

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2022

Approved Minutes

DATE: March 9, 2022
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:06 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers – Public via Social Media

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Gary Clow; Councillors Derek Smith; Darren MacDougall; Jill Burridge; Steve Gallant; Gail MacDonald; Jeremy Crosby, CAO, and Director of Infrastructure; Blaine Yatabe, Town Planner; Jeremy Pierce, Director of Recreation, Culture, and Events; Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology; Jeannie Gallant, Project Manager; Wendy Watts, Community and Business Engagement Manager; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Nil

GUESTS: Constable Bruce, RCMP

CHAIR: Mayor Steve Ogden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Ogden called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those who were viewing via social media.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge the land upon which we gather is the unceded territory of the Mi’Kmaq people, and we pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi’Kmaq people of this territory past, present, and future.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Clow and seconded by Councillor Gail MacDonald that the agenda be approved as presented.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Derek Smith and seconded by Councillor Darren MacDougall that the Regular Council Minutes of February 9, 2022, and the Special Council Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022, be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden briefly reviewed the report as follows:

- I am very sad to report that longtime Stratford resident Gordon “Bus” Gay has passed away. Bus was a personal friend who has contributed so much to our Town and was passionate in his efforts to make Stratford the best community possible and worked tirelessly toward that goal. He was a member of one of the eight founding families of Stratford, and he embodied a big part of our history and culture. He will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences to his friends and family.
- Congratulations to resident Mary Hughes who won a Senior Island of the Year Award from the provincial government, and also to resident Dr. Trevor Jain who won Distinguished Alumnus from Acadia University.
- Chaired a special Council meeting to approve a rezoning request.
- Met to discuss financial and budget issues with the Executive of the Cross Roads Fire Company.
- Attend a virtual public meeting to present provincial plans for a new roundabout on the Trans Canada Highway in Stratford.
- Along with CAO Crosby and Mayors Brown and McCourt, met virtually with MLA James Aylward and his Deputy Minister and managers to discuss the need for increased transit funding.
- Participated in three special budget meetings with Council and managers to develop a draft 2022/23 Town and Utility budget for presentation to residents for their input
- Along with CAO Jeremy Crosby, met with representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion to discuss Veterans’ housing issues.
- Had the pleasure of presenting a certificate of recognition to a fine young man, Maxine Dunphy, who won a national award for his video demonstration of his amazing soccer skills.
- Along with recreation chair Councillor Steve Gallant – had the honour of participating in the Annual Youth Centre Awards night and helped present the awards for volunteerism to members of our great youth centre.
- Provided opening remarks to a virtual public presentation of the SWITCH program.

- Along with CAO Crosby, met with the Member of Parliament for Stratford, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay to discuss Stratford issues and the huge need for federal investment in infrastructure for our growing population.
- Together with Council and managers met virtually with PACE Atlantic staff to discuss changing the payment security approach for participants in the SWITCH program.
- Participated in a virtual meeting of the Community Campus Implementation Committee to finalize the concept plan for the campus.
- Was interviewed by CBC on four occasions about short-term rental policy; the results of the latest census; the annual resident survey; and Stratford's contribution to the 2023 Canada Games.

Deputy Mayor Clow told a little story about Bus Gay who pushed hard and worked hard for the crosswalk from the Home Hardware and Sobey's. Bus was adamant he was going to get that crosswalk and he spent many days at the provincial government with his own hand drawings on a sheet of paper.

Mayor Ogden noted that there was a meeting with Frank Morrison on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Frank wanted to celebrate Stratford as the first smoke free community in Canada and possibly the world (Frank was going to verify this). Councillor Smith was also in attendance, and he noted that since the 1960's to the present day we have come a long way. Mayor Ogden noted that the only place that is not smoke free in the Town would be private property.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO) REPORT

The CAO reviewed his report as follows:

- Feb 1
Department head meeting to review projects and Town business;
Meeting with the Gray Group regarding their proposed development.
- Feb 2
Attended the Sustainability meeting.
- Feb 3
Attended budget meetings;
Met with IT representative.
- Feb 4
Met with PEITI regarding Bunbury subdivision connections.
- Feb 7
Met with the Charlottetown Curling Club representatives regarding potential next steps;
Capital Area Transit Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss operational funding.
- Feb 9
Housing supply challenge meeting.

