



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: August 28, 2017

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor McManus - Chair Presiding, Councillor Brown - Vice Chair, Councillor Bunting, Councillor Henderson

Regrets: Councillor Beatty

Staff Present: Andre Morin - Director of Corporate Services, Joan Thomson - City Clerk, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Victoria Trotter - Recording Secretary, Mike Beitz - Corporate Communications Lead, Nancy Roulston - Manager of Engineering, Tim Adair - Fire Department, Rod MacDonald - Fire Department, Taylor Crinklaw - Project Engineer

Also present: Inspector Sam Theocharis - Stratford Police, Lisa Ilowski (Item 3.1), Cameron Jariott (Item 3.2), Thomas Drake (Item 3.3), Kevin Larson (Item 3.4), Michelle Dennis (Item 4.1), Media, Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure 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 otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

None declared at the August 28, 2017 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

3.1 Presentation by Lisa Illowski

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Lisa Illowski be heard regarding the recreational fire by-law.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Lisa Illowski reviewed her submitted request regarding the recreational fire by-law, noting that although a campfire can be a great social experience, it is not compatible with city living. She expressed concerns with having to close the windows in her home each time a neighbour chooses to have a campfire on their property.

She continued to state that the current By-law has sections that are very subjective, including the section that references negative impact on persons or the environment.

Sub-committee asked Chief Paradis if there is a currently a three strike rule where if the Fire Department is called to the same residence on three separate occasions, they are no longer permitted to have recreational fires on their property.

Chief Paradis responded that based on the records he is aware of, this is not the case and never has been. He noted that there are multiple solutions to be considered including a review of the by-law, requirement

of permits, propane/natural gas clean burn only or elimination of recreational fires.

The Director of Fire Prevention noted there are various propane products sold locally.

Chief Paradis noted that the Fire Department responds to 40 to 60 calls per summer in regards to recreational fires. The reason for these calls can include fires after 11:00 p.m., smoke concerns or illegal burning.

Ms. Illowski noted that she did not make the calls to the Fire Department in haste. She also stated that the Fire Department handled each of the calls very well.

The Director of Fire Prevention stated that the Fire Department encourages neighbours to communicate regarding recreational fire concerns to try to mitigate the situation prior to the point of needing to call the Fire Department.

Sub-committee questioned if the Police Department receives calls regarding recreational fires.

Inspector Theocharis responded that he cannot recall any from the daily reports.

A member of Sub-committee noted that it may be a good idea to have Fire and Police work together on a report and present solutions to Council.

A member of Sub-committee expressed concerns for those who cannot afford to take a vacation and still want to enjoy a campfire with family and friends.

Chief Paradis stated that you can still cook food on propane fires. He also believes that if the by-law was changed to clean burn only, it would reduce the amount of calls from 40 to 60 per summer to only 1 or 2 as most people call regarding smoke and propane options do not release smoke.

In response to how quickly a report could come back to Sub-committee, Chief Paradis responded that September or October would be a potential timeline.

Motion by Councillor Brown

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Fire Department and Police Department research potential solutions regarding recreational fires and bring a report back to Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee for consideration.

Carried

3.2 Presentation by Cameron Jariott

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Cameron Jariott be heard regarding speeding on Albert Street.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Cameron Jariott reviewed the letter he submitted to Sub-committee, noting that he is concerned that drivers are using Albert Street as an alternative to Ontario Street and many vehicles are driving over 60 km/h.

Mr. Jariott expressed concerns regarding the safety of small children in the area. He suggested posted speed limits of 40km/h, speed bumps or increased enforcement as options for addressing the issue.

Sub-committee questioned which section of Albert Street is the issue.

Mr. Jariott responded that he resides between King and Queen Streets but the issue continues from this area right to the end of Albert Street.

The Manager of Engineering noted that a traffic study was completed on Albert Street with the results indicating that 85% of vehicles drove less than 50 km/h and 95% of vehicles drove less than 55 km/h.

In response to questions from Sub-committee Mr. Jariott indicated that it is quite often the same vehicles that are speeding down the street and it is taking place at various time of the day.

Inspector Theocharis stated that since the letter of concern was received from Mr. Jariott on July 26, the Police Department completed over 50 traffic initiatives in the area, resulting in only four charges including one speeding charge. He also noted that when more vehicles are driving on a specific street it appears that more vehicles are speeding.

Sub-committee questioned what action is taking when a complaint is received and the complainant is able to provide a licence plate.

Inspector Theocharis responded that if a licence plate is provided the Police Department contacts the owner of the vehicle and gives a warning.

Mr. Jariott questioned if members of the public can offer the Police use of their private driveway for traffic initiatives.

Inspector Theocharis indicated that if a member of the public wishes to offer use of their private property they need to contact the Police Department.

The Manager of Engineering responded to questions from Sub-committee that all results from traffic studies are forwarded to the Police Department for their information.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure and Development Services Department complete further traffic studies on Albert Street from Front Street to Romeo Street and report back to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee.

Carried

3.3 Presentation by Thomas Drake

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Dr. Thomas Drake be heard regarding a request for an encroachment agreement.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Dr. Drake stated he is requesting an encroachment agreement at 386 William Street due to the fact that he read in the paper the City is offering an encroachment agreement to 420 William Street which indicates that the City has no use for the land.

Dr. Drake expressed concern that the City has offered the agreement to 420 William Street and did not contact anyone else to see if they wish to have an agreement as well. He feels this is suspicious as he contacted the City to make them aware of the encroachment at 420 William Street. Dr.

Drake stated that he feels the alternative to is to have every encroachment in the City removed and a large guardrail installed.

Dr. Drake continued to say that another resident has put in an additional driveway and he is still unable to on his property. He feels that in the past the City has relied on the court decisions which only dealt with who owned the land. He noted that the ruling indicated that the City was acting in bad faith and he believes that offering one home owner an encroachment and not another is also in bad faith.

Sub-committee questioned staff if the neighbours are notified when an encroachment application is received.

The Manager of Engineering responded that is it not part of the encroachment application procedure to contact the neighbouring properties.

In response to questions from Sub-committee, the Manager of Engineering stated that the existing encroachment at 420 William Street had been in place for a number of years prior to the current owners purchasing the property.

In response to questions from Sub-committee, the Project Engineer stated that annual fees for encroachments are added to the property tax bill. In reference to 420 William Street, the annual fee is approximately \$917. Additionally, the current policy does not allow for encroachment agreements for new structures, only for existing structures encroaching onto City property, therefore a new encroachment would not permitted in a new development.

A member of Sub-committee noted that a change to the policy to allow an encroachment for new development would create a precedent and would require more consideration.

Sub-committee noted that the legal implications of allowing this specific encroachment should be reviewed by staff prior to Council making a decision.

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed for Sub-committee that a Minor Variance is for structures on private property and encroachment agreements are for structures on City property.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT staff review the legal implications and potential tax revenue of permitting an encroachment at the rear of 386 William Street and report back to Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee.

Carried

3.4 Presentation by Kevin Larson

Sub-committee Discussion: A member of Sub-committee noted that the additional three delegations submitted a written request and background information prior to the meeting to allow staff and Sub-committee to review and Mr. Larson did not.

Sub-committee noted that Mr. Larson had previously provided a list of various items he wished to address to Council but it was not re-submitted to clarify as to which items he wished to address at this meeting.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Kevin Larson be heard.

Defeated

Motion by Councillor Bunting

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Kevin Larson's request to address Sub-committee be deferred to the September 27, 2017 meeting and that the delegate submit a written proposal prior to the agenda being published.

Carried

4. Report of the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

4.1 Rebecca Street School Bus Loading Zone (ITS17-051)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report on the school bus loading zones on Rebecca Street be received for information.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Michelle Dennis be heard regarding the Rebecca Street School Bus Loading Zone.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Michelle Dennis stated that she is the owner of Gentle Rain at 30 Rebecca Street. The business has been at this location for over 25 years.

Ms. Dennis indicated that in September 2016 she was notified by a teacher at Jeanne Sauve that the buses would be moving from the location on Grange Street to Rebecca Street.

Since the buses have moved, Ms. Dennis has noticed that many customers do not frequent the store during the hour the buses are parked on Rebecca Street as they are unable to exit and enter the parking spaces in front of the store safely.

The Project Engineer noted that the buses were moved to Rebecca Street as the additional congestion of vehicles from parents and teachers on Grange Street was creating issues.

Inspector Theocharis noted that it is illegal to park across from a driveway on a street that is less than 28 feet in width, this would apply to Rebecca Street.

Inspector Theocharis noted that if the buses are moved further into residential zones it will create problems for residents as well.

Sub-committee discussed parking the buses on the east side Waterloo Street and noted this would then require removal of metered parking and would affect businesses on the west side of Waterloo Street.

Motion by Councillor Brown

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the section of Rebecca Street, south side, in front of Gentle Rain at 30 Rebecca Street be returned to a No Parking Zone and that the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board and the Avon Maitland District School Board be notified.

Carried

Motion by Councillor Brown

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT staff review alternatives for bus parking surrounding Jeanne Sauve and Romeo Public Schools.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Engineering

5.1 Noise By-law Exemption for Erie Street Resurfacing (ITS17-048)

Staff Recommendation: THAT an exemption from Noise Control By-law 113-79 be granted for Cox Construction Limited to facilitate construction in the intersection of Erie Street and Lorne Avenue, the operation of construction equipment provision [Schedule 2 clause 5] from 7:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on date(s) to be determined, with 48 hours notice.

Sub-committee Discussion: None.

Motion by Councillor Brown

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT an exemption from Noise Control By-law 113-79 be granted for Cox Construction Limited to facilitate construction in the intersection of Erie Street and Lorne Avenue, the operation of construction equipment provision [Schedule 2 clause 5] from 7:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on date(s) to be determined, with 48 hours notice.

Carried

6. Report of the City Clerk

6.1 Request for Special By-law Enforcement Officers for 207 St. Patrick Street (ITS17-047)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the request from the owner of 207 St. Patrick Street to appoint Jane Bean and Gavin Ruston as Special By-law Enforcement Officers to enforce certain parking restrictions on private property at 207 St. Patrick Street be approved;

THAT agreements be entered into with respect to the appointment of the

Special By-law Enforcement Officers;

AND THAT the appointment of Jim Miller, Tom MacArthur and Art Boon, as Special By-law Enforcement Officers at 207 St. Patrick Street, be rescinded.

Sub-committee Discussion: None

Motion by Councillor Bunting

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the request from the owner of 207 St. Patrick Street to appoint Jane Bean and Gavin Ruston as Special By-law Enforcement Officers to enforce certain parking restrictions on private property at 207 St. Patrick Street be approved;

THAT agreements be entered into with respect to the appointment of the Special By-law Enforcement Officers;

AND THAT the appointment of Jim Miller, Tom MacArthur and Art Boon, as Special By-law Enforcement Officers at 207 St. Patrick Street, be rescinded.

Carried

6.2 Request for Information regarding Bicycle Licensing in the City of Stratford (ITS17-052)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the follow-up report regarding Bicycle Licensing be received for information purposes;

AND THAT direction be provided to staff with respect to continuing to require licencing or registration of bicycles.

Sub-committee Discussion: Inspector Theocharis responded to questions, stating that the Police Department could speak to retailers to find out if they are agreeable to providing a form letter and application form to each new bicycle owner.

Sub-committee noted that only 10% of stolen bikes are returned to their owner and asked for the process of returning a bike to its owner.

Inspector Theocharis replied that generally when a bike is stolen it is abandoned in another location in the City. If the bike is not registered there is no opportunity to return the bike to its owner. Additionally, many stolen bikes have the serial number removed or are dismantled as part of a bike chop shop.

Councillor McManus indicated she will provide an update at the next Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the City of Stratford continue to require the licensing of bicycles under Bicycle Licensing By-law 51-91.

Carried

7. Capital Project Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Engineering provided a verbal update on the status of various engineering capital projects noting the following items:

- Mornington Vivian Reconstruction tender has closed and a report is scheduled for the August 28 Council Meeting
- Concrete Sanitary Sewer Relining has commenced and is to be completed by November 2017
- The Ballantyne Avenue pedestrian counts in regards to the watermain replacement have been completed and a report will be sent to Council in September 2017
- Erie Street reconstruction will commence this week

In response to questions from Sub-committee, the Manager of Engineering noted that the Erie Street reconstruction will include fixing the Erie Street and Lorne Avenue intersection.

8. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

There were no Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes to be provided at this time.

9. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall. Councillor Bunting has provided regrets for this meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Brown

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:00 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 1:46 p.m.