



## **Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES**

Meeting #: 4746th  
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Council Present: Mayor Ritsma - Chair Presiding, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Briscoe, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Dave Bush - Director of Human Resources

Also Present: Members of the Public and Media

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

Mayor Ritsma, Chair presiding, called the Council meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Singing of O Canada

Respectful Workplace Policy Statement

**2. Declarations 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 to 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 June 24, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes:**

R2024-227

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated June 3, 2024 and the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated June 10, 2024 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

**4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:**

There was no addendum to the June 24, 2024, Regular Council agenda.

**5. Report of the Committee of the Whole In-Camera Session:**

**5.1 At the June 24, 2024, Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:**

4.1 Proposed Acquisition of Land - Affordable Housing Project - Proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(c)) (includes municipal property leased for more than 21 years), and A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(k)).

At the In-Camera session, direction was given to staff with regards to Item 4.1.

## **6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:**

### **6.1 Request for Delegation by Krista Robinson, CEO, Stratford Public Library**

R2024-228

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT Krista Robinson on behalf of the Stratford Public Library, be heard.**

**Carried**

Krista Robinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Stratford Public Library, provided a presentation about the 2023 Social Return on Municipal Investment in the Library, as calculated using the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit. Highlights of the presentation included:

- public libraries being important cultural and social infrastructure, providing an array of critical supports;
- 2023 being an outstanding year for the Stratford Public Library, with increasing demand for services and use of library space;
- notable statistics from 2023 including:
  - circulation of library materials having risen 9% over 2022 and visits to the library having risen 23% over the same year,
  - volunteers providing over 500 deliveries of library materials to those unable to visit the library themselves,
  - almost 22,000 people having attended over 673 programs;
- the Ontario Library Service and NORDIK Institute having developed the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) to assess the social return on investment (SROI) of libraries;
- SROI calculations taking something offered at no charge such as library services and applying a dollar value to them;
- VOLT being used to assess the dollar value of the library in seven different domains;

- VOLT results for the SPL showing that for every municipal dollar invested, the SROI is \$6.48 for every person with a total economic benefit of \$17,547,287;
- based on the 2023 Budget and the census population, the cost of the library last year being approximately \$82 per resident;
- the calculation based on the SROI showing that the economic benefit is \$508 per person which corresponds to a 648% return in investment; and,
- SPL continuing to support residents in their leisure, educational, and basic needs.

A question and answer period took place between CEO Robinson and Council with respect to the following:

- the library activity and event calendar being circulated to all students in Stratford, Downie Central Public School in Perth South, and various locations throughout the County;
- there being no fundraising updates for the new library at this time; and,
- using VOLT to calculate for specific periods such as the summer time for future reporting.

Members thanked CEO Robinson and the Stratford Public Library for the work that they do for the community.

## **6.2 Request for Delegation by United Way Perth Huron**

R2024-229

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT Ryan Erb and Elizabeth Cooper on behalf of United Way Perth Huron, be heard.**

**Carried**

Ryan Erb, Executive Director and Elizabeth Cooper, Community Development Manager, of United Way Perth Huron presented an update on the 2023-2024 Campaign and the United Housing initiative. Highlights of the presentation included:

- highlighting the United Way activities from the past year;

- the City's annual gift and the City of Stratford employees' contribution in 2023 having helped with providing assistance to 6,345 Stratford residents as well as over 30,000 in Perth and Huron County;
- United Way providing funding to local organizations that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and supporting indigenous events at the Local;
- United Way fundraising for and supporting programs that provide immediate assistance to residents including the Urgent Needs Fund, free income tax clinics, advocacy for a living wage, and the Stratford Connection Centre;
- an overview of United Housing and its goal to have an established, sustainable not-for-profit housing developer in the community by 2030; and,
- the Coldest Night of the Year event having raised over \$209,000 in support of local charities.

A question and answer period was held between members of Council and the United Way team regarding the following:

- the offering of opportunities to invest in the projects to community members including the project that is expected to be announced in 2025 in Stratford;
- the proposed project in Stratford, which is currently under negotiations, involving a 60-unit stacked townhouse development;
- the current negotiations being undertaken by United Housing for lands for future projects; and,
- the affordable housing rental units being the goal of the projects.

Members of Council thanked the United Way team for the work that they do in the community and congratulated them for another successful campaign.

**7. Orders of the Day:**

**7.1 Resolution - Tender Award of T-2024-20 for the Supply and Installation of Sewer Liners (COU24-062)**

R2024-230

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT the tender (T-2024-20) for the Supply and Installation of Sewer Liners be awarded to Clearwater Structures Inc. at a total tender price of \$676,080.47, including HST;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the necessary Contract Agreement for contract T-2024-20.**

A member commented that the Downtown Stratford BIA has requested that the businesses be given plenty of notice when water needs to be shut off for the project so that they can plan accordingly.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

It was noted that a member of the public with a temporary suspension from attending City facilities was present. The meeting recessed at 7:27 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

As the person suspended from attending City facilities did not leave the meeting, the Mayor called for a motion to adjourn.

