



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: February 14, 2023

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Biehn

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Alex Burgess - Manager of Ontario Works, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Shannon Archer - Business and Integration Manager, Jeff Wilson - Manager of Housing, Kelly Stone – Supervisor of Social Services - Housing, Tatiana Dafoe - Clerk

Also present: Member of the public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Biehn provided regrets for this meeting.

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

Councillor Briscoe declared a pecuniary interest on Item 5.2, "Salvation Army Tax Program – Stratford and North Perth (SOC23-008)," as she is an employee of the Salvation Army.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Manager of Housing

4.1 200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Project Update (SOC23-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Update" (SOC23-009), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Housing provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- construction going well with masonry work being completed on the outside of the building and drywall on the inside;
- staff getting ready to release the application for tenants by the end of February;
- staff working with community partners including investStratford; and
- the first move-ins expected to begin in June 2023.

It was questioned whether the 14 units available at 80% of the local alternate average market rent were because of Bill 23. The Manager advised that part of the funding for this project was received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and that funding had to be used for 80% market rent units.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Update" (SOC23-009), be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works

5.1 2022 Employment Outcomes Update (SOC23-007)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "2022 Employment Outcomes Update" (COU23-007), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion:

Councillor Wordofa now present at the Sub-committee meeting at 4:33 p.m.

The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- the report highlighting the outcomes that the City, as the Service Manager, is measured on each year by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services;
- caseload targets being set each year that impact the budget and could result in penalties if they are not achieved;
- final numbers being received, and full points being achieved on all three targets, which means there is no chance of a contractual penalty;
- all four categories exceeded provincial averages; and
- the average monthly employment earnings being generally on the lower side, but exceeded the provincial average for this budget cycle.

Staff were congratulated for exceeding the targets.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "2022 Employment Outcomes Update" (COU23-007), be received for information.

Carried

5.2 Salvation Army Tax Program – Stratford and North Perth (SOC23-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to enter into two agreements with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada to deliver the income tax program in Stratford and North Perth, respectively;

THAT City Council delegates its approval authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute annual renewal agreements with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada to deliver the income tax program in Stratford and North Perth, subject to no contract performance issues or amendments to funding identified by the City;

AND THAT Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate Council's authority to enter into income tax program agreements on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Briscoe, having declared a pecuniary interest on this item, left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services advised this is a longstanding program that the City has a purchase of service agreement for with the Salvation Army. The Manager of Ontario Works reviewed the management report and provided the following highlights:

- the program has been running since 2013;
- it has grown from 200 returns completed in 2013 to over 600 in 2021;
- in 2018, North Perth joined the program, completing 75-100 returns per year in Listowel;
- participants being able to complete several years of returns if required; and
- the program being funded 100% through the Ontario Works Employment Supports budget.

The Manager noted per return cost has increased from \$25.00 to \$40.00 as costs have increased locally. Despite increased costs, 800 returns have

been included in the budget. It was noted that the program is important as many provincial tax credits or programs require up to date income tax information to participate.

The Chair noted this program is of great benefit to the participants and thanked staff for continuing to bring it forward.

Motion by Councillor Wordofa

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to enter into two agreements with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada to deliver the income tax program in Stratford and North Perth, respectively;

THAT City Council delegates its approval authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute annual renewal agreements with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada to deliver the income tax program in Stratford and North Perth, subject to no contract performance issues or amendments to funding identified by the City;

AND THAT Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate Council's authority to enter into income tax program agreements on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer.

Carried

Having declared a pecuniary interest, Councillor Briscoe remained absent from the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or the vote on this item.

6. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is March 22, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Councillor Briscoe returned to the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:39 P.M.