



Stratford City Council

Committee of the Whole In-camera Session

MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in In-camera Session on Monday, June 23, 2025, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford, ON N5A 6W1 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Adam Betteridge – Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Building and Planning Services, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Audrey Pascual – Deputy Clerk, Karmen Krueger – Director of Corporate Services, Paula Lombardi – City Solicitor

Prior to going to In-camera session, Item 1.0 was dealt with in open session.

Call to Order by Mayor Ritsma

1.0 Adjournment into In-camera Session

Motion by Councillor Henderson and Councillor Nijjar

THAT Committee of the Whole move into closed session to consider the following matters:

- 4.1 Confidential Verbal Report from Councillor Hunter and Legal Opinion from the City Solicitor with respect to a Potential Litigation Matter (CM-25-14) - Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)).**

5.1 Confidential Report of the Interim Chief Administrative Officer with respect to Proposed Disposition of Land – 270 Water Street (CM-25-13) - 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)).

6.1 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to Applications for a Vacancy on the Committee of Adjustment (CM-25-12) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

Councillor Sebben requested that Item 5.1 be taken separately.

With respect to Item 4.1, Councillor Sebben stated that although Council may be permitted to provide direction in a closed session on this item that any direction should be given in open session. For Item 5.1, Councillor Sebben advised they do not support moving into closed session for this item, discussion should only be had after the fulsome report on public input is presented for consideration.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer advised the items noted are under the exemptions in the Municipal Act dealing with negotiations.

Councillor Henderson noted one of the letters received is marked 'privileged and confidential' and that permission would be required to deal with that item in open session.

Councillor Wordofa now present at the In-camera Session at 4:34 p.m.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on Items 4.1 and 6.1.

Carried

On item 5.1, Councillor Sebben requested a recorded vote. Councillor Sebben noted this discussion should occur after Council decides on whether to dispose of the subject property.

Councillor Hunter noted that if the intent is to sell the land for \$1.00 they would be opposed. If the intent is to sell the land for \$20 million then they would be in favour.

Councillor Hunter further noted that Council can give guidance to the City's Solicitor and senior staff on what is to be negotiated and then be in a position to vote on the matter.

A recorded vote was taken on Item 5.1.

In Support (10): Councillor Biehn, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Briscoe, Councillor Wordofa, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Burbach

Opposed (1): Councillor Sebben

Carried

The meeting then adjourned to an In-camera Session at 4:37 p.m.