



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 13, 2023
Time: 7:38 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Anne Kircos - Director of Human Resources, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Johnny Bowes – Manager of Environmental Services, Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Jodi Akins – Council Clerk Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public and Media

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 February 13, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting.

3. Sub-committee Minutes

Sub-committee minutes were provided for background regarding the discussion held at the January 25, 2023, Sub-committee meeting.

4. Delegations

None scheduled.

5. Report of the Manager of Environmental Services

**5.1 Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2022
Infrastructure Review (ITS23-002)**

Staff Recommendation: THAT the DWQMS Infrastructure Review 2022 be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the DWQMS Infrastructure Review 2022 be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Motion by Mayor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

Committee Recommendation: THAT the DWQMS Infrastructure Review 2022 be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Carried

5.2 Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2022 Management Review (ITS23-003)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Management Review Minutes 2022 and Summary Table of Action Items 2022, be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Management Review Minutes 2022 and Summary Table of Action Items 2022, be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

Committee Recommendation: THAT the Management Review Minutes 2022 and Summary Table of Action Items 2022, be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Carried

6. Report of the Climate Change Programs Manager

6.1 Earth Day Canada 2023 (ITS23-004)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Staff be authorized to proceed with organizing the tree planting event as outlined in Report ITS23-004.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Staff be authorized to proceed with organizing the tree planting event as outlined in Report ITS23-004.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

Committee Recommendation: THAT Staff be authorized to proceed with organizing the tree planting event as outlined in Report ITS23-004.

Carried

7. Report of the Deputy Clerk

7.1 Amendment to Business Licensing By-law 187-2004 (ITS23-005)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Business Licensing By-law 187-2004, as amended, be further amended to increase the minimum commercial general liability requirements of all business licenses from \$2 million to \$5 million.

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

Committee Recommendation: THAT Business Licensing By-law 187-2004, as amended, be further amended to increase the minimum commercial general liability requirements of all business licenses from \$2 million to \$5 million.

Committee Discussion: A question and answer period ensued between members of Committee and staff regarding:

- whether the City will have increased premiums if the liability insurance requirement remained at \$2 million;
- the increased amount for insurance not directly affecting the City's insurance premiums but being a factor when the City's general risk factors are assessed;
- whether there were resources available to assist businesses with obtaining a \$5 million policy as some businesses indicated they may not be able to find it;
- each type of business having their own type of insurance and available providers;
- the City's insurer indicating that there are options available;
- City staff being available to assist if businesses have questions;
- the timeline for having to upgrade insurance being tied to the business licensing application process;
- whether special event requirements to obtain \$5 million liability insurance would revert to \$2 million if this motion was defeated;
- the City's insurer recommending that all insurance requirements for the City be increased to \$5 million and staff bringing them forward as needed;
- each municipality having different requirements but municipalities with a similar level of claim requiring \$5 million as well; and
- the intention to ensure the City is adequately covered in today's more litigious society.

A Committee member spoke against the motion and expressed concern with the proposed increase. Concern was noted that increased insurance expenses, along with an increased tax levy, would have a large impact on businesses.

It was noted by another Committee member that if an insurance claim is over \$2 million, taxpayers are on the hook for the rest and that it is prudent to increase the requirement.

A recorded vote was requested.

In Support (9): Councillor McCabe, Councillor Briscoe, Councillor Wordofa, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Beatty, Councillor hunter, Councillor Nijjar, Council Burbach

Opposed (2): Councillor Sebben, Councillor Biehn

Carried

8. For the Information of Committee

8.1 Department Update

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

- with respect to the Transportation Master Plan, staff will be receiving an alternative solutions update from the consultant soon, which will help guide recommendations to Council;
- the final Transportation Mater Plan I report is expected in the spring;
- the Engineering Division is drafting tenders for the upcoming construction year;
- the Portia watermain project included in the 2022 budget went to tender recently and is intended to improve water quality in that area;
- the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) required an emergency repair and tendering is underway;
- the significant amount of snowfall over Christmas kept Public Works staff busy for four days as a significant weather event was declared, meaning it is hazardous for drivers and pedestrians and may take longer to clear;
- with respect to the Climate Change working group, staff are working on a Corporate emissions plan that is underway, as well as a community emissions plan; and
- there are also notes from the Attainable housing project and it was noted they presented to Council recently.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mayor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

Committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:38 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 7:50 P.M.