



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #: 4723rd
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Greg Skinner, Stratford Police Services Police Chief, Mike Mousley – Manager of Transit, Brad Hernden – Manager of Recreation and Marketing, Zac Gribble – CEO of Destination Stratford

Also Present: Members of the public and media

1. Call to Order:

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

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Singing of O Canada

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

Councillor Biehn declared a pecuniary interest on Item 9.1.1, "Request for Noise Control By-law Exemption - Jubilee Stratford (ITS23-017)", as her husband is the pastor of the Church seeking the Noise Control By-law exemption.

Councillor Briscoe declared a pecuniary interest on Item 9.2.1, "Proposed Exemption from Sign By-law 159-2004, 35 Waterloo Street North (PLA23-008)." Councillor Briscoe currently volunteers with Stratford Perth Care for Kids whom is a tenant of the building and attends EarlyON classes at the address in question with a family member and she is a registered EarlyON participant; which is under Perth Care for Kids.

Councillor Wordofa declared a pecuniary interest on Item 9.2.1, "Proposed Exemption from Sign By-law 159-2004, 35 Waterloo Street North (PLA23-008)."

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2023-298

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated June 12, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

There was no addendum to the June 26, 2023, Regular Council agenda.

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

5.1 June 26, 2023, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session

The June 26, 2023, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session was cancelled.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

6.1 Presentation of the Stratford Public Library 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

R2023-299

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT the delegation by Krista Robinson, on behalf of the Stratford Public Library Board of Directors, be heard.

Carried

Krista Robinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Stratford Public Library, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Library's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the mission and vision of the Stratford Public Library;
- an overview of the 2019-2022 strategic goals and the goals being reviewed every four years;
- the many successes of the Stratford Public Library during the 2019-2022 term including various successful projects coming out of the strategic goals;
- how people learn having evolved over the past several years and the impact on library resources and services in order to meet demands;
- Overlap Associates having been contracted in 2022 to review new strategic goals for the library; and
- five new strategic directions having been approved by the library board including aligning space with demand, reach out and bring in, lead grounded practice, build sustainable partnerships to expand capacity, and intentionally supporting our team.

A question and answer period was held with respect to

- the amazing work the library does and the library being a critical community resource for Stratford; and
- the need for more space being important to recognize and the library being included in Grand Trunk discussions.

Mayor Ritsma thanked Ms. Robinson and all library staff and for sharing the strategic plan and vision for the future for the library.

6.2 Public Meeting - Zone Change Application Z01-23 and Official Plan Amendment Application OPA01-23 for 198 Mornington Street (COU23-079)

R2023-300

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the Council meeting adjourn to a public meeting under the Planning Act to hear Zone Change Application Z01-23 and Official Plan Amendment Application OPA01-23 for 198 Mornington Street, to reconvene at the conclusion of the public meeting.

Carried

The Regular Council meeting adjourned to a Public Meeting at 7:15 p.m., and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

6.3 Presentation of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services and Greg Skinner, Chief of Police of Stratford Police Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the Community Safety and Well-being Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- it being provincially mandated for municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan;
- the framework of the Plan including four levels of intervention including social development, prevention, risk intervention and incident response;
- a joint plan having been submitted in May of 2021 by six local municipalities;
- the CSWB Advisory Committee meeting monthly to address challenges and gaps in service delivery to help meet the purpose of the Plan;
- community feedback and engagement playing a significant role in the development of the Plan;
- several programs and initiatives already being underway in the community to support the Plan;

- priority areas of the Plan including systems, plans and integration, adequate, affordable, and attainable housing, affordable and accessible health, social and recreational services, and social inclusion; and
- an overview of key outcomes and initiatives completed or underway to date.

Mayor Ritsma thanked Ms. McElroy and Chief Skinner for their leadership with this project and for involving so many Stratford and Perth County agencies.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Municipal Cultural Plan (COU23-080)

Sam Mitjavile, Anjuli Solanki and Madison Kennedy, from STEPS Public Art, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Municipal Cultural Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- STEPS having been contracted by the City in partnership with Destination Stratford to develop the City's first Municipal Cultural Plan;
- The Plan supporting three of the City's Strategic Priorities;
- the cultural planning process being community focused, inclusive, dynamic and composed of three phases including discovery, design, and delivery;
- the community engagement process including consultation with various stakeholders and a review of current cultural assets within the City and the downtown core;
- an overview of the key components of the Plan including the mission and vision, guiding principles, and pathways;
- pathways identified in the Plan including numerous goals and recommendations for consideration;
- the first step in actioning the Plan being to identify an appropriate governance structure for overseeing implementation; and
- potential costs, timelines, and roles and responsibilities being outlined in the report related to each action item in the Plan.

A question and answer period was held with respect to:

- STEPS Public Art being a national organization with a head office in Toronto and staff members across Ontario, Quebec and Alberta;
- the general goal of the Plan being to achieve the vision presented and providing a series of key priorities for first year implementation; and
- the identification of an appropriate governance structure for the plan being done in parallel to the City's governance review.

R2023-301

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Municipal Cultural Plan be received;

THAT the \$65,000 available in the 2023 budget be re-allocated to hire a consultant on a short-term to lead the first year priorities and actions of the Municipal Cultural Plan;

AND THAT the consultant and staff explore funding opportunities and partnerships to create an organizational structure and funding model for inclusion in the City of Stratford 2024 budget.

Discussion continued regarding:

- staff not having the capacity at this time to take on the project should the recommendation to hire a consultant not be approved;
- there being many partnerships to utilize in implementing the Plan and no duplication existing in other committee activities;
- STEPS Public Art being a national charitable public organization; and
- staff intent through the recommendation being to issue an RFP for additional work and to using that to come back with a recommendation.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Exchange Two (2) Part-Time Custodian Positions to one (1) Full-Time Custodian Position (COU23-078)

R2023-302

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT the request to move one (1) Part-Time Custodian position to one (1) Full-Time Custodian position, be approved;

AND THAT two (2) Part-Time Custodian positions be eliminated.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - Fuel Storage Tanks at the Stratford Municipal Airport (COU23-081)

R2023-303

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT the Tender (T-2023-14) for the Airport Fuel Tanks Replacement work be awarded to Claybar Contracting Inc. at the tender price of \$519,733.33, including HST;

THAT the full purchase amount be funded from R-R11-AIRP;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the necessary Contract Agreement for Tender T-2023-14.

Carried

7.4 Resolution - Milton Street Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Replacement – Tender T-2023-31 Award (COU23-082)

R2023-304

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the Tender (T-2023-31) for the Replacement of the Tennis and Pickleball Court at the Milton Street Park be awarded to Toronto Court Equipment at the tender price of \$258,770.00, including HST;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign tender contract documents as necessary for Tender T-2023-31.

A question and answer period was held with respect to:

- tournaments not being planned for at this time but future discussions with the Stratford Pickleball Association potentially resulting in the addition of more tournaments;
- the material for the resurfacing being acrylic with two layers which is more stable; and
- the court shifting slightly away from neighboring residents but the footprint of the court remaining the same.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

Carried

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

None scheduled.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

9.1 Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee:

R2023-305

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Sebben

THAT Items 9.1.2 and 9.1.3 of the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as printed.

It was questioned whether the agreement had been received for Item 9.1.2. The City Clerk clarified that the resolution can be adopted but that staff are requesting the by-law be deferred as the final agreement has not been received.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

Carried

R2023-306

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT Item 9.1.1 of the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as printed.

A question and answer period was held with respect to:

- complaints having been received previously regarding this event and residents being able to enjoy their outdoor space in the summer without excessive noise;
- not having the capacity to determine unreasonable levels of noise;
- reaching out to the church regarding placement of the speaker; and
- waiting to see how the first Sunday goes before determining whether to approve the request.

Councillor Henderson put forward a motion to amend the main motion to approve the request subject to no complaints being received following the first Sunday. As no seconder was received, the motion was not considered.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the main motion.

Defeated

Councillor Biehn, having declared a pecuniary interest on this matter, did not participate in the discussion or vote.

9.1.1 Request for Noise Control By-law Exemption - Jubilee Stratford (ITS23-017)

THAT approval be given to the event organizers at Jubilee Stratford located at 707 Downie Street for an exemption to Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the outdoor Sunday Service every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. commencing Sunday, July 2, 2023, until Sunday, September 3, 2023, and for an additional service on Sunday, August 6, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., from the following provisions:

- Unreasonable noise [Schedule 1 clause 8],
- The operation of loudspeakers and amplification of sound [Schedule 2 Clause 2].

9.1.2 Master Service Agreement and Statements of Work between City of Stratford and Circular Materials (CMO) for Blue Box Services from May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 (ITS23-016)

THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Circular Materials Ontario for the City of Stratford to be the service provider for Blue Box program recycling services for the Transition Period of May 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025;

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

9.1.3 Request for Delegation by Jason Azevedo and Melanie Hepburn

THAT staff prepare a report regarding the use of large quadricycles on City streets for consideration by Sub-committee.

9.2 Report of the Planning and Heritage Committee:

R2023-307

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT Item 9.2.2 of the Report of the Planning and Heritage Committee dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried

R2023-308

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT Item 9.2.1 of the Report of the Planning and Heritage Committee dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried

Councillor Briscoe and Councillor Wordofa, having declared a pecuniary interest on this matter, did not participate in the discussion or vote.

9.2.1 Proposed Exemption from Sign By-law 159-2004, 35 Waterloo Street North (PLA23-008)

THAT Option 3, being approval of a sign variance request for five (5) ground floor signs at 35 Waterloo Street North, provided the applicant enters into an encroachment agreement with the City for the signs and fence installed on City property and that proper design documents are provided with the sign permit application, be approved.

**9.2.2 Proposed Exemption from Sign By-law 159-2004, 30
Queensland Road (PLA23-007)**

THAT the sign variance for one (1) Construction sign located at 30 Queensland Road be approved, subject to the owner applying and receiving a building permit for the sign as required in the Ontario Building Code.

