



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

### **MINUTES**

Meeting #: 4795th  
Date: Monday, April 13, 2026  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Regrets: Councillor Burbach and Councillor Henderson

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, Will Mason – Maintenance 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 Burbach and Councillor Henderson 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

Councillor Beatty declared a pecuniary interest on Item 4.2, Confidential Report of the CEO of investStratford with respect to the City Industrial Land Pricing Policy, considered at the April 13, 2026, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes:**

R2026-140

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Wordofa

**THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated March 23, 2026 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

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

R2026-141

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT the Addenda to the Regular Agenda of Council and Standing Committees dated April 13, 2026 be added to the Agenda as printed.**

**Carried**

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

**5.1 At the April 13, 2026, Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:**

4.1 Confidential Report of the CEO of investStratford with respect to the potential purchase of property (CM-26-12) - 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).

4.2 Confidential Report of the CEO of investStratford with respect to the City Industrial Land Pricing Policy – 2026 Annual Review (CM-26-11) - 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).

4.3 Confidential Report of the CEO of investStratford with respect to the appointment of a director to the Stratford Economic Enterprise Development Corporation (SEEDCo./investStratford) (CM-26-13) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.1 Confidential Report of the Manager of Human Resources with respect to Collective Bargaining Update – IBEW Local 636 Parallel Transit (CM-26-10) - Labour relations or employee negotiations (section 239.(2)(d)).

At the In-Camera session, for Item 4.1, a report was received and direction was given to the CEO of investStratford. For Item 4.2, direction was given to the Clerk to list a resolution on the April 27, 2026 Agenda. For Item 4.3, no direction was given, the personal information of the candidate was considered, and a report will be listed on the April 27, 2026 Agenda. For Item 5.1, an update was provided and direction was given to the Clerk to list the item on the Addenda to the April 13, 2026 Agenda.

**5.2 ADDED - From the April 13, 2026, In-camera Session:**

5.1 Confidential Report of the Manager of Human Resources with respect to Collective Bargaining Update – IBEW Local 636 Parallel Transit (CM26-10) - Labour relations or employee negotiations (section 239.(2)(d)).

R2026-142

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the Memorandum of Settlement with The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Parallel Transit**

**Division Local 636, effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029, be ratified;**

**AND THAT the Mayor, Clerk, Chief Administrative Officer, and Manager of Human Resources, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the Memorandum of Settlement and the Collective Agreement, where applicable.**

**Carried**

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

Delegations were scheduled in Sections 7 and 8.

**7. Orders of the Day:**

**7.1 Resolution - University of Waterloo Student Presentation on Official Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (COU26-046)**

R2026-143

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT Council receive the presentation from the University of Waterloo School of Planning (PLAN 452/652) student team regarding recommended Official Plan monitoring and evaluation approaches for the City of Stratford, for information.**

**Carried**

Rachel Baker and Bob Allen, from the University of Waterloo School of Planning presented to Council regarding their recommended monitoring and evaluation approaches for the City's Official Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the project, what is involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the Official Plan, and their significance;
- an overview of indicators to be used for the monitoring and evaluation framework;
- the importance of GIS and the role it plays in the monitoring and evaluation of the Official Plan;
- an overview of the different indicator categories, their purpose, their intent, and what is tracked for each category; and

- an overview of the timeline for the implementation of the indicators and the recommendations.

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

- an overview of the consultation work completed by the team;
- the project being catered to the context in Stratford to allow for the monitoring and evaluation to be done as soon as the Official Plan is approved and to see if the new plan is achieving the intended goals;
- GIS dataset availability being a barrier for the project;
- there also being datasets for the City which are available just not in an easily digestible format; and
- the available datasets to be entered in the existing City platform to allow staff to understand the data better.

## **7.2 Resolution - Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Transfer Payment Agreement (COU26-042)**

R2026-144

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Biehn

**THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response, to purchase critical supplies and equipment, to improve local emergency response and to improve and enhance the level of emergency management preparedness being provided;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement provided through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant on behalf of the Corporation.**

**Carried**

**7.3 Resolution - Erie Street - 0.3 metre Reserve for Lands Located at 976 Erie Street (COU26-043)**

R2026-145

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT the City of Stratford declare Part 4 on Plan 44R-6473 as public highway and dedicate it as forming part of Erie Street.**

**Carried**

**7.4 Resolution - Purchase of Landfill Compactor (COU26-041)**

R2026-146

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Beatty

**THAT the Tender for the supply and delivery of one new Landfill Compactor from SMS Equipment of Etobicoke, Ontario at a total cost of \$1,720,374.15, including HST, be approved.**

**Carried**

**7.5 Resolution - T-2025-54 Downtown Intersection Improvements Tender Award (COU26-044)**

R2026-147

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Biehn

**THAT the Tender (T-2025-54) for the Downtown Intersection Improvements project be awarded to Steve Smith Construction Corporation at a total cost of \$390,737.50, including HST;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the contract agreement for T-2025-54.**

**Carried**

**7.6 Resolution - To Supply and Deliver Seven (7) Vehicles (COU26-045)**

R2026-148

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT the portion of the tender (T-2026-03) for the supply and delivery of three (3) Mid-size SUVs be awarded to Listowel CDJR LTD. at a total tender price of \$178,890.30, including HST;**

**THAT the portion of tender (T-2026-03) for the supply and delivery of two (2) Hybrid Full Size Pickup Trucks be awarded to East Court Ford Lincoln at a total tender price of \$135,956.92, including HST;**

**AND THAT the portion of the tender (T-2026-03) for the supply and delivery of two (2) Full Size One (1) Ton Work Vans be awarded to Blue Mountain Chrysler Ltd. at a total tender price of \$159,183.10, including HST.**

**Carried**

**7.7 Resolution - Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) Executive Nomination**

R2026-149

**Motion by** Councillor Wordofa

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT Council endorse the nomination of Councillor McCabe to the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) Executive Committee.**

**Carried**

**7.8 Proclamation - World Migratory Bird Day**

R2026-150

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims May 9, 2026, as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Stratford;**

**AND THAT World Migratory Bird Day be proclaimed on an annual basis on the second Saturday of May.**

**Carried**

**7.9 Proclamation - Human Values Day**

R2026-151

**Motion by** Councillor Wordofa

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims April 24, 2026, as "Human Values Day" in the City of Stratford in support of the fundamental Human Values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-Violence in daily life.**

**Carried**

#### **7.10 Proclamation - Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month**

R2026-152

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT Stratford City Council hereby proclaims May 2026, as "Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month" to keep our community aware, informed and vigilant about the potential risks of over-exposure to the UV radiation of the sun.**

A member noted that the Stratford Family Health Team offers a fully covered, screening program which includes mole mapping and skin cancer screenings. This step is important for prevention with melanoma being the highest rising cancer, especially among women.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

#### **7.11 ADDED - Resolution - Court Security and Prisoner Transport Program 2026**

R2026-153

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General for a term of (1) year to December 31, 2026.**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective designates, be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the municipal corporation.**

**Carried**

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

**8.1 Notice of Motion from Councillor Burbach**

A request was made to defer this matter to the April 27, 2026, Regular Council meeting as Councillor Burbach could not attend the meeting.

R2026-154

**Motion by** Councillor Sebben

**Seconded by** Councillor McCabe

**THAT Item 8.1 - Notice of Motion from Councillor Burbach be deferred to the April 27, 2026, Regular Council meeting.**

**Carried**

At the March 23, 2026 Regular Council meeting, notice was given that Councillor Burbach intended to put forward the following motion for consideration:

"THAT the Council of the City of Stratford support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Perth Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario."

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

**9.1 Report of the Social Services Committee**

R2026-155

**Motion by** Councillor Biehn

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT the Report of the Social Services Committee dated April 13, 2026 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

**9.1.1 2025 Rent Supplement and Housing Allowance Review (SOC26-003)**

THAT the report titled, "2025 Rent Supplement and Housing Allowance Review" (SOC26-003), be received for information.

**9.1.2 Ontario Works Division 2025 Year in Review (SOC26-006)**

THAT the report titled, "Ontario Works Division 2025 Year in Review" (SOC26-006), be received for information.

**9.1.3 Children's Services Division 2025 Year in Review (SOC26-004)**

THAT the report titled, "Children's Services Division 2025 Year in Review" (SOC26-004), be received for information.

**9.1.4 Housing and Homelessness Divisions 2025 Year in Review (SOC26-005)**

THAT the report titled, "Housing and Homelessness Divisions 2025 Year in Review" (SOC26-005), be received for information.

**10. Notice of Intent:**

**10.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor Biehn**

At the April 27, 2026, Regular Meeting, Councillor Biehn intends to put forward the following motion for consideration:

THAT Resolution R2026-07 adopted at the January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting be reconsidered.

Should the reconsideration motion be successful, the following motion is to be considered:

THAT the maximum number of Erie Street Parking Lot monthly permits be increased from twenty-four (24) to thirty-five (35);

THAT the Erie Lot Overnight Parking Pilot Program be approved to provide the following parking permits on a first-come-first-served basis:

- 5 monthly overnight parking permits (downtown residents only), and
- 10 daily overnight parking permits;

THAT monthly overnight Erie Lot parking permit holders be permitted to park in the lot 24 hours per day;

THAT staff be directed to prepare an amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law to include the expansion of the Erie Street Parking Lot permits;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare an amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law to designate the Erie Lot for overnight parking.

## **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:

R2026-156

**Motion by** Councillor McCabe

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT By-laws 46-2026 to 52-2026 be taken collectively.**

**Carried** unanimously

R2026-157

**Motion by** Councillor Briscoe

**Seconded by** Councillor Beatty

**THAT By-laws 46-2026 to 52-2026 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support

R2026-158

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT By-laws 46-2026 to 52-2026 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

### **11.1 Award Tender for a Landfill Compactor - By-law 46-2026**

To authorize the acceptance of a proposal by SMS Equipment of Etobicoke Ontario for the supply and delivery of a new Landfill Compactor.

**11.2 Award Tender (T-2026-03) for Seven Vehicles - By-law 47-2026**

To authorize the acceptance of a proposal by Listowel CDJR LTD for the supply and delivery of three (3) Mid-size SUVs, by East Court Ford Lincoln for the supply and delivery of two (2) Hybrid Full Size Pickup Trucks and by Blue Mountain Chrysler Ltd. for the supply and delivery of two (2) Full Size One (1) Ton Work Vans (T-2026-03).

**11.3 Award Tender (T-2025-54) Downtown Intersection Improvements - By-law 48-2026**

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, execution of the contract and the undertaking of work by Steve Smith Construction Corporation for the Downtown Intersection Improvements project (T-2025-54).

**11.4 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - By-law 49-2026**

To authorize the execution of an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response to receive funds through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant program.

**11.5 Dedication of Part of Erie Street as Public Highway - By-law 50-2026**

To dedicate Part 4 on Plan 44R-6473 as public highway forming part of Erie Street in the City of Stratford.

**11.6 ADDED - Agreement Court Security Prisoner Transportation Program - By-law 51-2026**

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 Solicitor General, with respect to the continuation of the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program (CSPT) for 2026.

**11.7 ADDED - Collective Agreement Ratification IBEW Local 636 (Parallel Transit) - By-law 52-2026**

To authorize the acceptance of a Memorandum of Settlement and execution of the Collective Agreement with The International Brotherhood

of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 636 (Parallel Transit), effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029.

**12. Consent Agenda: CA-2026-034 to CA-2026-039**

**12.1 CA-2026-037**

R2026-159

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Briscoe

**THAT CA-2026-037, being a resolution from The Town of Whitby regarding a Request for a Comprehensive Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework, be endorsed.**

**Carried**

**12.2 CA-2026-038**

R2026-160

**Motion by** Councillor Briscoe

**Seconded by** Councillor Wordofa

**THAT CA-2026-038, being a resolution from The Township of Oro Medonte regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments to address Health and Safety Concerns, be endorsed.**

**Carried**

**13. New Business:**

**13.1 Canadian Dairy XPO**

The Mayor acknowledged and congratulated CDX and DLG Germany (the German Agricultural Society) for the 12th annual Canadian Dairy XPO.

Overall attendance was over 17,900 individuals with 310 exhibitors representing 614 different brands. The Consul Generals for The Netherlands, Germany, and Ireland were also present for the event.

**14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:**

There were no Standing Committee meetings held.

The next Regular Council meeting is April 27, 2026 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**15. Confirmatory By-law 53-2026**

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on April 13, 2026.

R2026-161

**Motion by** Councillor Hunter

**Seconded by** Councillor Biehn

**THAT By-law 53-2026 be read a First and Second Time.**

**Carried** two-thirds support

R2026-162

**Motion by** Councillor Sebben

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT By-law 53-2026 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.**

**Carried**

**16. Adjournment of Council Meeting**

R2026-163

**Motion by** Councillor Beatty

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT the April 13, 2026 Regular Council meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 7:34 P.M.

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Mayor - Martin Ritsma

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Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe