



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

Date: October 30, 2019

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Vassilakos - Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach - Vice Chair, Councillor Gaffney, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Tatiana Dafoe - Acting Clerk, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary

Also present: 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

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made at the October 30, 2019 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

3.1 Presentation by Bob Capling

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Decision: THAT residents be heard regarding Battershall Crescent.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Photo boards of Battershall Court with captions created by Mr. Capling were circulated to members of the Sub-committee.

Mr. Capling referred to a letter that was circulated to the property owners with driveways onto Battershall Court with two options for parking. He suggested that those two options were not the only options to be considered.

The conditions of the cul-de-sac were described, noting that the pavement is 20ft wide and when vehicles park on the cul-de-sac it causes problems. Frustration with snowplows not entering the circle when vehicles are parked there was expressed, as well as concern that emergency vehicles would not be able to access the area if the street was not plowed. It was also stated that garbage trucks often have to mount the curb to get around.

Mr. Capling requested that all councillors take a good look at the photos. He asked Sub-committee to consider what was more important to them, the safety and wellbeing of residents or money, as well as what the purpose of the green space in the circle is for.

In response to what he is requesting, Mr. Capling stated that he wants the complete removal of the concrete and grass island in the cul-de-sac, which would solve 99% of the problems. He noted other cul-de-sacs in the area, such as Waddell Street, do not have concrete circles in the middle.

Suzi Higgins stated that she is also a resident on Battershall Court, although her driveway does not exit onto the cul-de-sac. The circle is very large and when people are parked around it, or the snow hasn't been cleared, it is very difficult to maneuver large vehicles around it. She also

expressed frustration at multiple employees arriving to cut the grass in the circle, however only one completes the task.

In response to whether the Fire Department has experienced problems getting around the circle, the Fire Chief advised that he looked into this street and was unable to find any records relating to issues.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Sub-committee Decision: THAT staff prepare a report on parking conditions in the cul-de-sac of Battershall Court, including potential costs for removing the circle and input from the Fire Department.

Carried

In response to questions about the initial purpose of the green space and whether removing it would affect drainage, the Director advised the islands can be used for snow storage, green space or location of utilities such as fire hydrants or hydro poles, although designs have been moving away from islands over time. If it was removed, the street would need to be graded to drain towards the curbs.

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Mr. Capling be heard.

Carried

Mr. Capling stated that grass is not needed to store snow and wanted to know what the purpose of the island was in the first place. The Chair advised that all of the information would be in the staff report.

Mr. Capling requested to keep his photos but noted they are available if Council wishes to see them. The Chair advised that he would be contacted when the staff report is listed for consideration.

4. Report of the Fire Chief

4.1 Annual Christmas Market By-Law 5-2006 Exemption (ITS19-061)

Staff Recommendation: THAT an exemption to Section 8.2 (a) of By-law 5-2006 be granted to the Annual Christmas Market Committee to allow for an open burn from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 24, 2019 in Market Square.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Fire Chief provided background on the request and the Open Burn by-law.

In response to what it would look like, the Fire Chief advised that the organizers are having something fabricated by a local business at their cost and are working with the Fire Department to ensure it is appropriate.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT an exemption to Section 8.2 (a) of By-law 5-2006 be granted to the Annual Christmas Market Committee to allow for an open burn from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 24, 2019 in Market Square.

Carried

4.2 Town of Goderich Fire Dispatching Services (ITS19-062)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council approve the one year fire dispatching agreement for the Town of Goderich at the cost of \$12,000.

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Fire Chief advised the City has been providing back-up fire dispatch services to Goderich for many years. The local hospital is currently providing dispatch services but is not sure they can continue to provide the service.

He has no concerns with the request from Goderich, although he noted that the revenue was not accounted for in the 2020 budget.

In response to whether current staff would complete the work, the Fire Chief advised that the calls are sporadic and would not add significant volume.

The Chair noted that the City provides dispatching services for many area municipalities.

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Council approve the one year fire dispatching agreement for the Town of Goderich at the cost of \$12,000.

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement.

Carried

5. Report of the Chief Building Official

5.1 100 St. Patrick Street – Justice Building Lease (ITS19-057)

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an Extension and Amending Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Government and Consumer Services for the lease of a portion of space at 100 St. Patrick Street (Administration of Justice Building) for five years commencing on January 1, 2020 and shall expire on December 31, 2024;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised there was not a lot of room for negotiation. Staff did check with local real estate agents who confirmed that \$13-15 per square foot is an appropriate market rate. Maintenance costs above and beyond the rent are also charged.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an Extension and Amending Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Government and Consumer Services for the lease of a portion of space at 100 St. Patrick Street (Administration of Justice Building) for five years commencing on January 1, 2020 and shall expire on December 31, 2024;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement.

Carried

6. Report of the Energy and Environment Committee

6.1 Request for Resolution in Support of Conservation Authorities (ITS19-059)

At the October 15, 2019 Regular Council meeting, the following referral motion was made:

THAT the resolution drafted by the Energy and Environment Committee in support of the continuation of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority programs be referred to the October 30, 2019 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee for consideration.

Staff Recommendation: For the consideration of the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee.

Sub-committee Discussion: It was suggested until the changes are known, this may be putting the cart before the horse. It was also suggested that many things the UTRCA does are not statutory.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: **THAT Council pass a resolution supporting the initiatives of the Conservation Authority and the significant impact they have on our local environment and forward it to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Ernie Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.**

Carried

6.2 Updated Terms of Reference for the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (ITS19-060)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the main purpose of the Energy and Environment Committee, as outlined in their Terms of Reference, be amended to:

- The main purpose of the Energy and Environment Committee is to study all matters coming to its attention which might have any effect on the environment, particularly the environment of the City of Stratford and its surroundings. The Committee's principal goal will be

to improve the environment and advocate for energy efficiency across the entire municipal spectrum. The committee will strive to maintain Stratford's reputation as a community of environmental excellence. The Committee shall be advisory in nature and shall advise City Council of environmental matters and may from time to time make such recommendations to Stratford City Council concerning the environment as it deems advisable.

Sub-committee Discussion: None

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the main purpose of the Energy and Environment Committee, as outlined in their Terms of Reference, be amended to:

- **The main purpose of the Energy and Environment Committee is to study all matters coming to its attention which might have any effect on the environment, particularly the environment of the City of Stratford and its surroundings. The Committee's principal goal will be to improve the environment and advocate for energy efficiency across the entire municipal spectrum. The Committee will strive to maintain Stratford's reputation as a community of environmental excellence. The Committee shall be advisory in nature and shall advise City Council of environmental matters and may from time to time make such recommendations to Stratford City Council concerning the environment as it deems advisable.**

Carried

7. Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

7.1 Request for Additional Accessible On-Street Parking Spaces (ITS19-058)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee request for staff to investigate the possibility of adding an on-street accessible parking spot on Erie Street at the south side of the entrance to the City Hall Annex parking lot and the possibility of adding an on-street accessible parking spot on Oak Street at Dufferin Street close to the

accessible entrance to the Dufferin Ball Diamond, be referred to Infrastructure and Development Services Staff.

Sub-committee Discussion: None.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Sub-committee Recommendation: **THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee request for staff to investigate the possibility of adding an on-street accessible parking spot on Erie Street at the south side of the entrance to the City Hall Annex parking lot and the possibility of adding an on-street accessible parking spot on Oak Street at Dufferin Street close to the accessible entrance to the Dufferin Ball Diamond, be referred to Infrastructure and Development Services Staff.**

Carried

8. Capital Project Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services provided an update on the status of various engineering capital projects, with the highlights as follows:

Quinlan Pump Station and Forcemain are substantially complete. Staff are reviewing servicing drawings for the new development and he believes servicing will begin early next year.

Crane Avenue reconstruction is ongoing and Festival Hydro is beginning to install street lights.

The Forman Avenue Pedestrian Crossing is installed. A crossing guard was present and information on how to use the crossing is being released.

The Huron and Huntingdon Pedestrian Crossing has received approval from the MTO but is delayed due to the length of time to obtain locates and utility conflicts.

Discussion took place regarding the Huron and Huntingdon Pedestrian Crossing. It was noted by a Sub-committee member that they continue to get reports of near-misses and requested this item to be advanced, if possible. The Director advised the MTO is fine with the signal design; however, staff found that there is a significant amount of Bell conduit located where the crossing was to be situated.

With regard to the Pedestrian Crossing on Forman Avenue, a Sub-committee member stated that there is interest in keeping the crossing guard there. The Acting Clerk advised issues were experienced during the first day of operation as drivers learn how to navigate the crossing. It was anticipated the guard would remain until at least Friday November 8, although it was noted that retaining crossing guards and spares continues to cause difficulty with covering all of the crossings.

Concern was noted at the liability of continuing to cross children at Huron and Huntingdon when it is known that it is not safe. Discussion took place about crossing at Forman Avenue and Huron. It was noted that the consultant retained found that it was not a safe option.

9. New Business

A Sub-committee member stated that a member of the public reached out to her with concerns about pedestrian safety. Near misses at stop signs are being experienced on an almost daily basis. It was suggested this could be tied to the matter of reducing the speed limit throughout the City.

Discussion took place about pedestrian safety concerns, noting that they seem to be on the rise as drivers are more distracted or in a hurry. It was suggested that education and enforcement are key.

The Director noted that people are often looking for a sign or a law to try and control behaviour but it comes down to driver behaviour. It was suggested that the Council representative on the Police Services board mention this at the next meeting.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT staff be directed to contact Stratford Police Services regarding ongoing pedestrian and traffic concerns throughout the City.

Carried

Discussion took place about one-way streets. The Director stated that all required signage is out and it is dependent on drivers paying attention. It was noted there used to be painted arrows at the corner of Romeo and Albert Street to indicate it was a one-way and asked whether that has any impact. The Director advised he could look into it but it still comes down to people paying attention.

10. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of June 4, 2019

Energy and Environment Committee minutes of June 6, 2019

11. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is November 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Sebben

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

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 5:24 p.m.