



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session MINUTES

Meeting #: 4763rd
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025
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 Henderson, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Dave Bush - Director of Human Resources, Chris Van Bargaen - Deputy Fire Chief, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Nancy Roulston - Manager of Engineering, Conner Occleston - Deputy Chief Building Official

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 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

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the January 27, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2025-23

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 January 13, 2025, be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

There was no addendum to the January 27, 2025 Regular Council agenda.

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

5.1 At the January 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, the following matter was considered:

6.1 Confidential Verbal Update of the Chief Administrative Officer with respect to a Shared Services Agreement (CM-25-03) - Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(e)); 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, an update, a report, and advice subject to solicitor-client privilege were received. Direction was given to the City Solicitor, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Mayor.

5.2 January 27, 2025, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session

It was noted that the January 27, 2025, Committee of the Whole In-camera Session was cancelled.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

6.1 David Boghosian, Integrity Commissioner for The Corporation of the City of Stratford

R2025-24

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT David Boghosian, Integrity Commissioner for The Corporation of the City of Stratford, be heard.

Carried

Integrity Commissioner David Boghosian, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided an education session regarding various topics concerning Council. Highlights of the presentation included:

- a background of Mr. Boghosian, his law firm, and his experience as Integrity Commissioner for other municipalities across Ontario;
- an overview of the role of Council and Councillors;
- an overview of Council Meeting requirements;
- an overview of Closed Meeting requirements, the Open Meeting rule, and Closed Meeting investigations;
- a review of Stratford's Code of Conduct including the mandatory sections required by legislation;
- an overview of the role of the Integrity Commissioner;
- an overview of the Code of Conduct complaint process and the investigation completed by the Integrity Commissioner; and
- an overview of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and the associated complaint and investigation processes.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - Proposed Amendment to Building By-law 112-2005 (COU25-008)

R2025-25

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the report titled, "Proposed Amendment to Building By-law 112-2005" (COU25-008), be received;

AND THAT Council approve the amendment to By-law 112-2005, as amended, regarding the proposed increases to building permit fees as set out in Schedule "A", effective February 1, 2025.

Carried

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

None scheduled

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

There were no Standing Committee reports considered at the January 27, 2025 meeting.

10. Notice of Intent:

None scheduled

11. Reading of the By-law:

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

R2025-26

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT By-law 9-2025 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2025-27

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT By-law 9-2025 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.1 Amend Building By-law Permit Fees - By-law 9-2025

To amend By-law 112-2005 as amended, to revise building permit fees effective February 1, 2025.

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2025-006 to CA-2025-008

12.1 CA-2025-008

R2025-28

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT CA-2025-008, being a resolution from the Corporation of the Town of Aylmer regarding Opposition to Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes and Support for Municipal Authority in Transportation Planning, be endorsed.

Carried

13. New Business:

13.1 Stratford Winter Fest

Mayor Ritsma congratulated and thanked the volunteers and organizers of the 2025 Winterfest.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

R2025-29

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

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

- **Social Services Committee [7:05 or thereafter following the Regular Council meeting]; and**
- **Finance and Labour Relations 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 January 27, 2025, 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

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the January 27, 2025 Council Reconvene meeting.

15.2 Confirmatory By-law:

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

By-law 11.2 Confirmatory By-law - By-law 10-2025

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on January 27, 2025.

R2025-30

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT By-law 10-2025 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2025-31

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT By-law 10-2025 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

15.3 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2025-32

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Briscoe

THAT the January 27, 2025, Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 8:30 P.M.

Mayor - Martin Ritsma

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe