



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: May 26, 2021
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Vassilakos - Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach - Vice Chair, Councillor Gaffney, Councillor Sebben

Regrets: Councillor Ingram

Staff Present: Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure 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 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 May 26, 2021 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

4.1 Lakeside Drive Transportation Review (ITS21-021)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Staff discuss with Festival Theatre representatives the temporary road closure of Lakeside Drive for the month of August;

AND THAT Staff report back to Council regarding temporary road closure considerations.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services reviewed the four options that were considered in 2020. The final decision of Council was to close Lakeside Drive on weekends between Waterloo and Queen Streets.

Council requested an update on the success of the program in late July 2020 and the findings showed that there was an 80% increase in cyclist traffic on weekends. Public Works staff advised set-up was fairly easy to accommodate at a low cost. Staff believe the program achieved the goal of promoting active transportation and maintaining physical distancing.

Staff are not recommending pursuing the other options discussed at the May 2020 Council meeting as more studies should be conducted prior to introducing more restrictive traffic movements.

The 2021 season is expected to have increased traffic volume with the opening up of the province. The staff recommendation was reviewed.

It was clarified by a Sub-committee member that one of the options was incorrect and should be a one-way for cars and bi-directional active transportation on the other side.

It was also noted that the Downtown Traffic Study discusses a different section of road than what is being considered here and the impacts would be different.

It was noted that Stratford Summer Music would like to proceed with weekend closures. It was suggested the Stratford Festival may enjoy a reduction in noise from weekend closures and that the closure could begin after the Tom Patterson Theatre driveway.

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Staff discuss with Festival Theatre and Stratford Summer Music representatives the temporary road closure of Lakeside Drive for the months of July and August;

AND THAT Staff report back to Council regarding temporary road closure considerations.

Carried

5. Report of the Project Manager

5.1 Queen Street Major Storm Trunk Sewer Public Engagement and Recommendation (ITS21-018)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the description of the proposed design for the Queen Street Major Storm Trunk Sewer Project be received for information;

THAT the comments from the online public engagement session be received for information;

AND THAT the design for the Queen Street Major Storm Trunk Sewer Project be accepted and staff be authorized to proceed with construction tendering.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised that in the early 2000's there were several severe rainfall incidents that led to some environmental assessment and master plan studies being completed. A majority of the larger scale projects have been put in place and this project is one of the remaining outstanding items.

The purpose of the project was explained and it was noted it has been included in previous budgets with the hopes of receiving funding. Staff are now looking to fund it through long-term financing and the project was included in the 2021 budget.

Staff recently conducted a virtual public engagement session and included timelines, potential impacts to residents and frequently asked questions.

A high-level explanation of the project was given. Open excavation will occur down by the Theatre and it is anticipated 11 trees will be

removed. Staff have been in contact with the Festival to discuss workarounds to minimize impact on their shows.

The main concerns noted from the public engagement were noise, hours of operation, traffic and vibrations. Responses to these concerns were provided in the frequently asked questions document. If approved to go to tender, the project will start in September 2021 and is anticipated to be completed by April 2022.

It was questioned whether staff had any concerns with completing this project and then undertaking a stormwater model master plan update and whether standards have changed. The Director stated that the studies and EA's that were completed in the 2000's did not have many alternate options than what is proposed.

It was also questioned whether any surface improvements would be completed. The Director responded that the areas that were excavated could be reviewed. It was suggested that any additional costs to add pedestrian infrastructure could be small compared to the overall cost of the project.

In response to whether the trees could be saved, the Director advised that due to the size of construction, the options were limited.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the description of the proposed design for the Queen Street Major Storm Trunk Sewer Project be received for information;

THAT the comments from the online public engagement session be received for information;

AND THAT the design for the Queen Street Major Storm Trunk Sewer Project be accepted and staff be authorized to proceed with construction tendering.

Carried

6. Report of the Deputy Clerk

6.1 Vehicle Idling By-law Amendments (ITS21-017)

Staff Recommendation: THAT By-law #133-2001 be amended to:

- reduce the permitted idling time to one (1) minute; and,

- remove the outside temperature exception for idling time limits;

AND THAT the Clerk be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend Vehicle Idling By-law #133-2001 to give effect to the proposed changes contained in Report ITS21-017.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Deputy Clerk advised this report is in follow-up to direction from Council for staff to review the City's Idling By-law. Staff have been working with the Energy and Environment Committee to review the by-law and best practices in other municipalities.