R2024-231

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Hunter

**THAT the June 24, 2024 Regular Council meeting adjourn.**

Council held a discussion with respect to the motion to adjourn the meeting. A member commented that due to the time sensitive matters on the agenda, particularly Item 7.6, that a special meeting be held as quickly as possible.

A member commented that they disagreed with the adjournment of the meeting including other meetings being adjourned or cancelled. The member further stated that they share in the concerns of the community

regarding the process and implementation of the banning of individuals from City facilities.

A member commented that they have heard from residents as well congratulating Council on stopping the bullying and carry on happening in Council chambers.

A member requested a recorded vote on the matter.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

In Support (9): Councillor Biehn, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Briscoe, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Nijjar, and Councillor Burbach

Opposed (2): Councillor Sebben, and Councillor Wordofa

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 7:36 P.M.

The remaining items on the agenda were considered at the July 2, 2024 Special Council meeting excluding Item 7.6 and 11.5.

## **7.2 Resolution - Supply and Delivery of Hybrid Vehicles (COU24-063)**

Motion by

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the portion of the tender (T-2024-05) for the supply and delivery of six (6) Hybrid Ford 150 XL Pickup Trucks be awarded to East Court Metro Lincoln at a total tender price of \$467,432.05, including HST;**

**AND THAT the portion of the tender (T-2024-05) for the supply and delivery of one (1) Hybrid Ford Escape SUV be awarded to Lunar Contracting at a total tender price of \$66,267.72, including HST.**

## **7.3 Resolution - T-2024-11 Asphalt Resurfacing Tender Award (COU24-064)**

Motion by

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the Tender (T-2024-11) for the Asphalt Resurfacing 2024 Contract be awarded to GIP Paving Inc. at a total tender price of \$1,716,649.69, including HST;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the T-2024-11 Contract Agreement.**

**7.4 Resolution - Health Unit Cost Apportionment Agreement Renewal (COU24-065)**

Motion by

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the Huron Perth Public Health Cost Apportionment Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Stratford, The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys, The Corporation of the County of Perth and The Corporation of the County of Huron be renewed for a further four (4) year term effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.**

**7.5 Resolution - Spruce Lodge Apportionment Agreement Renewal (COU24-066)**

Motion by

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the Spruce Lodge Cost Apportionment Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Stratford, The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys and The Corporation of the County of Perth effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028 be approved;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.**

**7.6 Resolution - CDX Land Lease Renewal Agreement (COU24-067)**

Motion by

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the agreement for the lease of municipally owned lands at the former fairgrounds site with Underhill Enterprises Inc. (o/a Canadian Dairy XPO) be renewed for a further five-year term;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.**



**7.7 Correspondence - Resignation from Heritage Stratford**

Motion by

**THAT the resignation of Jack West from the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee be accepted.**

**8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:**

None scheduled.

**9. Reports of the Standing Committees:**

**9.1 Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee:**

Motion by

**THAT the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated June 24, 2024, be adopted as printed.**

**9.1.1 Amend Fireworks By-law 73-2006**

THAT the Fireworks By-law 73-2006, as amended, be further amended by:

- Amending section 1.6 to remove sparklers from the definition of "family fireworks".
- Amending section 5.1 to "No person shall set off Family Fireworks in the City, except on the designated days of Victoria Day, Canada Day, and on the first day of the Diwali Festival annually. In the event that weather conditions such as rain, fog, smog or wind, on Victoria Day or Canada Day or the first day of the Diwali Festival make it impractical and/or unsafe to set off family fireworks, the next day preceding or following Victoria Day or Canada Day or the first day of the Diwali Festival shall be the designated day."
- Amending section 11.1 to: "The act of setting off of Family Fireworks on private property by the owner, tenant or authorized person on Victoria Day or Canada Day or the first day of Diwali for their own personal display shall not be deemed to be a Display Fireworks."

AND THAT the City Clerk be directed to prepare and list an amendment to By-law 73-2006, for consideration at a future Regular Council meeting.

**9.2 Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee:**

Motion by

**THAT the Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee dated June 24, 2024, be adopted as printed.**

**9.2.1 Destination Stratford 2024 Update 2 (FIN24-017)**

THAT the Destination Stratford 2024 Update 2 (FIN24-017) dated May 22, 2024, be received for information.

**9.2.2 Financial Indicator Review, Financial Profile and Municipal Debt Limits (FIN24-014)**

THAT the report titled "Financial Indicator Review, Financial Profile and Municipal Debt Limits" (FIN24-014), be received for information.

**9.2.3 Preliminary 2023 Year-end Results (FIN24-016)**

THAT the report titled, "Preliminary 2023 Year-end Results" (FIN24-016), dated May 22, 2024, be received for information.

**10. Notice of Intent:**

None noted.

**11. Reading of the By-laws:**

The following By-laws require First and Second Readings and Third and Final Readings and could be taken collectively upon unanimous vote of Council present:

Motion by

**THAT By-laws 11.1 to 11.8 be taken collectively.**

Motion by

**THAT By-laws 11.1 to 11.8 be read a First and Second Time.**

Motion by

**THAT By-laws 11.1 to 11.8 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**11.1 Award Tender for Supply and Installation of Sewer Lines**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, execution of a contract and the undertaking of work from Clearwater Structures Inc. for the Supply and Installation of Sewer Liners (T-2024-20).

**11.2 Award Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Six (6) Hybrid Ford 150 XL Pickup Trucks**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, from East Court Metro Lincoln for the supply and delivery of six (6) Hybrid Ford 150 XL Pickup Trucks (T-2024-05).

**11.3 Award Tender for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Hybrid SUV**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, from Lunar Contracting for the supply and delivery of one (1) Hybrid Ford Escape SUV (T-2024-05).

**11.4 Amend Fireworks By-law 73-2006**

To amend By-law 73-2006 as amended, to add the first day of the Diwali Festival to the designated dates approved under Family Fireworks and to remove sparklers from the family fireworks definition.

**11.5 Lease of a Portion of Lands - Old Fairgrounds**

To authorize the execution of a Lease Agreement with Underhill Enterprises Inc. O/A Canadian Dairy XPO for the lease of a portion of the lands referred to as the Old Fairgrounds municipally identified as 24 Glastonbury Drive in the City of Stratford for a six-year term to 2029.

**11.6 Cost Apportionment Agreement - Spruce Lodge**

To authorize the execution of the Spruce Lodge Long Term Care Cost Apportionment Agreement with The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys and The Corporation of the County of Perth from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028.

**11.7 Cost Apportionment Agreement Renewal - Huron Perth Public Health**

To authorize the execution of the Huron Perth Public Health Cost Apportionment Renewal Agreement with The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys, The Corporation of the County of Perth, and The Corporation of the County of Huron with respect to the provision of public health

programs and services for a further four (4) year term effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028.

### **11.8 Award Tender for Asphalt Resurfacing**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, execution of a contract and the undertaking of work from GIP Paving Inc. for the Asphalt Resurfacing 2024 Contract (T-2024-11).

### **12. Consent Agenda: CA-2024-102 to CA-2024-115**

Council to advise if they wish to consider any items listed on the Consent Agenda.

### **13. New Business:**

### **14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:**

The next Regular Council meeting is July 8, 2024 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Motion by

**THAT the Council meeting adjourn to convene into Standing Committees as follows:**

- **Finance and Labour Relations Committee [7:05 p.m or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]**

**and to Committee of the Whole if necessary, and to reconvene into Council.**

### **15. Council Reconvene:**

#### **15.1 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest made at Standing Committees**

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.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest made at Standing Committee meetings held on June 24, 2024 with respect to the following Items and re-stated at the reconvene portion of the Council meeting:

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

**15.2 Committee Reports**

**15.2.1 Finance and Labour Relations Committee**

Motion by

**THAT Item 5.1 of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee meeting dated June 24, 2024, be adopted as follows:**

**5.1 2023 Audited Financial Statements and 2024 Unaudited Financial Statements and Commentary of Festival Hydro Inc. (FHI) and Festival Hydro Services Inc. (FHSI) for the year ended December 31, 2023 (FIN24-021)**

**THAT the Festival Hydro Inc. audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, be received for information;**

**THAT the Festival Hydro Services Inc. audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, be received for information;**

**THAT the Festival Hydro Inc. unaudited financial statements and commentary for the period ending March 31, 2024, be received for information;**

**THAT the Festival Hydro Services Inc. unaudited financial statements and commentary for the period ending March 31, 2024, be received for information;**

**AND THAT Council, as the sole shareholder, declare a top-up Common Share dividend in the amount of \$233,750 for the year 2023, calculated in accordance with Festival Hydro's Dividend Policy, to be paid in Q2 of 2024.**

### **15.3 Reading of the By-laws (reconvene):**

The following By-laws require First and Second Readings and Third and Final Readings.

#### **By-law 11.9 Confirmatory By-law**

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on June 24, 2024.

Motion by

**THAT By-law 11.9 be read a First and Second Time.**

Motion by

**THAT By-law 11.9 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

### **15.4 Adjournment of Council Meeting**

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time:

Motion by

**THAT the June 24, 2024 Regular Council meeting adjourn.**

"Martin Ritsma"  
Mayor - Martin Ritsma

"Tatiana Dafoe"  
Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe