

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 28, 2024
To: Stratford City Council
From: Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk
Report Number: COU24-125
Attachments: None

Title: Deputy Mayor Appointment 2024-2026

Objective: To consider appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the term ending November 14, 2026.

Background: In the Municipal Act, 2001, (the Act) there is no requirement for municipalities to appoint a Deputy Mayor. Section 225 of the Act outlines the role of the Head of Council, being the Mayor, but is silent on the appointment of a Deputy Mayor. Section 242 of the Act, provides that Council may appoint a member:

- to act in the place of the Head of Council; and
- to preside at meetings in the absence of the Head of Council with all the powers and duties of the Head of Council with respect to the role of presiding at meetings.

In Stratford, the Deputy Mayor position is not directly elected by voters.

At the November 28, 2022, Regular Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

THAT a member of Council be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for a two-year term to November 14, 2024 and that applications be accepted for 2025-2026 at that time.

At the December 19th meeting, Councillor Nijjar was appointed Deputy Mayor.

The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of a Deputy Mayor from amongst the elected members of Council for the remainder of the term to November 14, 2026.

Analysis: The Deputy Mayor position is defined in the Procedural By-law 140-2007 as:

“1.12 “Deputy Mayor” means the Councillor appointed by Council to act in the place of the Mayor in accordance with this By-law;”

The Procedural By-law further provides:

“2.5 Absence – Mayor – Deputy Mayor – authority

In the absence of the Mayor or if the office is vacant, the Deputy Mayor shall act in the place and stead of the Mayor, including presiding at Council meetings, and shall have all the rights, powers and authority of the Mayor.”

In addition to presiding at Council meetings, the Deputy Mayor will fulfill obligations of the Mayor set out in the:

- Municipal Act, 2001;
- Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act;
- Any other applicable legislation; and
- Stratford City Council resolution or by-law.

The Deputy Mayor also has signing authority in the absence of the Mayor and while acting in place of the Mayor at meetings, the Deputy Mayor has all the powers and duties of the Mayor.

The following members of Council have put their names forward for consideration. The names of the members of Council appear alphabetically along with an overview of why they are interested in the Deputy Mayor position:

1. Councillor Biehn:

I have decided to put my name forward for Deputy Mayor. Over the past two years, I have built a trusting relationship with the mayor through many frank and honest discussions, even when we don't see eye to eye on certain topics. My goal is to effectively represent him when needed and to contribute positively to our local government. I am eager for the challenge and growth that this role presents and am committed to fostering collaboration to better serve our community.

2. Councillor Burbach:

As an experienced Councillor and Committee Chair, I believe I have the leadership skills to serve the community as Deputy Mayor. I have considerable experience with Chairing meetings, and also have the capacity in my schedule to attend community events as the need arises. I would appreciate the opportunity to take on this role for the next two years.

3. Councillor Nijjar:

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to request your support for my nomination for Deputy Mayor for another term. I have been serving as Deputy Mayor for the past two years and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished together. I believe that I have the experience, knowledge, and leadership skills necessary to continue serving in this role.

As Deputy Mayor, I have worked hard to represent the interests of our community and to ensure that our city remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I have been involved in a number of initiatives that have helped to improve our city. I am committed to continuing this work and to making our city an even better place to live.

I would be honored to have your support for my nomination for Deputy Mayor. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me

Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The remuneration for the Deputy Mayor is set out in the Council Remuneration By-law 20-98. The 2024 rate, adjusted for the Consumer Price Index, is \$23,623.60.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The 2025 rate will be determined following completion of the Council remuneration review.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: The appointment of a Deputy Mayor allows business to continue in the absence of the Mayor but does not relate directly to Council's strategic priorities

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Not applicable: The appointment of a Deputy Mayor allows business to continue in the absence of the Mayor but does not relate directly to the One Planet Principles.

Recommendation: THAT direction be given on the appointment of a member of Council to the Deputy Mayor role for the remainder of the term from November 14, 2024 to November 14, 2026.