The two recommendations were reviewed and were found to be in line with the best practices in other municipalities. The Deputy Clerk noted the focus will be on education via new signs and a social media campaign.

Should Council approve the recommendations, a by-law amendment will be brought forward for consideration.

The amount of tickets that had been issued under the current by-law was questioned. Concerns were also noted with the difficulty of enforcement and the possibility that people may need to idle longer for various reasons. The Deputy Clerk advised he could review following a request from Sub-committee.

It was suggested that a by-law such as this is more about education than handing out tickets. It was also noted that it can be incorporated with other active transportation campaigns.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT By-law #133-2001 be amended to:

- reduce the permitted idling time to one (1) minute; and,
- remove the outside temperature exception for idling time limits;

AND THAT the Clerk be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend Vehicle Idling By-law #133-2001 to give effect to the proposed changes contained in Report ITS21-017.

Carried

7. Report of the Energy and Environment Committee

7.1 Resolution to Phase Out Ontario's Gas Plants (ITS21-015)

Staff Recommendation: THAT direction of City Council be given with respect to the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee resolution.

Sub-committee Discussion: The City Clerk advised that the Energy and Environment Committee is requesting Council's adoption or endorsement of the resolution included with the report.

It was noted that renewable natural gas is carbon neutral and it was suggested that the resolution be amended to clarify that it is only carbon based fuels that add carbon to the environment. Councillor Burbach, as the Energy and Environment Council representative, suggested that the change would be acceptable to the Committee and provided some background on the resolution. No direction was provided to amend the staff recommendation by the mover of the motion.

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Earth is on course toward a climate crisis, unless timely actions are taken to minimize the greenhouse effect;

AND WHEREAS the use of fossil fuels is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect because of the increasing amount of heat trapping Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere;

AND WHEREAS Stratford, along with other municipalities has declared a "Climate Emergency" and is considering a Carbon Net Zero goal to be achieved by 2050;

AND WHEREAS the 2050 Carbon Net Zero goal has been, and is being adopted by countries and governments at all levels, as well as by industries, social and economic institutions;

AND WHEREAS the most effective way of achieving that goal is through initiatives in reducing carbon footprint, and greening;

AND WHEREAS in the Province of Ontario, Electricity generation fueled by Natural gas contributes substantially to the province's carbon footprint and provides an opportunity for rapid reduction

of carbon dioxide emissions through the elimination of this form of generation;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of environmental and economic wellbeing for the province of Ontario, immediate action to replace the gas generators by sustainable zero carbon alternatives should be undertaken;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the City of Stratford strongly appeal to the Government of Ontario to immediately take steps to replace gas powered electrical generation with non-carbon based sustainable alternatives;

Be it further resolved that this resolution be circulated to Ontario municipalities and their organizations including AMO and OSUM for their consideration of support.

Carried

8. Report of the Fire Chief

8.1 2021 FedDev Ontario Airport Grant (ITS21-016)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report of the Fire Chief (ITS21-016) be received for information;

AND THAT City Council approve the application for FedDev grant funding in the amount of \$1.5 million for taxiway expansion at the Stratford Municipal Airport.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Fire Chief advised that this is a rare opportunity for municipal air transportation and reviewed the background noted in the report.

A national budget of \$206 million was recently announced to assist the air transportation industry with FedDev Ontario receiving \$24.2 million for southern Ontario airports that receive approved applications. This is not a shared funding initiative, nor does it require future repayment since municipal government is not-for-profit.

Expansion of the taxi-ways has been in the long term capital plans and is critical to expansion plans for new privately built hangars.

It was noted that if only half the application amount is approved, the taxi-way can be expanded by that amount. Increasing revenue at the airport

was included in the City's recent Service Delivery Review to move it closer to being cost-neutral.

It was questioned whether expansion of the taxi-ways would include any big ticket items that need long term maintenance. The Fire Chief responded that the taxi-ways last a long time and maintenance is built into the budget.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report of the Fire Chief (ITS21-016) be received for information;

AND THAT City Council approve the application for FedDev grant funding in the amount of \$1.5 million for taxiway expansion at the Stratford Municipal Airport.

Carried

9. Report of the City Clerk

9.1 Encroachment Application for 23-27-31 Avon Street (ITS21-020)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the application to permit six parking spaces to encroach on municipal property by the owner of 23-27-31 Avon Street, specifically:

- One parking space on the Avon Street road allowance on the west side of the existing sidewalk;
- Two parking spaces on the Avon Street road allowance on the east side of the existing sidewalk;
- Three existing parking spaces on the McLagan Drive road allowance with curb stops to ensure that vehicles do not park or extend over the sidewalk, be approved;

AND THAT the annual fee of \$1,497.31, adjusted yearly by the CPI, be added to the property tax bill for 23-27-31 Avon Street, Stratford.

Sub-committee Discussion: The City Clerk advised an encroachment application was received to permit six parking spaces to encroach on municipal property. Information was provided on the location of the spaces. Staff are recommending approval based on the revised application as outlined in the report.

Concern was expressed with setting a precedent and it was questioned whether the City has provided public property for private parking in a residential area previously. The Clerk advised that there are other properties that have encroachment agreements for private parking purposes.

It was questioned whether gravel areas would be removed. The Clerk advised the owner would be required to return those areas to grass cover and the only permitted spaces would be the ones outlined in the agreement, which would be registered on title to the property.

It was noted that staff were not in support of the original application. The revised application was re-circulated to staff and it was approved as the spaces no longer obstruct municipal services in the area. If additional parking spaces are required in the future, the owner would need to follow planning processes.

In response to why parking is not being located on the private portion of the property, the Clerk advised that these parking spaces have been long-standing and reiterated that any future development may require the complete relocation of all of the parking.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the application to permit six parking spaces to encroach on municipal property by the owner of 23-27-31 Avon Street, specifically:

- **One parking space on the Avon Street road allowance on the west side of the existing sidewalk;**
- **Two parking spaces on the Avon Street road allowance on the east side of the existing sidewalk;**
- **Three existing parking spaces on the McLagan Drive road allowance with curb stops to ensure that vehicles do not park or extend over the sidewalk, be approved;**

AND THAT the annual fee of \$1,497.31, adjusted yearly by the CPI, be added to the property tax bill for 23-27-31 Avon Street, Stratford.

Carried

10. Capital Project Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services provided the following highlights from the update:

- Most of the remediation from last year's construction projects is almost complete.
- Staff are focusing on completing design for 2021 capital projects to get them out to tender, including asphalt resurfacing, bridge and culvert work, sidewalk projects and pedestrian crossing improvements.
- The John Street Weir is now open and the asphalt plant is open so there is fresh asphalt for repairs.

In response to whether O'Loane Avenue would be receiving top-coat asphalt soon, the Director advised it was scheduled for late spring/early summer. It was requested that the overhead wire signs be removed.

It was noted that there have been no plan takers for the Romeo Street Resurfacing project yet. The Director advised that it is not uncommon for bids to be submitted in the days before it closes, however, usually there have been plan takers by this point.

With respect to the John Street Weir, it was asked who decides to do works in the weirs. The Director advised that the conservation authority manages it but he was not sure who decides whether they are decommissioned. A project had been recommended to enhance the T.J. Dolan area by installing recycled truck beds for a pedestrian and cycling bridge in this area should the weir be removed.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT staff contact the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to determine what their position is on the John Street Weir and report back to Sub-committee.

Carried

11. New Business

11.1 Green Bin Program

It was noted that when this program was approved, the initial proposal was for dual-trucks to be used to pick up both garbage and green bin waste. Presently, there are still two separate trucks completing collection.

A Member advised that she spoke with the Waste Reduction Coordinator and there is a dual-truck, but it is not yet travelling all of the routes.

The Fire Chief advised the contractor had purchased certain vehicles to complete the collection. It was not known how long the contractor would be using those vehicles and that it may take time to transition to dual-trucks.

It was questioned whether staff could reach out to the contractor for more information.

11.2 Fireworks

A Member advised that Council received a letter from a citizen concerned about fireworks being set off for many nights in a row around holiday weekends.

The Fire Chief stated that the City's Fireworks By-law is very restrictive and limits when they can be sold and set off. He noted that they cannot enforce the by-law unless a member of the public reports a violation. Members of the public can contact the Fire Department and they will enforce, if necessary.

The Clerk confirmed that leading up to holiday weekends, notices are placed in the Town Crier outlining when and where fireworks can be set off, among other information. It was suggested that staff work with the Corporate Communications Lead to enhance communications.

12. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of April 6, 2021
- Energy and Environment Advisory Committee minutes of April 1, 2021

13. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is June 30, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:30 P.M.