



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

Meeting #: 4762nd  
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Regrets: Councillor Hunter

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Lisa Francis – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public and Media

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

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

Councillor Hunter provided regrets for the meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct 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 Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest made at the January 16, 2025, Special Council meeting.

**3. Adjournment to a Public Meeting:**

R2025-19

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the Special Council Meeting adjourn to a Public Meeting to hear from members of the public and receive correspondence regarding the possible disposal of the Discovery Centre property at 270 Water Street, excluding the eastern portion, and to reconvene following the Public Meeting.**

A member of Council expressed concern that at the January 9, 2025, Finance and Labour Relations Committee budget meeting, a portion of the reserve funding for the Discovery Centre was removed. The member stated this precludes decision making ahead of public consultation.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

The Special Meeting adjourned to a Public Meeting at 5:34 p.m. and reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

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

The following By-law required First and Second Readings and Third and Final Readings:

**4.1 Confirmatory By-law**

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on January 16, 2025.

R2025-20

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT By-law 8-2025 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support

R2025-21

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor Henderson

**THAT By-law 8-2025 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

**5. Adjournment:**

R2025-22

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Wordofa

**THAT the January 16, 2025, Special Council Meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 5:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 6:23 P.M.