



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session

MINUTES

Meeting #: 4792nd
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Regrets: Councillor Biehn

Staff Present: André Morin - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, 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, Marc Bancroft - Manager of Planning, Stuart Filson - Supervisor of Policy and Placemaking, Will Mason - Rent Receivables Clerk

Also Present: Members of the Public and Media

1. Call to Order:

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

Councillor Biehn provided regrets for this meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Singing of O Canada

Respectful Conduct 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

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest made by a Member at the February 23, 2026 Regular Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2026-74

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated February 9, 2026, be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addenda to the Agenda:

R2026-75

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Sebben

THAT the Addenda to the Regular Agenda of Council and Standing Committees dated February 23, 2026 be added to the Agenda as printed.

Carried

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

5.1 Committee of the Whole In-camera Session - February 23, 2026:

The February 23, 2026, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session was cancelled.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

None scheduled.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Official Plan Review Information Update (COU26-022)

The Supervisor of Planning Policy and Placemaking, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview of the Official Plan Review. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the purpose of the Official Plan and the requirements under the Planning Act;
- an overview of the work that has been completed as part of the development of the Official Plan; and
- there being a request for additional funding for the work required to align the Official Plan with the new Provincial direction and to complete updated data analysis.

Members of Council and staff held a discussion regarding the following:

- there being a number of changes implemented by the Province since the beginning of the development of the new Official Plan;
- a lands needs assessment having been completed and will need to be revisited as part of the work;
- staff striving to complete the development of the Official Plan as soon as possible;
- the definition of affordable housing referred to in the planning report being based on the definition under the Development Charges Act;
- the additional funds to allow for the work to continue and to address the changes from the Province to ensure that the Official Plan is fulsomely prepared; and

- the consultants providing the necessary expertise to complete some of the works required while staff continue to advance the rest of the project.

R2026-76

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the additional funding requirement of \$54,255 for the Official Plan Review be approved and funded from the Plans and Studies Reserve (10%) and Development Charges Growth Studies Reserve Fund (90%).

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Request to Waive or Reduce Signage Fees – Not OK Campaign (COU26-024)

R2026-77

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT a reduction of the advertising fees charged to Optimism Place Women's Shelter and Support Services for displaying the Not OK Campaign on rink boards and digital sign to \$0 be approved;

AND THAT \$5,318.68 be transferred from the Community Grants Reserve through the Community Grants program.

Members of Council and staff discussed the request.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - Perth Line 36 - 0.3 metre Reserve for Lands Located at 16 Kastner Street (COU26-021)

R2026-78

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT the City of Stratford declare Part 9 on Plan 44R-6463 as public highway and dedicate it as forming part of Perth Line 36;

AND THAT Application for Zoning By-law Amendment Z06-25 submitted by Zelinka Priamo Ltd. (c/o Katelyn Crowley) on

**behalf of Countryside Developments (2014) Inc. (c/o Pete Hyde)
on the lands known municipally known as 16 Kastner Street:**

BE APPROVED for the following reasons:

- 1. The request is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement 2024 and conforms with the City of Stratford Official Plan through recently adopted Official Plan Amendment No. 35;**
- 2. The request constitutes sound land use planning and is appropriate for the development of the lands;**
- 3. Public comments have been received, reviewed comprehensively and appropriately addressed.**

Carried

7.4 Resolution - McCarthy Road West and Orr Street 0.3 metre reserves (COU26-023)

R2026-79

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the City of Stratford declare the following lands as public highway and be dedicated as forming part of McCarthy Road West: Block 113 on Plan 44M-44; Reserve "O" on Registered Plan No. 470; and, Parts 2 and 3 on Plan 44R-4795;

AND THAT the City of Stratford declare the following lands as public highway and dedicate them as forming part of Orr Street: Blocks 141 and 142 on Plan 44M-75.

Carried

7.5 Proclamation - Parkinson's Awareness Day

R2026-80

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims April 11, 2026, as Parkinson's Awareness Day in the City of Stratford.

Carried

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

None noted.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

9.1 Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee:

R2026-81

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT Kate Mulrooney be heard.

Carried

Kate Mulrooney spoke to Council regarding the Neighbourhood Area Speed Limit Pilot Study and requested that commitment be given to a full City-wide project instead of just a pilot study.

R2026-82

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated February 23, 2026, be adopted as printed.

9.1.1 Neighbourhood Area Speed Limit Pilot Study (ITS26-001)

THAT a pilot study for Area Speed Limit Signage be implemented in the area bounded by Huron Street to the south, Mornington Street to the east, O'Loane Avenue to the west, and the McCarthy Street to the north;

AND THAT Council direct staff to bring a subsequent report back to Council with the appropriate recommended Traffic and Parking By-Law amendments to reduce the speed limit in the pilot program area to 40km/h.

Members of Council and staff held a discussion regarding the motion. Highlights of the discussion included:

- there being support for a City-wide project if there are cost savings that can be realized;

- there being concerns with the effectiveness of the posted signs on their own without the implementation of other traffic calming measures and enforcement;
- Council having the ability to decide during the pilot to fully implement the program City-wide;
- Stratford Police Services to conduct enforcement and there being future opportunities for additional traffic calming measures with potential funding from the Province;
- there being widespread use of traffic speed reduction programs in the province with few municipalities doing it city-wide due to costs for signage and most implementing the program in residential neighbourhoods only;
- the Highway Traffic Act requiring roads with speeds under 50 km per hour to be signed accordingly;
- there being a benefit to doing certain neighbourhoods as part of the pilot as it will allow police enforcement to be focused on a specific area;
- a phased in implementation of a City-wide program being estimated to cost between 60 to 80 thousand with a 5 to 6 year-implementation period;
- the Director of Infrastructure Services noting that there is work being completed together with the Police Chief for targeted enforcement and a report will be brought to Council for consideration;
- staff reviewing the installation of measures identified in the Transportation Master Plan when completing resurfacing work as well as looking at active transportation elements; and
- there being a need for lower traffic speeds to implement specific calming measures.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

Carried

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 were taken collectively upon unanimous vote of Council present:

R2026-83

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-laws 28-2026 to 31-2026 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2026-84

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT By-laws 28-2026 to 31-2026 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2026-85

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT By-laws 28-2026 to 31-2026 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.1 Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z06-25 - 16 Kastner Street - By-law 28-2026

To amend By-law 10-2022 as amended, with respect to Application for Zoning By-law Amendment Z06-25 by Countryside Developments (2014) Inc. to amend the zoning of certain lands known as 16 Kastner Street.

11.2 Dedication of Part of Perth Line 36 as Public Highway - By-law 29-2026

To dedicate Part 9 on Reference Plan 44R-6463 as public highway forming part of Perth Line 36 in the City of Stratford.

11.3 Dedication of Part of McCarthy Road as Public Highway - By-law 30-2026

To dedicate Block 113 on Plan 44M-44; Reserve "O" on Registered Plan No. 470; and Parts 2 and 3 on Plan 44R-4795 as public highway forming part of McCarthy Road West in the City of Stratford.

11.4 Dedication of Part of Orr Street as Public Highway - By-law 31-2026

To dedicate Blocks 141 and 142 on Plan 44M-75 as public highway forming part of Orr Street in the City of Stratford.

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2026-018 to CA-2026-020

Council did not consider any items listed on the Consent Agenda.

13. New Business:

13.1 Stratford Police Services Chief Retirement

Councillor Nijjar thanked Stratford Police Services Chief Skinner for his service to the community and congratulated him on his well-deserved retirement.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

There were no Standing Committee meetings held.

The next Regular Council meeting is March 9, 2026, in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

15. Confirmatory By-law 32-2026

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on February 23, 2026.

R2026-86

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT By-law 32-2026 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2026-87

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT By-law 32-2026 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

16. Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2026-88

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT the February 23, 2026, Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 8:03 P.M.

Mayor - Martin Ritsma

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe