



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #: 4758th
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

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

Regrets: Councillor Biehn, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, 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, Dave Bush - Director of Human Resources, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Victoria Trotter - Council Committee Coordinator

Also Present: Zac Gribble – Executive Director, Destination Stratford, Members of the Public and Media

1. Call to Order:

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

Councillor Biehn, Councillor Henderson, and Councillor Sebben provided regrets.

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 McCabe declared a pecuniary interest on Item 7.12 Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointments. A member of Councillor McCabe's family is on the Committee.

Councillor Hunter declared a pecuniary interest on Item 7.5 Stratford Hockey Club Agreement Renewal 2024. Councillor Hunter's company is the primary sponsor of the club.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2024-442

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated October 28, 2024, be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

There was no addendum to the November 12, 2024, Regular Council agenda.

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

5.1 At the November 6, 2024, Session under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, a matter concerning the following item was considered:

4.1 Confidential Report of the Chief Administrative Officer with respect to a Shared Services Agreement (CM-24-03) – Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that

purpose (section 239.(2)(f)) and A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(k)).

At the In-camera Session the update and advice subject to solicitor client privilege were received.

5.2 At the November 12, 2024 Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:

4.1 Confidential Verbal Update of the Chief Administrative Officer with respect to a Litigation/Potential Litigation Matter and Solicitor-Client Privileged Advice (CM-24-11) - Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(e)) and Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)).

5.1 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Applications (CM-24-04) – Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.2 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Applications (CM-24-05) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.3 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Applications (CM-24-06) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.4 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Energy and Environment Advisory Committee Applications (CM-24-07) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.5 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Heritage Stratford Applications (CM-24-08) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.6 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to 2024 Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee Applications (CM-24-09) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

5.7 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee Youth Representative Applications (CM-24-10) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

At the In-camera session, for Item 4.1 an update and advice subject to solicitor-client privilege were received and direction was provided to the Chief Administrative and City Solicitor regarding the matter. For Items 5.1 to 5.7, personal information regarding the appointments to the different committees were considered.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

None scheduled.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Consideration of Intent to Declare as Surplus – 270 Water Street (COU24-133)

R2024-443

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the Report titled, “Consideration of Intent to Declare as Surplus – 270 Water Street (COU24-133),” be received;

THAT staff be authorized to initiate the intent to dispose of 270 Water Street process with the intent to maintain the building and heritage designations, excluding the eastern balance of the property;

THAT staff be authorized to schedule a public meeting in accordance with Policy P.3.1 Sale and Other Disposition of Land to hear from members of the public with respect to the potential disposition of this building, excluding the eastern balance of the property;

AND THAT a follow up report be prepared including a summary of the public feedback from the public meeting, for Council's consideration.

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Nominations for the Destination Stratford Board of Directors (COU24-138)

R2024-444

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT Councillor Hunter be appointed as the second Council representative to the Destination Stratford Board of Directors for the remainder of the term to November 14, 2026.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - 2025 Council, Committee, and Sub-committee Meeting Schedule (COU24-127)

R2024-445

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the 2025 Council, Committee and Sub-committee meeting schedule be approved, and staff be directed to schedule the meetings accordingly.

Carried

7.4 Resolution - Stratford Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate Program (COU24-132)

Members of Council thanked Destination Stratford and the Stratford Public Library for bringing the initiative forward and commended how it supports the City's cultural plan.

R2024-446

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT Council authorize the proposed three-year pilot Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate Program, in partnership with Destination Stratford and the Stratford Public Library.

Carried

7.5 Resolution - Stratford Hockey Club Agreement Renewal 2024 (COU24-131)

R2024-447

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT Council authorize a five-year renewal of the agreement between the City of Stratford and the Stratford Hockey Club Inc. for use of the William Allman Memorial Arena to August 30, 2029;

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

Carried

Councillor Hunter, having declared a pecuniary interest regarding this item, did not vote or participate in the discussion.

7.6 Resolution - Appointment of Youth Representative to the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee (COU24-128)

R2024-448

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the Terms of Reference for the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee be amended to increase the number of Youth Representative from one (1) to two (2) members;

THAT Ryen Ropp-Robinson and Zachary Schultz be appointed as youth representatives to the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee to September 30, 2025 or until a successor is appointed;

AND THAT Ryen Ropp-Robinson be granted an exemption from the residency requirement in the Appointments Policy C.3.1.

Carried

7.7 Resolution - Appointments to the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee (COU24-129)

A member noted that the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee has been fortunate to have engaged members and added that Stratford will

be hosting the National Symposium next year so additional members who can assist with the work will be beneficial.

R2024-449

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT the Terms of Reference for the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee be amended to increase the number of citizen appointments from five (5) to seven (7) members;

THAT Barb Hacking and Cindy Carlson be appointed as citizen representatives to the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council and that an exemption be granted from the term limit in the Appointments Policy C.3.1.

Carried

R2024-450

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT Yvonne O'Reilly and Linda Wakenhut be appointed as citizen representatives to the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council

Carried

7.8 Resolution - Appointments to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (COU24-130)

R2024-451

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT Joel B. LaCourse, Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters, and E. David Daglish be appointed as citizens-at-large to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council;

AND THAT Pat Ranney be appointed as the Cycle Stratford representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council.

Carried

7.9 Resolution - Appointments to the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (COU24-134)

R2024-452

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT Anna Stratton, Julia Schneider, Linda Wakenhut, and Ken Clarke be appointed as citizen representatives to the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council;

THAT Vanni Azzano be appointed as the Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Representative to the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council and that an exemption be granted from the term limit in the Appointments Policy C.3.1;

AND THAT Craig Merkley be appointed as the Avon River Environment Association representative the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council and that an exemption be granted from the term limit in the Appointments Policy C.3.1.

Carried

7.10 Resolution - Appointments to Heritage Stratford (COU24-135)

R2024-453

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT Andy Bicanic and Barb Cottle be appointed as citizen representatives to the Heritage Stratford Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council.

Carried

7.11 Resolution - Appointments to the Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee (COU24-136)

Motion by Councillor Wordofa

THAT Joyce Mohr, Linda Hawken, Joan Ayton, Kathy Hill, Susan L. Kummer, and Barbara Finkelstein be appointed as citizen representatives

to the Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council;

AND THAT Joan Ayton and Susan L. Kummer be granted an exemption from the term limit in the Appointments Policy C.3.1.

There was no seconder for the motion.

R2024-454

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT Joyce Mohr, Linda Hawken, Kathy Hill, and Barbara Finkelstein be appointed as citizen representatives to the Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council.

Carried

7.12 Resolution - Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointments (COU24-137)

R2024-455

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT Jenny Weber, Diane Sims, Jamie Pritchard, Roger Koert, and Brittany McCabe be appointed as citizens-at-large to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two year term to November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council;

AND THAT Diane Sims be granted an exemption from the term limit in the Appointments Policy C.3.1.

Carried

Councillor McCabe, having declared a pecuniary interest regarding this item, did not vote or participate in the discussion.

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

None scheduled.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

9.1 Report of the Social Services Committee

R2024-456

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Report of the Social Services Committee dated November 12, 2024 be adopted as printed.

Carried

9.1.1 Ontario Works 2025 Provincial Allocation (SOC24-012)

THAT the report titled, "Ontario Works 2025 Provincial Allocation" (SOC24-012), be received for information.

9.2 Report of the Community Services Committee

R2024-457

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the Report of the Community Services Committee dated November 12, 2024, be adopted as printed.

Carried

9.2.1 Proposed Free Transit Day (COM24-007)

THAT a Free Transit Day be authorized by waiving transit fares for one (1) day on November 26, 2024;

AND THAT the financial transaction be recorded as interfunctional as noted in Report COM24-007.

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:

R2024-458

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT By-law 129-2024 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

Councillor Hunter, having declared a pecuniary interest, did not vote or participate in the discussion of this by-law.

R2024-459

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-law 129-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

Councillor Hunter, having declared a pecuniary interest, did not vote or participate in the discussion of this by-law.

R2024-460

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT By-law 130-2024 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

Councillor McCabe, having declared a pecuniary interest, did not vote or participate in the discussion of this by-law.

R2024-461

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT By-law 130-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

Councillor McCabe, having declared a pecuniary interest, did not vote or participate in the discussion of this by-law.

11.1 Agreement - Stratford Hockey Club Arena Use - By-law 129-2024

To authorize the entering into and execution of an amendment to the operating agreement with the Stratford Hockey Club Inc. for use of the William Allman Memorial Arena for a further five year term to August 30, 2029.

11.2 Appointments to Advisory Committees and Boards - By-law 130-2024

To amend By-law 4-2023, as amended, to make appointments to advisory committees and boards.

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2024-181 to CA-2024-190

12.1 CA-2024-189

R2024-462

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads; AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

Carried

13. New Business:

13.1 Remembrance Day Celebration

The Mayor thanked Rick Boon and the organizing committee for the Remembrance Day Ceremony. The Mayor also thanked members of the

Legion, the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, and all the members of military service who assisted with the event. The Mayor noted that the event was well represented by members of Council and staff as well as the residents.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

The next Regular Council meeting is November 25, 2024, in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

R2024-463

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

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

- **Finance and Labour Relations Committee [7:05 or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- **Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety 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 12, 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 November 12, 2024 Council Reconvene 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 11.3 Confirmatory By-law - By-law 131-2024

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on November 12, 2024.

R2024-464

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT By-law 131-2024 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2024-465

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT By-law 132-2024 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

15.3 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2024-466

Motion by Councillor Wordofa

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the November 12, 2024, Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 7:26 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 7:31 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 7:36 p.m.

Mayor - Martin Ritsma

Deputy Clerk - Audrey Pascual