3 and December 1, 2020 and January 5, 2021

- Energy and Environment Committee minutes of November 5 and December 3, 2020 and January 7, 2021
- Active Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of September 16, October 29 and December 16, 2020

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Council's Role in Environmental Initiatives**

Councillor Gaffney advised there have been a number of conversations regarding the environment recently and what the City can do. It was noted that there are a few projects coming forward, including the second phase of Britannia Street affordable housing and a smaller housing project beside the Fire Hall. It was suggested that items such as solar panels be looked at.

The Director advised that at a meeting with Social Services on the Britannia Street project, discussion was held on investigating the addition of solar panels and geothermal infrastructure and what it would take to implement all-electric heat. Capital costs, operating costs and lifecycle will need to be considered.

## **9. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is March 24, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

## **10. Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:00 P.M.