



## **Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES**

Meeting #: 4755th  
Date: Monday, September 23, 2024  
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 Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Henderson, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Michael Mousley - Transit Manager, Jeff Wilson - Manager of Housing, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Shannon Archer - Business Integration Manager, Marc Bancroft - Manager of Planning, Alex Burgess - Manager of Ontario Works, Kelly Stone - Supervisor of Housing, Alex Burnett - Planner

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

Respectful Workplace Policy Statement

**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 Hunter declared a pecuniary interest on Item 7.5, "Consulting Services for the O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension". Councillor Hunter owns land benefitting from the sewer extension.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes:**

R2024-375

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated September 9, 2024 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

**4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:**

There was no addendum to the September 23, 2024, Regular Council agenda.

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

**5.1 Committee of the Whole In-camera Session - September 23, 2024**

The September 23rd In-camera Session was cancelled.

**6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:**

None scheduled.

## **7. Orders of the Day:**

### **7.1 Resolution - Proposed Disposition and Sale of City-Owned Land – Block 37 Registered Plan 519 (Pedestrian Walkway Block - Sprung Court) (COU24-112)**

The Planner provided an overview of the proposed disposition and sale of City-owned land, being a pedestrian walkway to Sprung Court. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the objective being to seek Council approval to declare as surplus and to dispose of City-owned land consisting of Block 37 Registered Plan 519;
- the block of land having served as a pedestrian walkway connection that is no longer required;
- the walkway having been proposed to be closed as part of an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for 30 Queensland Road which was approved in February 2022;
- the walkway being determined to be unsafe through consultations with residents;
- interest being received from neighbouring property owners about acquiring the land should it be deemed surplus;
- an application being received from HIP Queensland Inc. to close the land;
- the application being circulated internally with no concerns received from the departments; and
- staff recommending that the land be declared surplus and sold to abutting property owners.

A member enquired about the pedestrian connections to the new development especially going along Lorne Avenue. The Director of Infrastructure Services noted it has been identified on the priority list as it is an arterial road however it is not in a specific list at this time.

R2024-376

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Hunter

**THAT Block 37, RP 519, being a block of land originally created and recently serving as a pedestrian walkway to Sprung Court be declared surplus to the needs of The Corporation of the City of Stratford;**

**THAT once declared surplus, Block 37, RP 519 is to be sold to abutting property owners without requiring a valuation;**

**THAT all costs associated with closing the walkway, declaring the lands surplus and selling the lands to abutting property owners are to be borne by HIP Queensland Inc.;**

**AND THAT the City Solicitor take all steps necessary to terminate the Encroachment Agreement between the City and the Owners of Block 37, RP 519, identified as Instrument Number 297150.**

**Carried**

**7.2 Resolution - Explore the Implementation of an Indigenous Medicine Wheel on City Property (COU24-110)**

R2024-377

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor Beatty

**THAT the report titled, "Explore the Implementation of an Indigenous Medicine Wheel on City Property" (COU24-110), be received for information.**

**Carried**

**7.3 Resolution - Bus Wash System Replacement – Proposal Award (COU24-103)**

R2024-378

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the Request for Proposal (RFP-2024-26) for the supply and installation of a new transit bus wash system be awarded to Westmatic Corporation at a total cost of \$413,874.93 (including HST);**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement and any related documents.**

**Carried**

**7.4 Resolution - Oakdale Avenue Multi-Use Trail Construction Tender Award (COU24-108)**

R2024-379

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT the Tender (T-2024-21) for the Oakdale Avenue Multi-Use Trail Construction Contract be awarded to Ekum-Sekum Incorporated o/a Brantco Construction at a total tender price of \$301,602.65, including HST;**

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

**Carried**

**7.5 Resolution - Consulting Services for the O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension (COU24-109)**

R2024-380

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT the proposal of MTE Consultants Inc. for Consulting Services for the O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension (RFP-2024-25) in the amount of \$272,992.63, including HST, be accepted;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the necessary Contract Agreement for contract RFP-2024-25.**

**Carried**

Councillor Hunter having declared a pecuniary interest did not vote nor participate in the discussion for this item.

## **7.6 Resolution - Grand Trunk Renewal Community Insights, Vision and Guiding Principles (COU24-113)**

The Chief Administrative Officer presented the Grand Trunk Renewal Community Insights, Vision and Guiding Principles staff report. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the recent community engagement activities held to get input on the draft guiding principles;
- the Grand Trunk Renewal Project being an opportunity to transform the current underutilized site into a community asset;
- an overview of the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee's work on the development of the guiding principles;
- an overview of the response to the community pop-up events held and the feedback from attendees;
- the results of the engagement activities with approximately 310 respondents, 200 in-person and 110 online submissions; and
- an overview of the Grand Trunk Renewal Vision and Guiding Principles.

Members of Council and the Chief Administrative Officer held a discussion regarding the following:

- the Ad-Hoc Committee's workplan for Q3 and Q4;
- the activation of the Grand Trunk Site; and
- the process for the activation of the site, with the Chief Administrative Officer noting that more information will be released regarding this matter.

R2024-381

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Hunter

**THAT the Grand Trunk Renewal vision and guiding principles as presented in COU24-113 be adopted to guide and focus the work on the Grand Trunk Renewal.**

**Carried**

**7.7 Resolution - Parking Enforcement Services Contract Extension (COU24-114)**

R2024-382

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT the contract extension with Commissionaires Great Lakes for the provision of Parking Enforcement Services for the City of Stratford, for a one-year term ending on August 31, 2025, be authorized;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective designates, be authorized to execute all necessary extension documents.**

**Carried**

**7.8 Proclamation - Economic Abuse Awareness Day**

R2024-383

**Motion by** Councillor Briscoe

**Seconded by** Councillor Wordofa

**THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims November 26, 2024 as Economic Abuse Awareness Day in the City of Stratford to raise awareness of a common but overlooked form of domestic violence that limits an individual's financial autonomy, including denying access and control over resources or constraining economic freedom.**

Members of Council discussed the importance of bringing awareness to this issue.

Mayor Ritsma called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

**7.9 Proclamation - Pregnancy Infant Loss Awareness Day**

R2024-384

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims October 15, 2024 as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day" in remembrance of pregnancy loss and infant death, including, but not limited to,**

**miscarriage, stillbirth, medical termination, SIDS and the death of a newborn;**

**AND THAT Stratford City Council authorizes the flying of the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Flag on October 15, 2024 in recognition of the importance of support needed when a family experiences the trauma of pregnancy and infant loss.**

A member read a letter they received from a Citizen of Stratford who was affected by pregnancy loss and their call to raise awareness about this matter. A member then shared their own experience with pregnancy loss and further commented on bringing awareness to this matter.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

**8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:**

None noted.

**9. Reports of the Standing Committees:**

There were no Standing Committee Reports considered.

**10. Notice of Intent:**

None noted.

**11. Reading of the By-laws:**

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

R2024-385

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT By-laws 107-2024 to 110-2024 be taken collectively.**

**Carried** unanimously

R2024-386

**Motion by** Councillor Briscoe

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT By-laws 107-2024 to 110-2024 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support



R2024-387

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT By-laws 107-2024 to 110-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

R2024-388

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT By-law 111-2024 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support

Councillor Hunter having declared a pecuniary interest in relation to this matter did not vote nor participate in the discussion.

R2024-389

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT By-law 111-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

Councillor Hunter having declared a pecuniary interest in relation to this matter did not vote nor participate in the discussion.

**11.1 Award Tender for Supply and Installation of a New Transit Bus Wash System – By-law 107-2024**

To authorize the acceptance of a proposal and execution of an agreement with Westmatic Corporation for the supply and installation of a new transit bus wash system (RFP-2024-26).

**11.2 Award Tender for the Oakdale Avenue Multi-Use Trail Construction – By-law 108-2024**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender and execution of a contract with Ekum-Sekum Incorporated o/a Brantco Construction for the construction of the Oakdale Avenue Multi-Use Trail (T-2024-21).

**11.3 Consulting Services for the O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension Proposal Award – By-law 111-2024**

To authorize the acceptance of a proposal and execution of a contract with MTE Consultants Inc. for Consulting Services for the O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension (RFP-2024-25).

**11.4 Amend the Delegation of Authority By-law – By-law 109-2024**

To amend sections 4.2 and 4.3 of By-law 135-2017, as amended, to delegate Council's authority to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Human Resources to adjust salaries in accordance with relevant policies and legislation, and to delegate Council's authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to approve termination of and execute termination of employees below the CAO or deputy CAO level.

**11.5 Parking Enforcement Services Contract – By-law 110-2024**

To authorize the entering into and execution of a contract with Commissionaires Great Lakes for parking enforcement services for a one year period to August 31, 2025.

**12. Consent Agenda: CA-2024-151 to CA-2024-158**

Council did not advise of any items to be considered on the Consent Agenda.

**13. New Business:**

**13.1 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

A member advised that the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area and the City of Stratford will be hosting movie screenings at City Hall on September 30th as part of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. There will be five short films, made by Indigenous filmmakers, shown at the screening. The event is open to everyone.

**13.2 Passing of Marion Isherwood**

A member recognized the passing of Marion Isherwood. Ms. Isherwood was a great member of the community and an advocate for Stratford.

**13.3 Family Services Perth-Huron 50th Anniversary**

The Mayor recognized Family Services Perth-Huron for their 50 year anniversary of serving the community.

**14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:**

The next Regular Council meeting is October 15, 2024 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

R2024-390

**Motion by** Councillor Briscoe

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

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

- **Social Services Committee [7:05 p.m. or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- **Finance and Labour Relations 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 September 23, 2024 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

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest made by a member at the September 23, 2024, reconvene Regular Council meeting.

## **15.2 Reading of the By-laws (reconvene):**

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

### **By-law 11.6 Confirmatory By-law – By-law 112-2024**

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on September 23, 2024.

R2024-391

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT By-law 112-2024 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support

R2024-392

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT By-law 112-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

## **15.3 Adjournment of Council Meeting**

R2024-393

**Motion by** Councillor Wordofa

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the September 23, 2024 Regular Council meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 7:33 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 7:51 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 7:52 P.M.

"Martin Ritsma"

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Mayor - Martin Ritsma

"Tatiana Dafoe"

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Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe