



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #: 4638th
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Location: Electronically

Council Present in
Council Chambers: 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 Chambers: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe -
City Clerk, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk

Staff Present
Electronically: David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, Ed Dujlovic -
Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Kim
McElroy - Director of Social Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief,
Janice Beirness - Director of Corporate Services, Jodi Akins -
Council Clerk Secretary, Naeem Khan – Manager of IT and
Business Systems, Jonathan DeWeerd – Chief Building Official,
Jeff Leunissen – Interim Manager of Planning, Alex Burgess –
Manager of Ontario Works, Eden Grodzinski – Manager of
Housing

1. Call to Order:

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

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 declarations of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the November 23, 2020 Regular Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2020-646

Motion by Councillor Bunting

Seconded by Councillor Ritsma

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meetings dated October 29, 2020 and Regular Meeting of Council dated November 9, 2020 of The Corporation of the City of Stratford be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

R2020-647

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the Addendum to the Regular Agenda of Council and Standing Committees dated November 23, 2020 be added to the Agenda to include item 8.1.

Carried

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

5.1 From the November 9, 2020 Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:

- Security of municipal property of the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(a));

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)), And Labour relations or employee negotiations (section 239.(2)(d));
- 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.

At the In-camera Session, direction was given on all items.

5.2 At the November 19, 2020 Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, a matter concerning the following item was considered:

- Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)), 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.

5.3 At the November 23, 2020, Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b));
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- Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b));
- Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)), 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 on 7 items related to personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) and on 1 item for advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege 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.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

6.1 Presentation by United Way

R2020-648

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the presentation by Ryan Erb regarding an update on the activities of the United Way be heard.

Carried

Ryan Erb, Executive Director at Perth-Huron United Way, provided a presentation to Council regarding an update on United Way activities. Highlights of the presentation included:

- work done in partnership with the City of Stratford during COVID-19;
- the distribution of almost \$1.1 million through the Local Love in a Global Crisis initiative;
- extending hours of staff time to ensure records are being kept up to date during COVID-19;
- the launching of helpdlocalgood.ca portal and Facebook group to continue sharing information and connect with those in need;
- helping over 600 people through the Urgent Need Fund;

- the launching of applications in the next two weeks for the All Together campaign to support hospitality workers in Stratford;
- research noting that the finances of non-profits have been negatively impacted and using this data to leverage conversations related to funding from other levels of government;
- the Transformative Resilience pilot project through partnership with the University of Guelph;
- challenges related to homelessness during COVID-19;
- promotion of the living wage network and encouraging adoption of the program in Stratford;
- a forum that was held by the Social Research & Planning Council on the basic income process;
- the United Way's DEB Talk to raise awareness on issues facing women in the community;
- the City's raising and grant total to United Way being over \$45,000 last year; and,
- the fundraising goal of \$1.762 million by the United Way in 2020.

A member expressed support for the holding of additional sessions in the future focusing on issues women are facing in the community.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Committee of Adjustment Electronic Signatures (COU20-182)

R2020-649

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT Procedural By-law #113-98 be amended to permit electronic signatures on decision documents signed by Committee of Adjustment members when electronic meetings of the Committee are permitted;

AND THAT the Clerk be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend Procedural By-law #113-98 to give effect to the proposed changes contained in Report COU20-182.

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Municipal Accommodation Tax Project and Stratford Tourism Alliance Review Update (COU20-183)

R2020-650

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the report entitled "Municipal Accommodation Tax Project and Stratford Tourism Alliance Review Update" (COU20-183) be received;

THAT direction is given with respect to halting development of a Municipal Accommodation Tax and a Stratford Tourism Alliance review at this time;

THAT retaining a consultant to develop a tourism strategy for the City, be referred to the 2021 budget;

AND THAT staff work with Destination Stratford to obtain consultant quotes and to identify funding options for budget deliberations.

The City Clerk advised the purpose of the report was to provide Council with an update on the Municipal Accommodation Tax Project and the requested review of the Stratford Tourism Alliance. As a result of COVID-19 both projects were put on hold.

The Stratford Tourism Alliance began piloting a new business model with increased focus on destination management and development and resolve to represent all local tourism related businesses, including changing their name to Destination Stratford. Due to these changes and the impacts of COVID-19, staff recommended deferral of these two projects and that consideration be given to the completion of a Tourism Strategy for the City, through engagement with a consultant.

A question and answer period ensued between staff and Members of Council regarding:

- working with Destination Stratford to obtain consultant quotes for a Tourism Strategy to bring back as a project in the 2021 budget;
- the review of short-term rentals to be undertaken with Destination Stratford involved in an advisory capacity;

- whether a Tourism Study would come out of the City's budget or Destination Stratford's budget; and,
- Zoning By-law amendments being brought back in early 2021 based on Council direction.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - Britannia Phase 2 Development Plans (COU20-184)

R2020-651

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT Council approve the development of Phase 2 Britannia St. Affordable Housing project;

THAT Council authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and Director of Social Services to enter into a Contribution Agreement for Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) funding;

THAT Council authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and Director of Social Services to sign and submit a Declaration of Integrity and relevant documents for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding opportunities.

THAT Council authorize an exemption from the Purchasing Policy to allow for the sole sourcing of an architecture firm for Phase 2;

THAT SRM Architects Inc. be retained as the architecture firm for Phase 2;

THAT staff be authorized to issue a tender for a Project Manager in accordance with the City's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;

AND THAT Council endorse the need for one additional staff resource for property/resident management services in the 2022 operating budget of the Housing Division.

A question and answer period ensued between staff and Members of Council regarding:

- consulting tenants with respect to phase 2 of the development and implementing balconies for private space;
- ongoing discussions with the developer of adjacent property but no firm timelines on development;

- the hiring of additional staff being for property management and not specifically at Britannia Street; and,
- the additional staff budget request being recommended for 2022 to allow time for Council consideration.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.4 Resolution - Extension of Agreement for Integrity Commissioner Services (COU20-185)

R2020-652

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Clifford

THAT the agreement dated December 18, 2018 between Robert J. Swayze and The Corporation of the City of Stratford for provision of Integrity Commissioner services be extended for a further two year term to December 9, 2022.

Carried

7.5 Resolution - Supply and Deliver Regular Gasoline, Clear and Coloured Diesel Tender Results (COU20-186)

R2020-653

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Gaffney

THAT T-2020-37 to supply and deliver regular gasoline and clear and coloured diesel be awarded to MacEwen Petroleum for bulk deliveries to the Stratford Service Centre and to Dowler Karn Ltd. for bulk deliveries to the St. Mary's Service Center from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 .

A member expressed interest in moving towards hybrid and electric vehicles to reduce this budget line.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.6 Resolution - Revisions to the City of Stratford Sign By-law No. 159-2004 (COU20-187)

R2020-654

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Henderson
THAT Council receive for information this report on possible revisions to Sign By-law 159-2004;

AND THAT staff advertise Notice of Intent to amend the Sign By-law in accordance with Schedule 3 of Notice policy (C.3.10)

A question and answer period ensued between staff and Members of Council regarding:

- contacting by-law enforcement staff with issues related to oversized signs being placed in the City beyond what is permitted in the Sign By-law; and,
- being proactive in addressing Sign By-law contravention under current staffing levels.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

8.1 Proposed Cost Sharing Agreement with Xinyi Canada Glass Limited

At the November 17, 2020 Special Council meeting, members of the public were advised that an information update would be provided on the proposed cost sharing agreement with Xinyi Canada Glass Limited.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that additional information and questions raised with respect to this item will be posted on the City's website as soon as possible. Updates on the proposed agreement will also be provided as soon as possible.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

9.1 Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee:

R2020-655

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Councillor Gaffney

THAT the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated November 23, 2020 be adopted as printed.

Carried

9.1.1 Extension of the Water and Sewage Billing Services Agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for One Year (ITS20-20)

THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford extends the existing contract with Festival Hydro Inc. for one year at an unchanged rate of \$3.30 per invoice;

THAT a follow-up report be prepared in 2021 outlining the rationale for the costs of this service;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the necessary amending agreement.

9.1.2 Stratford Landfill Public Input Invited October 2020 (ITS20-021)

THAT Council consider any comments received;

AND THAT the report on the Stratford Landfill Public Input Invited October 2020 (ITS20-021) be received for information.

9.2 Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee:

R2020-656

Motion by Councillor Clifford

Seconded by Councillor Gaffney

THAT the Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee dated November 23, 2020 be adopted as printed.

Carried

9.2.1 Operating Budget Variance Report as at September 30, 2020 (FIN20-018)

THAT the Operating Budget Variance report as of September 30, 2020 be received for information.

10. Notice of Intent:

None scheduled.

11. Reading of the By-laws:

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

R2020-657

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 150-2020 to 151-2020 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2020-658

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Bunting

THAT By-laws 150-2020 to 151-2020 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2020-659

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Seconded by Councillor Clifford

THAT By-laws 150-2020 to 151-2020 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.1 Addendum Agreement for Water and Sewage Billing and Collection Services - By-law 150-2020

To authorize the entering into and execution of an Addendum Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Stratford and Festival Hydro Inc. for water and sewage billing and collection services for a one-year period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

11.2 Acceptance of Tender for Supply and Delivery of Gasoline and Diesel - By-law 151-2020

To authorize the acceptance of the tender and the undertaking of the work for the supply and delivery of regular gasoline, clear and coloured diesel from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 [T-2020-37].

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2020-104 to CA-2020-110

12.1 CA-2020-104

R2020-660

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT CA-2020-104, being correspondence from Spruce Lodge Long Term Care requesting improvements to long term care staffing from the Minister of Long Term Care, be endorsed.

Carried

12.2 CA-2020-104

R2020-661

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT CA-2020-110, being correspondence from Upper Thames River Conservation Authority regarding proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act introduced through Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19, be endorsed;

AND THAT the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act – Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

AND WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without Conservation Authority's watershed data and expertise;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on Conservation Authority Boards should be a municipal decision, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Authority Board should be duly elected;

AND WHEREAS the Changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a Conservation Authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approval through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

AND WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents, municipalities value the conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards, and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- **That the Province of Ontario Work with conservation authorities and municipalities to address their concerns by repealing and/or amending changes to the Conversation Authorities Act and the Planning Act.**
- **That the Province of Ontario delay enactment of clauses affecting municipal concerns.**
- **That the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of Conservation Authority municipal budget processes.**
- **That the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships.**
- **That the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.**

Carried

12.3 CA-2020-105

R2020-662

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT CA-2020-105, being a Resolution from the Township of Amaranth regarding proposed changes regarding ranked ballot voting and the municipal nomination period included in Bill 218, be endorsed.

Carried

13. New Business:

13.1 Council and Committee Proxy Voting

R2020-663

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT Staff be directed to prepare a report on proxy voting provisions for members at meetings of Council and Committees of Council.

Carried

13.2 Movies Under the Stars

A member raised a question regarding community use of the movies under the stars drive-in for various activities over the Christmas season and the possible timing for Council consideration.

Mayor Mathieson stated that a completed application has been received and that staff will be preparing a report to bring forward at an upcoming Special meeting of Council.

13.3 Woman Abuse Prevention Month

A member stated a reminder that November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month and that everyone has been wearing purple to show their support. November 25, 2020 is the official day of support.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

The next Regular Council meeting is December 14, 2020.

R2020-664

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Ritsma

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

- **Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee [3:05 p.m. or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting];**
 - **Social Services Committee [3:10 p.m. or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- and to Committee of the Whole if necessary, and to reconvene into Council.**

Carried

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 November 23, 2020 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

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the November 23, 2020 reconvene Council meeting.

15.2 Committee Reports

15.2.1 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee

R2020-665

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Councillor Ingram

THAT Item 4.1 of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting dated November 23, 2020 be adopted as follows:

4.1 Proposed Amendment to Building By-law #112-2005 including fee Schedule 'A' (ITS20-024)

THAT Council approve an amendment to the Building By-law #112-2005 and increase permit fees for all types of building permits as of January 1, 2021.

Carried

15.3 Reading of the By-laws (reconvene):

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:

By-law 152-2020 - Revise Building Permit Fees

To amend By-law 112-2005 as amended, to revise building permit fees effective January 1, 2021 and to make housekeeping amendments.

By-law 153-2020 - Confirmatory By-law

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on November 23, 2020.

R2020-666

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 152-2020 to 153-2020 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2020-667

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT By-laws 152-2020 to 153-2020 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2020-668

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 152-2020 to 153-2020 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

15.4 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2020-669

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Ritsma
THAT the November 23, 2020 Regular Council meeting adjourn.
Carried

Meeting Start Time: 3:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 3:46 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 3:52 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 3:54 P.M.

Mayor - Daniel B. Mathieson

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe