



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

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
Time: 8:07 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 Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Henderson, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Anne Kircos - Director of Human Resources, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Mike Mousley – Manager of Transit, Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer, Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Emily Robson – Corporate Initiatives Lead, Krista Robinson – CEO of the Stratford Public Library

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 declarations of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the October 10, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting.

## **3. Sub-committee Minutes**

There were no Sub-committee minutes to be provided.

## **4. Delegations**

None scheduled.

## **5. Report of the Climate Change Programs Manager**

### **5.1 Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2023 (ITS23-026)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the report titled "Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2023" (ITS23-026), be received for information;

THAT Staff be directed to:

- Advance strategies in the CEEP 2023 that can be implemented within the existing staffing capacity and budget resources;
- Explore grant opportunities and develop a funding strategy for Council's consideration;
- Bring forward, as part of the annual budgeting process, funding requests for specific projects identified in the plan;

THAT the interim target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2040, be adopted;

AND THAT Staff report back on corporate GHG emissions monitoring on an annual basis.

**Committee Discussion:** The Climate Change Programs Manager, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview of the

Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). Highlights of the presentation included:

- Climate change being a global phenomenon that has significant local impacts, including extreme weather conditions, intense droughts, heat waves, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, storms, and declining biodiversity;
- municipalities being on the front lines of climate change;
- there being limited time to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint;
- Canada warming faster than the world as a whole at more than twice the global rate;
- municipalities being the focal point when it comes to building long-term climate resilience in their communities;
- the City having the opportunity to showcase leadership;
- the City's emission reduction targets being a reduction of 30% of city-wide emissions by 2030, 60% reduction by 2040 and the achievement of net-zero emissions by 2050;
- in 2014, the City having developed a Corporate Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, began reporting its energy usage to the Province and having created a strategy for implementation;
- in 2020, Stratford City Council having declared a climate emergency;
- in 2021, City-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets having been established;
- as of 2022, 650 Canadian municipalities having declared a climate emergency;
- the CEEP making recommendations to strengthen climate actions in all City operations;
- the Community-focused Plan being in development and brought to Council for consideration in the future;

- the CEEP considering corporate facilities, fleet, streetlighting, water and wastewater infrastructure, and municipal solid waste;
- emissions generated at a community level from buildings, private vehicles, waste etc. being addressed in the Community-focused Plan;
- climate scenarios being noted;
- options being outlined for retrofits to existing buildings and what can be done for future buildings that will be built; and
- transit and fleet requiring a long-term strategy for fast charger installation, investigating electrical capacity to charge fleet and planning facility upgrades to support this transition.

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**Committee Decision: THAT the following person be heard:**

- **Ian Morton and Sharon Collingwood, on behalf of the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee;**
- **Jocelyn Williams and Nathan Bean, on behalf of the Eco-Club of Stratford District Secondary School; and**
- **Lesley Walker-Fitzpatrick.**

**Carried**

Ian Morton, Chair, and Sharon Collingwood, Vice Chair of the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee, expressed support for the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan. Highlights of the delegation included:

- the impact of the climate crisis affecting everyday lives, including extreme weather which affects the vulnerable and food supply;
- Stratford having felt the effects of the forest fires that were to the north;
- there being a need to reduce carbon emissions;
- the plan being broad and providing flexibility to the City;
- the plan being necessary so the City can be eligible for grants;
- members being supportive of the efforts that the City is making to address environmental issues;

*A vibrant city, leading the way in community-driven excellence.*

- the CEEP being an impressive plan to tackle the Corporation's impact on climate change;
- the CEEP reducing the carbon footprint and mapping a way forward to zero emissions by 2050;
- there being options that exist to reduce the impact to the climate and residents seeing the City's action and being encouraged to follow suit;
- there having been numerous milestones reached since the Climate Emergency was declared in 2020;
- the CEEP signifying to all of Stratford and beyond, that the climate emergency is serious;
- the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee being invigorated and excited for the CEEP to be adopted; and
- Committee being asked to vote in support of the CEEP.

Nathan Bean and Jocelyn Williams, on behalf of the Eco-Club of Stratford District Secondary School, advised they are in support of the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). Highlights of the presentation included:

- the Committee being asked to pass all motions related to the CEEP;
- the CEEP being the best course of action that the City can take to prevent irreversible harm to the community;
- the plan being in line with many other Ontario municipalities;
- an overview being provided of various funding options from the Provincial and Federal governments;
- there being a need to explore current and future funding options to continue to move forward;
- if the current levels of emissions continue, the planet will continue to warm at a rapid rate; and
- acting now to reduce emissions and spending money in the short term, will save money in the long term.

Lesley Walker-Fitzpatrick presented to Committee in support of the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). Highlights of the presentation included:

- there being a high moral responsibility to take action to reduce carbon dioxide that is being released;
- Stratford having the ability to be a leader;
- examples of how the world is changing based on climate change being provided;
- there being a need for citizens to be concerned and to take action on making a change;
- there being a growing awareness in Stratford of the need to develop policies and action plans to reduce carbon emissions;
- the CEEP being a crucial step to be able to obtain financial support;
- Stratford having an opportunity to be a leader in net zero building practices; and
- there being a need for Stratford to act locally and to be responsible by voting in favour of the CEEP.

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**Committee Decision: THAT the correspondence from the following persons be received for information:**

- **Louise McColl;**
- **Cheryl and Paul Simpson;**
- **Sheila Clarke;**
- **Richard Green;**
- **Elliana Morrison;**
- **Natalie Ditty;**
- **Peter Maranger on behalf of the Rotary Club of Stratford;**
- **Marylu Moyer;**
- **Sharon Collingwood;**
- **Isabel Gillespie;**
- **Denis Murphy;**
- **Jane Marie Mitchell;**

- **Denise Ditty;**
- **Doug Thompson; and**
- **Lesley Walker-Fitzpatrick.**

**Carried**

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Mayor Ritsma

**Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled "Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2023" (ITS23-026), be received for information;**

**THAT Staff be directed to:**

- **Advance strategies in the CEEP 2023 that can be implemented within the existing staffing capacity and budget resources;**
- **Explore grant opportunities and develop a funding strategy for Council's consideration and to report back to Council in 6 months;**
- **Bring forward, as part of the annual budgeting process, funding requests for specific projects identified in the plan;**

**THAT the interim target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2040, be adopted;**

**AND THAT Staff report back on corporate GHG emissions monitoring on an annual basis.**

**Carried**

Councillor Nijjar assumed the role of Chair at 8:56 p.m.

Councillor Burbach advised she would like to make a motion to adopt a resolution which supports the creation of a Local Government Climate Action Program using the remaining 10% of Ontario's federal fuel charge. A member noted there is a new Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing should be added.

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**Committee Recommendation:** THAT the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Federal government collects a federal fuel charge from Ontarians as part of Canada's Carbon pollution pricing system and returns 90% of these revenues to households in Ontario through the Climate action incentive payment;

AND WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have declared Climate Emergencies and have set emission reduction targets aligning with provincial and federal emission reduction targets;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the remaining 10% of Ontario's federal fuel charge be used to create a Local Government Climate Action Program, similar to ones in place in other provinces that will provide stable annual funding to municipalities and indigenous communities in Ontario;

AND THAT this program fund be used to support local climate action initiatives and help municipalities to reach legislated climate targets, reduce emissions, create new opportunities for people in the clean economy, and to build community resilience for future climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance;
- The Hon Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources;
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- The Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and
- all 444 member municipalities of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.



A request was made to defer this matter to the next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Biehn

**Committee Recommendation: THAT the following motion be deferred to the October 25, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting for consideration:**

**THAT the following resolution be adopted:**

**WHEREAS the Federal government collects a federal fuel charge from Ontarians as part of Canada's Carbon pollution pricing system and returns 90% of these revenues to households in Ontario through the Climate action incentive payment;**

**AND WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have declared Climate Emergencies and have set emission reduction targets aligning with provincial and federal emission reduction targets;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the remaining 10% of Ontario's federal fuel charge be used to create a Local Government Climate Action Program, similar to ones in place in other provinces that will provide stable annual funding to municipalities and indigenous communities in Ontario;**

**AND THAT this program fund be used to support local climate action initiatives and help municipalities to reach legislated climate targets, reduce emissions, create new opportunities for people in the clean economy, and to build community resilience for future climate impacts;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to:**

- **The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance;**
- **The Hon Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources;**
- **The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;**
- **The Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks;**

- **The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and**
- **all 444 member municipalities of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.**

**Carried**

Councillor Burbach resumed the role of Chair at 9:04 p.m.

## **6. Report of the Deputy Clerk**

### **6.1 No Parking Exemption Requests – Delegation of Authority (ITS23-027)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended, to delegate authority to the City Clerk, or Deputy Clerk, or Director of Corporate Services to approve exemptions to No Parking On Specified Streets under the Traffic and Parking By-law.

**Committee Discussion:** The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the report, highlighting the following:

- the Clerk's Office receiving requests for exemptions which would permit vehicles on specific streets to park in posted "No parking" areas for the purpose of an event;
- there being an administrative efficiency for handling these requests internally by staff;
- this being an attempt to streamline the current request process; and
- these requests being considered administratively under the conditions outlined in the report.

**Motion by** Mayor Ritsma

**Seconded by** Councillor Hunter

**Committee Recommendation: THAT Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended, to delegate authority to the City Clerk, or Deputy Clerk, or Director of Corporate Services to approve exemptions to No Parking On Specified Streets under the Traffic and Parking By-law.**

**Carried**

## **7. For the Information of Committee**

### **7.1 Department Update**

A copy of the update was posted to the City's website on the "Engineering Division" page.

### **7.2 Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

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

- Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of June 6, 2023
- Energy and Environment Advisory Committee minutes of June 1, 2023

## **8. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

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

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 8:07 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 9:07 P.M.