9.3 Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee:

R2023-309

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried

**9.3.1 Q1 Operating Budget Variance Report at March 31, 2023
(FIN23-017)**

THAT the Q1 Operating Variance Report at March 31, 2023, attached to Report FIN23-017, be received for information.

10. Notice of Intent:

10.1 Notice of Motion

At the July 10, 2023, Regular Council meeting, Councillor Burbach intends to put forward the following motion for consideration:

“THAT the following resolution be endorsed:

Whereas, all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;

Whereas, municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse;

Whereas, several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst members of municipal councils;

Whereas, these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments;

Whereas, municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour;

Whereas, municipal governments do not have the necessary tools to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the City of Stratford supports the call of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments;

Also be it resolved that the legislation encompass the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's recommendations for:

1. Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment
2. Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario
3. Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province
4. Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner
5. Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the
6. subsequent term of office

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for endorsement."

11. Reading of the By-laws:

11.1 Reading of By-law 68-2023

The following By-law required Third and Final Readings:

68-2023 - To provide for the repair and improvements to the Kelly Drain 2023 in the City of Stratford.

R2023-310

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT By-law 68-2023 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

A member questioned where the Kelly Drain is located. The City Clerk advised it is located partially in Stratford and partially in Perth East. The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services further noted that it was located on Vivian Line.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

Carried

11.2 Reading of By-laws 80-2023 and 81-2023

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

R2023-311

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT consideration of By-law 11.2.2 "Agreement with Circular Materials Ontario for Services Related to Blue Box Materials", be deferred to the July 10, 2023, Regular Council meeting.

Carried

R2023-312

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 80-2023 and 81-2023 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2023-313

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 80-2023 and 81-2023 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2023-314

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT By-laws 80-2023 and 81-2023 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.2.1 Award Tender for Airport Fuel Tanks Replacement - By-law 80-2023

To authorize the acceptance of a tender and the entering into and execution of a contract with Claybar Contracting Inc. for the Airport Fuel Tanks Replacement (T-2023-14).

11.2.2 Agreement with Circular Materials Ontario for Services Related to Blue Box Materials - Deferred

To authorize the entering into and execution of a Master Service Agreement with Circular Materials Ontario for services related to blue box materials.

11.2.3 Award Tender for Replacement of the Tennis and Pickleball Court at the Milton Street Park - By-law 81-2023

To authorize the acceptance of a tender and the entering into and execution of a contract with Toronto Court Equipment for the Replacement of the Tennis and Pickleball Court at the Milton Street Park (T-2023-31).

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2023-79 to CA-2023-081

12.1 CA-2023-080

R2023-315

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Sebben

THAT CA-2023-080, being a resolution from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury endorsing the "right-to-repair" movement, be endorsed.

Carried

13. New Business:

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

13.1 Technical Training Working Group

Councillor Briscoe congratulated the Technical Training Group on their 20th anniversary and for all of the incredible work they're doing in the community. Mr. Roth, who started the group 20 years ago, was also congratulated for his retirement.

13.2 Earl Clark Retirement

Mayor Ritsma acknowledged Earl Clark of 63 years of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for his retirement after 63 years as the church's organist.

13.3 Notice of Motion - Referendum

Councillor Wordofa advised of a notice of motion for the July 10, 2023 Regular Council meeting, regarding a city wide referendum for citizens to vote on keeping or not keeping the original front of Avon Crest from 1891 within two weeks. The City Clerk advised that Members are to provide notices of motion in writing for placement on a future agenda in accordance with the City's Procedural Bylaw.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

The next Regular Council meeting is July 10, 2023 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

R2023-316

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

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

- **Community Services Committee [7:05 p.m. or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- **Social Services Committee [7:10 p.m. or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting];**

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 June 26, 2023 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 declarations of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the June 26, 2023, reconvene Council meeting.

15.2 Committee Reports

15.2.1 Social Services Committee

R2023-317

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT Items 5.2 and 7.1 of the Social Services Committee meeting dated June 26, 2023 be adopted as follows:

5.2 - Transitioning the Supportive Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) (SOC23-019)

THAT the Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) program operations be transitioned to an in-house model;

THAT authorization be given to enter into memorandums of understanding with support agencies, whose mandates meet the needs of the City's most complex clients to help support the Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) program;

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer or the Director of Social Services be authorized to enter into memorandums of understanding with support agencies that have been prepared by or reviewed by the City Solicitor;

AND THAT authorization be given to hire two full-time Outreach Workers to support the operations of the Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) program.

7.1 - 2022 Annual Report (Year 9) – Housing and Homelessness Plan for Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys (SOC23-020)

THAT the report titled, “2022 Annual Report (Year 9) – Housing and Homelessness Plan for Stratford, Perth County, and St. Marys” (SOC23-020), be received for information.

Carried

15.3 Reading of the By-laws (reconvene):

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

Confirmatory By-law - By-law 82-2023

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on June 26, 2023.

R2023-318

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT By-law 82-2023 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2023-319

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT By-law 82-2023 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

15.4 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2023-320

Motion by Councillor Wordofa

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the June 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 8:40 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 9:22 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 9:23 P.M.

Mayor - Martin Ritsma

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe