



Stratford City Council Regular Council Open Session

MINUTES

Meeting #: 4773rd
Date: Monday, June 23, 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: Adam Betteridge - Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services and Interim Director of Human Resources, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Marc Bancroft - Manager of Planning, Alexander Burnett - Intermediate Planner

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made by a member at the June 23, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

3. Adoption of the Minutes:

R2025-260

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 June 9, 2025, be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Adoption of the Addendum to the Agenda:

R2025-261

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the Addendum to the Regular Agenda of Council and Standing Committees dated June 23, 2025, be added to the Agenda as printed.

Carried

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

5.1 At the June 23, 2025, Session, under the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, matters concerning the following items were considered:

4.1 Confidential Verbal Report from Councillor Hunter and Legal Opinion from the City Solicitor with respect to a Potential Litigation Matter (CM-25-14) - Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f)).

5.1 Confidential Report of the Interim Chief Administrative Officer with respect to Proposed Disposition of Land – 270 Water Street (CM-25-13) - 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); 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)).

6.1 Confidential Report of the City Clerk with respect to Applications for a Vacancy on the Committee of Adjustment (CM-25-12) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)).

At the In-camera session, the verbal report and the advice from the City Solicitor was received and direction was given to the City Solicitor for Item 4.1. Direction was given to staff and the confidential report was received for Item 5.1. There was no direction given and personal information regarding the applicants were considered for Item 6.1.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations:

6.1 Adjournment to a Public Meeting under the Planning Act:

R2025-262

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT the Council meeting adjourn to a public meeting under the Planning Act to hear from members of the public with respect to the following planning application:

- **Zone Change Application Z03-25 for 220 Albert Street;**

and to reconvene following the public meeting.

Carried

The Regular Meeting adjourned to a Public Meeting at 7:07 P.M.

Council recessed at 8:28 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

7. Orders of the Day:

7.1 Resolution - T-2025-43 Neal Avenue, Fern Street and Morison Street Watermain Relining Tender Award (COU25-073)

R2025-263

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT the tender (T-2025-43) for the Neal Avenue, Fern Street and Morison Street Watermain Relining project, be awarded to Fer-Pal Construction Ltd. at a total price of \$959,234.40, including HST;

THAT the project, including the excess over the 2025 approved budget, be funded via the Water Reserve, R-R11-WATR;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the necessary Contract Agreement for the Neal Avenue, Fern Street and Morison Street Watermain Relining project (T-2025-43).

Carried

7.2 Resolution - Award of Tender to Supply and Deliver Ten Vehicles (COU25-075)

R2025-264

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT the tender (T-2025-40) for the Supply and Delivery of Ten (10) Vehicles: Two (2) Mid-Size Hybrid Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs), Four (4) Mid-Size Hybrid Pickup Trucks, and Four (4) Full Size Hybrid 4X4 Crew Cab Pickup Trucks, be awarded to Listowel CDJR 2020 Ltd. at a total cost of \$574,469.40, including HST.

Carried

7.3 Resolution - Committee of Adjustment Vacancy 2025 (COU25-076)

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT David Hartney be appointed to the Committee of Adjustment for a term effective July 18, 2025 and ending November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council.

Defeated

R2025-265

Motion by Councillor McCabe

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT Dan Weagant be appointed to the Committee of Adjustment for a term effective July 18, 2025 and ending November 14, 2026, or until a successor is appointed by Council.

Carried

8. Business for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given:

None noted.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

9.1 Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee:

R2025-266

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Report of the Finance and Labour Relations Committee dated June 23, 2025, be adopted as printed.

Carried

9.1.1 Destination Stratford 2025 Update 1 (FIN25-012)

THAT the report titled, "Destination Stratford 2025 Update 1" (FIN25-012), dated May 20, 2025, be received for information.

9.1.2 Deposits for Land Leases and the Procurement Process (FIN25-014)

THAT the report titled, "Deposits for Land Leases and the Procurement Process" (FIN25-014), be received for information.

9.1.3 Operating Budget Variance Report as of March 31, 2025 (FIN25-013)

THAT the report titled, "Operating Budget Variance Report as of March 31, 2025" (FIN25-013), be received for information.

9.2 Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee:

R2025-267

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Beatty

THAT the Report of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee dated June 23, 2025 be adopted as printed.

9.2.1 Shakespeare Gardens Island Pedestrian Footbridge Removal (ITS25-009)

THAT the report titled, "Shakespeare Gardens Island Pedestrian Footbridge Removal" (ITS25-009), be received for information.

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

- there being concerns with the removal of a valuable asset without a plan for replacement;
- staff noting that the Parks Board is in favour of the removal of the footbridge and that the bridge is past its service life and requires a full replacement;
- a member noting that the footbridge has been closed for over a year and notices of the removal were circulated to relevant parties;
- the costs of the replacement of the footbridge and the expectations from the public that it will be replaced;
- a member requesting the public to provide their feedback on whether they want the footbridge replaced; and
- accessibility being important and the need to consider accessible investments that best serve the community.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

Carried

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the Shakespeare Gardens Island Pedestrian Footbridge be referred to staff to report back to Council with options and pricing for a replacement.

Members of Council and staff held a discussion regarding the motion as follows:

- a member clarifying that they are looking for information regarding options for replacements and associated costs;
- the Director of Infrastructure Services noting that the replacement cost is roughly around \$100,000 and the project can be reintroduced through the regular asset replacement process;
- a member noting that funding options from businesses or people who are interested in seeing the footbridge replaced can be explored; and
- the Parks Board being consulted to provide insight or knowledge on assets funded by donations.

The Mayor called the question on the motion.

Defeated

R2025-268

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Seconded by Councillor Wordofa

THAT the replacement of the Shakespeare Gardens Island Pedestrian Footbridge be referred to the Parks Board to solicit public input on the funding of the replacement of the footbridge.

Members of Council and staff held a discussion regarding the motion as follows:

- the matter being referred to the Parks Board as they consider works to be done in the parks system;
- the Director of Infrastructure Services noting that the footbridge needs to be removed as it is now a hazard;

- there being concerns with the removal of the footbridge if the referral for a replacement is being considered; and
- the Director of Infrastructure Services noting that the removal of the footbridge does not preclude Council from having future discussions of the replacement of the footbridge.

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:

R2025-267

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT By-laws 73-2025 to 75-2025 be taken collectively.

Carried unanimously

R2025-268

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT By-laws 73-2025 to 75-2025 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried two-thirds support

R2025-269

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT By-laws 73-2025 to 75-2025 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried

11.1 Award Tender for the Neal Avenue, Fern Street and Morison Street Watermain Relining - By-law 73-2025

To authorize the acceptance of a tender, execution of the contract and the undertaking of work by Fer-Pal Construction Ltd. for the Neal Avenue, Fern Street and Morison Street Watermain Relining project (T-2025-43).

11.2 Award Tender for the Supply and Delivery of 10 Vehicles - By-law 74-2025

To authorize the acceptance of a tender from Listowel CDJR 2020 Ltd. for the supply and delivery of Ten (10) Vehicles: Two (2) Mid-Size Hybrid Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs), Four (4) Mid-Size Hybrid Pickup Trucks, and Four (4) Full Size Hybrid 4X4 Crew Cab Pickup Trucks (T-2025-40).

11.3 Appointment to the Committee of Adjustment - By-law 75-2025

To amend By-law 4-2023, as amended, to make an appointment to the Committee of Adjustment.

12. Consent Agenda: CA-2025-078 to CA-2025-082

12.1 CA-2025-082

R2025-270

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT CA-2025-082, being a resolution from The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward regarding Advocacy to the Federal Government for 'Disability without Poverty', be endorsed.

Carried

13. New Business:

13.1 Rotunda Air Conditioning

R2025-271

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

THAT the installation of air conditioning in the third floor rotunda of City Hall be referred to staff.

Carried

13.2 11th Annual Hike for Hospice

Mayor Ritsma congratulated the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth for their 11th Annual Hike for Hospice Event. The Mayor noted that Team Wobblies raised \$26,000 for a total of over \$125,000. The Mayor recognized the Hospice for the service they provide to the community. The Mayor also recognized the organizers of the event and Team Wobblies for their contribution.

14. Adjournment to Standing Committees:

The next Regular Council meeting is July 14, 2025 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

R2025-272

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

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 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 June 23, 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

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made by a member at the June 23, 2025 Council Reconvene meeting.

15.2 Reading of the Confirmatory By-law:

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

By-law 11.4 Confirmatory By-law

To confirm the proceedings of Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at its meeting held on June 23, 2025.

R2025-273

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Seconded by Councillor Biehn

THAT By-law 11.4 be read a First and Second Time.

Carried unanimously

R2025-274

Motion by Councillor Beatty

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT By-law 11.4 be read a Third Time and Finally Passed.

Carried two-thirds support

15.3 Adjournment of Council Meeting

R2025-275

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the June 23, 2025 Regular Council meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 9:06 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting Start Time: 10:22 P.M.

Reconvene Meeting End Time: 10:23 P.M.

Mayor - Martin Ritsma

Clerk - Tatiana Dafoe