



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #: 4733rd
Date: Monday, November 27, 2023
Time: 7:06 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Regrets Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Briscoe

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Krista Robinson – Stratford Library CEO

Also Present: Members of the public and media

1. Call to Order:

Deputy Mayor Nijjar, Chair presiding, called the Council meeting to order.

Mayor Ritsma provided regrets for this meeting.

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

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the November 27, 2023, Regular Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2023-506

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated November 14, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

R2023-507

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the Addendum to the Regular Agenda of Council and Standing Committees dated November 27, 2023, to add Item 7.6

"Correspondence - Anniversary of Ecole Polytechnique Massacre", be added to the Agenda as printed.

Carried

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

5.1 At the November 27, 2023, Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:

4.1 Collective Bargaining Update – SPFFA Local 534 - Labour relations or employee negotiations (section 239.(2)(d)).

5.1 Proposed Disposition of Land – Normal School - Proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(c)) (includes municipal property leased for more than 21 years), and Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)).

5.2 Shared Services Agreement Extension - Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)).

At the In-camera Session, direction was given to the City's bargaining committee regarding Item 4.1. With respect to Items 5.1 and 5.2, direction was given to the Chief Administrative Office and City Solicitor.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

None scheduled

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Multi-Year Software Licensing Agreement-Vidcruiter (FIN23-032)

R2023-508

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT staff be authorized to renew the Vidcruiter subscription for a three-year term to 2026.

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Road Widening for Consent Application B07-23, 315 & 317 Huron Street (COU23-132)

R2023-509

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the conveyance of Part 1 on Plan 44R-6169 from 1000055958 Ontario Ltd. to The Corporation of the City of Stratford, be authorized;

AND THAT upon conveyance of Part 1 Plan 44R-6169 to the City of Stratford, these lands be dedicated public highway forming part of Huron Street.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - 2023-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (COU23-133)

R2023-510

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the City of Stratford 2023-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be adopted;

AND THAT staff be directed to upload the plan to the City's website.

Carried

7.4 Resolution - 2024 Council, Committee, and Sub-committee Meeting Schedule (COU23-134)

R2023-511

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the 2024 Council, Committee and Subcommittee meeting schedule be approved and staff be directed to schedule the meetings accordingly.

Carried

7.5 Resolution - Lease Agreement Extension Requests – former Stratford Normal School | Discovery Centre and Municipal Parking Lot (COU23-135)

R2023-512

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT the entering into of one-year extensions to the current leases with The Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada for the use of the Stratford Normal School | Discovery Centre at 270 Water Street and for the use of the municipal parking lot at Queen Street and Lakeside Drive to April 30, 2025, be approved;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute one year lease extensions on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.

Carried

R2023-513

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT the building located at 270 Water Street be referred to as the Discovery Centre, on all future documentation prepared by the City of Stratford.

Discussion was held with respect to adding reference to the building being the former Teachers' College.

R2023-514

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the main motion be amended to include reference to the building being the former Teachers' College in brackets after "Discovery Centre".

Discussion continued with respect to whether there would be any impact to plaques or signage should the motion be approved. The intent of the motion was clarified to only the production of City documentation when referring to the building.

Deputy Mayor Nijjar called the question on the amending motion.

Carried

Deputy Mayor Nijjar called the question on the main motion, as amended.

Carried

7.6 ADDED - Correspondence - Anniversary of Ecole Polytechnique Massacre

R2023-515

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the City of Stratford lower the flag at the front of Stratford City Hall on December 6, 2023 in recognition of the massacre of 14 women at Ecole Polytechnique.

Discussion was held with respect to:

- an overview of the massacre of 14 women that occurred at Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989, being provided;

- Bill C-68 having enacted the Firearms Act in 1995;
- December 6 being the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day;
- the month of November being Woman Abuse Prevention month;
- the June 28, 2022 Renfrew inquest into the deaths of three women who were killed on September 22, 2015;
- United Nations Women having declared violence against women to be a shadow pandemic in May of 2020;
- Optimism Place having received 2,144 calls to their crisis line in 2021 and serving 58 women and 36 children in their residential program;
- calls for service continuing to increase and Optimism Place being in the process of a facility expansion; and
- Stratford City Council having passed a resolution declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic on May 23, 2023.

Deputy Mayor Nijjar 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:

R2023-516

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated November 27, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Discussion was held with respect to an increase being needed but the proposed amounts being too high.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT the main motion be amended to reduce the increase for the following offences to a maximum of 80% above current fine rates:

- Park at an expired meter; and
- Park exceeded time limits.

A Point of Order was raised with respect to there already being a motion on the floor. The City Clerk clarified that an amending motion had been put forward to amend the main motion in accordance with the Procedural By-law.

Discussion continued with respect to:

- parking tickets disproportionately impacting people and an increase in parking ticket costs potentially deterring downtown visitors;
- retailers needing constant flow of parked cars and being aligned with set fines imposed by other municipalities making sense;
- patrons not being subject to certain ticket fines if payment of parking fees is made;
- reducing the proposed set fines to encourage people to visit the downtown;
- parking fees impacting downtown parking more than parking fines; and
- the benefit of the HotSpot application allowing patrons to add time to their parking session to avoid receiving a ticket.

Deputy Mayor Nijjar called the question on the amending motion.

Defeated

Discussion continued with respect to:

- Stratford being different and unique in comparison to other municipalities;
- harsher penalties not deterring people from parking violations; and
- free parking being available in the Cooper Lot.

Deputy Mayor Nijjar called the question on the main motion.

Carried

9.1.1 Parking Enforcement Set Fines (ITS23-030)

THAT Staff be directed to undertake an application utilizing the Draft 2023 Consolidated Offences Form to the Ministry of the Attorney General, pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act, for Part II set fines in the City of Stratford.

10. Notice of Intent:

10.1 Notice of Public Meetings Under the Planning Act

Stratford City Council will hold a public meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to hear from interested persons with respect to the Official Plan Review.

Stratford City Council will hold a public meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to hear from interested persons with respect to the following planning application:

- Zone Change Application Z04-23 for 24 St. Andrew Street and 1 and 5 Huron Street

For more information please see the attached notices.

11. Reading of the By-laws:

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

R2023-517

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 137-2023 to 143-2023 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2023-518

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT By-laws 137-2023 to 143-2023 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2023-519

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 137-2023 to 143-2023 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.1 Encroachment Agreement for 35 Waterloo Street - By-law 137-2023

To authorize the entering into and execution of an encroachment agreement with 1448456 Ontario Inc. to permit an existing fence that surrounds the property, existing ground sign, and five new wood framed and lattice signs affixed to existing fencing to encroach onto the Waterloo Street, William Street and Elizabeth Street municipal road allowances at 35 Waterloo Street.

11.2 Accept Transfer of Part 1, Plan 44R-6169 - By-law 138-2023

To accept the transfer (conveyance) from 1000055958 Ontario Ltd. of Part 1 on Reference Plan 44R-6169.

11.3 Dedication of Public Highway Forming Part of Huron Street - By-law 139-2023

To dedicate Part 1 on Reference Plan 44R-6169, as public highway forming part of Huron Street in the City of Stratford.

11.4 Appoint Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer - By-law 140-2023

To amend By-law 60-2003 as amended, to appoint a Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer for the purpose of enforcing City of Stratford By-laws.

11.5 Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement to Enhance Stratford's Community Emissions Action Plan - By-law 141-2023

To authorize the entering into and execution of an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Energy, to enhance Stratford's Community Emissions Action Plan by developing a Stage 2 Action Plan.

11.6 Lease Agreement for 270 Water Street - By-law 142-2023

To authorize the execution of an extension to the Lease Agreement with The Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada for the lease of certain

lands at 270 Water Street, more commonly known as the Stratford Normal School / Discovery Centre, for a period of one (1) year to April 30, 2025.

11.7 Lease Agreement for Parking Lot on Municipal Property - 143-2023

To authorize the execution of an extension to the Lease Agreement with The Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada for a parking lot on municipal property for a one-year term to April 30, 2025.

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2023-138 to CA-2023-141

12.1 CA-2023-141

R2023-520

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT CA-2023-141, being correspondence from the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area regarding more business support for CEBA loan businesses, be endorsed;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada, John Nater, Perth-Wellington MP, and all municipalities in Ontario for endorsement.

Discussion was held with respect to:

- the repayment of loans causing problems for small businesses across the Country;
- successful businesses in Stratford prior to the pandemic having closed; and,
- the opportunity to repay Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loans having not been extended long enough.

Deputy Mayor Nijjar called the question on the motion.

Carried

13. New Business:

There were no new business items discussed at the meeting.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

The next Regular Council meeting is December 11, 2023 in the Council Chamber, City Hall. This the last regularly scheduled Council meeting for the year.

R2023-521

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

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

- **Social Services Committee [7:05 or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- **Community Services Committee [7:10 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 November 27, 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 November 27, 2023, reconvene Council meeting.

15.2 Reading of the By-laws (reconvene):

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

By-law 144-2023 - Confirmatory By-law

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on November 27, 2023.

R2023-522

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT By-law 144-2023 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2023-523

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Sebben

THAT By-law 144-2023 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

15.3 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2023-524

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT the November 27, 2023 Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:06 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 7:39 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 7:47 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 7:49 P.M.

Deputy Mayor – Harjinder Nijjar

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe