



Stratford City Council Special Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #:	4616th
Date:	Friday, May 29, 2020
Time:	12:00 P.M.
Location:	Electronically
Council Present In Council Chamber:	Mayor Mathieson - Chair Presiding
Council Present Electronically:	Councillor Beatty, *Councillor Bunting, *Councillor Burbach, *Councillor Clifford, Councillor Gaffney, Councillor Henderson, *Councillor Ingram, Councillor Ritsma, Councillor Sebben, *Councillor Vassilakos
Staff Present in Council Chamber:	Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Mike Beitz - Corporate Communications Lead
Staff Present Electronically:	Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Jacqueline Mockler - Director of Human Resources, David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Janice Beirness - Acting Director of Corporate Services, Michelle Pinto - Project Engineer, Allison Jordan - Events Coordinator, Joani Gerber – CEO investStratford, Jodi Akins – Council-Clerk Secretary, Naeem Khan – Manager of IT and Business Systems
Also Present Electronically:	Members of the public and media

1. Call to Order:

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

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

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the May 29, 2020 Special Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Addendum to the Council Agenda:

R2020-251

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Bunting

THAT the Addendum to the Special Council Agenda, be adopted as printed to include the Report for Item 4.2 - Stratford Al Fresco Project During COVID-19.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2020-252

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated May 25, 2020 be adopted as printed.

Carried

*The meeting moved to Item 5.2.

5. Orders of the Day:

5.1 Resolution - Weekend Road Closures of Lakeside Drive (COU20-071)

It was questioned whether the signage asking people to walk their bikes on the path could be installed permanently. The Director of Community Services advised staff would review.

The ability to use the arena, especially in the fall, was questioned. The Director of Community Services advised a decision has not been made on

how the arena will be used, including whether ice will be installed. A request was made for the length of this pilot project to be shortened to 10 weeks. This would reduce overall costs and provide Council with an opportunity to review the initiative and any additional considerations to be made, such as the opening of additional facilities.

Concerns related to increased volumes of traffic on neighbouring streets were expressed. It was questioned whether additional signs encouraging traffic to use specific routes would be installed. The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised additional signs can be installed indicating specific roads are closed. It is difficult to encourage drivers to take certain routes unless detour signs are added. Due to the temporary nature of this project it was not recommended detour signs be installed.

Support was expressed for reducing the time limit of this pilot. It was questioned whether the costs associated with this project could be funded through the Stratford Economic & Recovery Task Force budget. It was noted this item would be reviewed by internal staff and investStratford.

Support was expressed for limiting the pilot project to August 31, 2020, as it aligns with other initiatives that have been approved.

Clarification was requested on the staffing costs associated with this project. The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised setting up and taking down barricades and installing signs requires staff who will be re-directed from other road and sidewalk maintenance activities. Additional staff related costs could be incurred if barricades need to be re-installed.

Concerns related to accessibility and the costs associated with the pilot were expressed.

It was suggested the closure of Lakeside Drive should end at Front Street and then be reduced to one lane of traffic. It was noted that option was considered and that it would be more expensive to complete.

Discussion was held on available funding to assist those in need. It was suggested the City should consider a way to create a cycling path in and around the parks system.

A request was made for additional temporary accessible parking to be added between Queen Street and the bottom of Snake Hill. It was

suggested courtesy parking could also be added to ensure persons with accessibility needs that do not have an accessible parking permit are able to use these spaces.

Discussion was held on the feedback that has been received on this pilot project.

*Councillor Bunting, Councillor Burbach and Councillor Vassilakos departed the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

A request was made for the route to end at Front Street instead of Queen Street. It was questioned whether the costs associated with this project would be reduced if the closure ended at Front Street. The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised there may be some savings on signage but that there would still be the diversion of staff from other activities.

*Councillor Vassilakos returned to the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

*Councillor Clifford departed the meeting at 12:40 p.m., and returned at 12:41 p.m.

*Councillor Burbach returned at 12:42 p.m.

*Councillor Bunting returned at 12:46 p.m.

Discussion was held on the use of Lakeside Drive by residents and visitors.

R2020-253

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Ritsma

THAT the closure of Lakeside Drive from Waterloo Street to Queen Street on weekends, including the addition of signage, as outlined in report COU20-071 be approved until August 31, 2020;

AND THAT a review of the pilot project be undertaken by staff.

A request was made to amend the motion to stop the closure at Front Street instead of Queen Street. There was no seconder for this motion.

A request for a recorded vote was made.

Concern was expressed with shortening the route to Front Street as it could result in a pinch point for those in the area who will have to return

to the pathway. With the closure at Queen Street pedestrians/cyclists have the ability to travel in two directions.

In Support (10): Councillor Bunting, Councillor Vassilakos, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Burbach, Mayor Mathieson, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Ritsma, Councillor Clifford, Councillor Gaffney

Opposed (1): Councillor Sebben

Carried

A request was made for staff to review the installation of cycling infrastructure in the parks system and along the river.

R2020-254

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT a plan to install permanent cycling infrastructure in the parks system and around the river be referred to staff for development;

AND THAT the plan be reviewed by the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and considered by the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee.

Carried

It was questioned whether the motion on the Lakeside Drive closure included the provision that cyclists walk their bike on the path.

*Councillor Ingram departed the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

It was clarified the report advised signs would be installed reminding cyclists to walk their bike on the path and to ride on the road.

Further clarification was provided that cyclists are supposed to utilize the road. Support was expressed for reviewing the installation of permanent cycling infrastructure.

Discussion was held on the riding of bikes on paths and multi-use trails. A request was made for cyclists to be permitted to ride their bikes on the path. It was noted a motion to re-consider the Lakeside Drive matter would be required in order to consider permitting the riding of bicycles on the multi-use path.

5.2 Resolution - Stratford AI Fresco Project During COVID-19 (COU20-072)

A request was made to remove the installation of picnic tables at Memorial Gardens, including the Cenotaph, from the motion. The Legion expressed some concerns regarding this installation and requested additional details on the proposal.

R2020-255

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Seconded by Councillor Ingram

THAT the report entitled "Stratford AI Fresco Project During COVID-19" (COU20-072) be received for information;

AND THAT Council provide authorization to move forward with Phase One related to the installation of up to 50 tables and umbrellas in Market Square and Upper Queen's Park;

AND THAT consideration of a City of Stratford liquor with food licence application for public spaces or a Market Square public outdoor licensed area with set evening hours, be considered as part of a later Phase.

It was questioned whether some of the tables would be accessible. Members were advised the Committee will work to ensure this project is compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The cost to purchase the tables was questioned. The report outlined funding for these materials would be covered by the Stratford Economic Response & Recovery Task Force budget and from a grant they have applied for.

Clarification was requested on the concerns with the installation of tables on Tom Patterson Island. The concern is with respect to access and egress to and from the island. Concerns from Fire Services were noted and that the City would need to ascertain any concerns from Huron Perth Public Health. At this time this location, along with Memorial Gardens, has been removed in order for the Committee to move forward with Phase One.

It was questioned whether these two locations could be approved in principle, subject to approval from Huron Perth Public Health and the Legion. Concern was expressed that the Legion and the Army Navy

should be presented with a full proposal prior to approval by the City. With respect to Tom Patterson Island, it was noted a review needs to be completed on whether social distancing can occur and how individuals would access the island over the bridge. It was noted this could be reviewed for consideration at the June 8, 2020 Regular Council meeting.

It was questioned and confirmed that an additional report on the liquor with food licence application would be presented for consideration by Council. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario is also considering how these proposals will work. At this time the City must wait to see whether any amendments are made to the legislation. It was noted many people are not aware the City remains under a provincial order and that some proposals or initiatives cannot be implemented until directed by the Province. Confirmation was provided that the proposal is permissible under the provincial order.

Concern was expressed with the issuance of the addendum. A request was made for this matter to be referred to the June 8, 2020 Regular Council meeting in order to provide Council and members of the public with additional time to review the proposal. There was no seconder for the motion.

It was questioned how the tables will be secured, protected and managed. Members were advised the tables could be secured, the area could be monitored and that restrictions on their use can be implemented.

Support for the proposal was expressed as the tables can be used for other initiatives and events. Clarification was requested on the owner of the tables. It is anticipated the Stratford City Center Business Improvement Area will be the owner and that this will be finalized following receipt of additional details on the grant application.

The length of time for the project was questioned and it was noted there is currently no end date. The storage of the tables was questioned and it was noted the tables do not need to be stored indoors.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

*The meeting then moved to Item 5.1.

6. Reading of the By-laws:

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

R2020-256

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded By Councillor Vassilakos

THAT By-law 73-2020 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2020-257

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Seconded By Councillor Clifford

THAT By-law 73-2020 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

6.1 Confirmatory By-law 73-2020

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on May 29, 2020.

7. Adjournment:

R2020-258

Moved by Councillor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the May 29, 2020 Special Council Meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:09 P.M.

Mayor - Daniel B. Mathieson

Clerk – Tatiana Dafoe