- Feb 10
Special Council meeting regarding second reading and adoption of the rezoning on Irving Avenue and bylaw text amendment;
Budget Meeting to discuss operating and capital initiatives.
- Feb 15
Department head meeting to review projects and Town business.
- Feb 16
Guardian interview regarding Town projects;
Budget meeting to further review operating and capital initiatives;
Community Campus meeting;
Meeting with municipal and provincial representatives regarding the transit operating subsidy;
Meeting with the Cross Roads Fire Company representatives.
- Feb 17
Followup budget meeting;
Accountability and Engagement Committee meeting.
- Feb 22
Review of market response for Town health and dental plan;
Budget meeting;
Excellent meeting with the SWITCH program representatives and Stratford residents are making great use of the program;
Meeting with RBC representatives regarding community campus loan.
- Feb 23
Meeting with department heads regarding the budget.
- Feb 25
Meeting to review Upland's scope of work for developing design standards for the community campus;
Meeting with the Royal Canadian Legion regarding affordable housing for veterans.
- Feb 28
Meeting with planning staff.

In addition to the above, worked on the 2022 budget, planning related matters, SWITCH program file, provincial government related matters, community campus, police services model review, business park expansion, Bunbury Forest land acquisition, and staff HR related issues related issues. Also attended to other Town and Utility related business as required.

9. **SAFETY SERVICES**

a) **Report**

Councillor Smith took a moment to thank Councillor MacDonald and her team for representing the fire company increase. She spoke well and justified the increase in the budget.

Councillor Smith noted that there was no meeting in March due to a snowstorm. He added that the next Safety Services meeting will be held on March 21, 2022.

b) Street Lights

No Report

c) RCMP Report

Last month the Deputy Mayor asked for the names of the officers who work in Stratford to be included in the report. However, Councillor Smith stated that he was not comfortable in releasing their names for security and safety reasons. He added that of the members who we have in Stratford they average 13 years of service.

Councillor Smith asked Constable Bryce to step up to the podium. Councillor Smith noted that there were 10 motor vehicle accidents and two had reportable damage. All 10 accidents were on main roads. Total tickets issued were 102 with 41 warnings issued. Councillor Smith noted that there were four calls under the Mental Health Act and all four individuals were transported to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for further assessment. There were two calls under the 911 Act and members attended and determined there was no emergency at either call. There were five reports of theft under \$5000 and all were thefts of gas. There were 23 index checks conducted, and the RCMP responded to 14 false alarms.

Councillor MacDonald noted that on the February report is notes that there are 22 seatbelt violations, but on the Mayor's report is notes 8 seatbelt violations. Constable Bryce replied that some of the numbers might be coming from the provincial priority unit and are being captured on one report, but not on the other.

Councillor Smith noted that Corporal Lutley had said that he was going to be doing a joint patrol regarding snowmobiles on the trails.

Constable Bryce introduced himself and noted that Corporal Lutley sends his regrets. He added that he is one of the two new officers in Stratford. In answer to the question regarding the snowmobiles, the plan was to do a joint patrol, but the weather did not cooperate. However, we were in contact with conservation, and any complaints we get we pass on to them. Constable Bryce stated that they may try to get out again, but it will be weather dependent.

Councillor Smith stated that we now have the police report from the provincial government, and we have been reviewing it. He added that town managers and Council will meet in the near future to discuss the needs going forward.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of February was included in the agenda package for Council to review. It was a standard month for the Humane Society.

e) Transit

The transit graph report for the month of February was included in the agenda package. The last two weeks we realized how valuable transit is with the increases in the cost of fuel. Councillor Smith noted that in order for us to expand transit it needs to be used.

The CAO advised that the province is subsidizing the passes for the month of April. The cost is \$58.50 a month and they are reducing it down for an adult to \$20. The student pass will be reduced from \$40.50 down to \$10, and the senior's pass will be reduced from \$40.50 down to \$10. This is a great initiative of the province, and we really welcome it. Councillor Smith stated that there was an average of 82 riders per day, so things are starting to slowly improve.

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that there is a bicycle shop in Stratford and CBC was in doing an interview with the owner. The owner had noted that they are having trouble getting bicycles in. They commented on the active transportation over the Hillsborough Bridge, and they predicted that there will be more bicycles on the go this summer than ever before due to the increase in gas prices. Councillor Smith noted that he did some research on bikes and they have gone up more than \$500 in one year.

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that we had discussed renting out bikes. The CAO stated that we did discuss it at our budget meetings, but it is not in the capital budget at this point because we don't have all the information regarding funding. However, it is something we can revisit once we have some additional information.

f) Cross Roads Fire Department

Included in the agenda package.

Councillor Smith stated that it has been his policy while on Council that from time to time he would give a brief report about incidents, or about a volunteer and the role they play in the Town and this time he wanted to inform Council about the Cross Roads Fire Department's new deputy fire chief, David Walsh. David is a resident of Stratford and is married and a father of two. He works in the technology field with an international company. David's interests are in woodworking and all sports, and he has been a coach in a number of youth sport teams over the years. He has been an active volunteer firefighter for 16 plus years and has always been interested in taking a leadership role within the department. Therefore, he has taken different courses in order to obtain his new position. Councillor Smith noted that the fire chief and David have taken on the task

of making changes to the department to realign the fire company for today's needs. Councillor Smith wanted to personally thank David for his dedication to both the fire company and the citizens of Stratford.

The Board has asked for an increase for the operational needs of the department. There were some back and forth negotiations with the executive of the Board, and they justified the increase. One of their needs is an administrative assistant, and Councillor Smith stated that he was happy to report there was a large number of applicants who applied for the position.

It was noted that we have a new fire chief and a new deputy fire chief. There are currently 48 fire fighters with additional people on a waiting list.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to thank the Cross Roads Fire Company for keeping the community safe.

10. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Gallant highlighted some of the items from the report as follows:

Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee – the committee met on March 8 and some of the items discussed were the draft 2022/23 operation and capital budget for the department, the parks master plans, new Covid operating guidelines, spring and summer planning, and updates from the youth centre.

Arts and Culture – The Arts and Culture Sub-committee met on February 10 and items discussed included the projected 2022-23 Arts and Culture budget, an Arts and Culture concept plan, and an application for a summer arts student.

Stratford Youth Centre and Council – the youth centre hosted their 2021 youth awards and holiday party on February 11, 2022. The event had been cancelled in December as a result of a Covid shutdown.

In 2021, the youth centre members had a record setting year of 2074 volunteer hours. Considering activities were reduced due to Covid restrictions this was a pretty amazing number of hours volunteered by Stratford youth.

The Youth Council and Leadership Committee hosted their annual Walkathon event on March 4 – 5. Members collected donations and walked for 24 consecutive hours around the Town centre walking track.

The youth centre will be hosting an online auction from March 21 to 27. Local businesses and individuals will be donating items for the public to bid on. Item donations are being accepted until March 15.

The youth centre attendance numbers have dropped over the past month due to a number of youths being required to isolate for being a close contact or having Covid. The youth centre continues to monitor for Covid cases and enforces strict Covid rules to protect staff and youth members.

Fitness Area and Gymnasium - with the re-opening of the fitness facilities, the Town Centre is happy to report that residents are returning to their respective health and well-being fitness programs. Although numbers are not at typical February and March totals, it is good to see numbers increasing on a weekly basis.

Outdoor Rinks and Trail Grooming – winter rinks are quickly coming to a close. Although the winter had several periods of warm temperatures, the three outdoor rinks were very well maintained, and more importantly very well utilized. Likewise, Stratford residents and guests were able to walk and hike on the groomed trails at Fullerton's and Cotton Park from December to March.

11. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- a) Report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor MacDonald highlighted some of the items in the report as follows:

The draft budget presentation was held on March 8, 2022, and comments will be received until March 15, 2022. The final budget meeting with Council and management will be held on March 17, 2022.

A Special Council meeting to pass the budget will be held on March 23, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to pass the budget.

Councillor MacDonald thanked the finance director and everyone who worked on the budget during the past few months.

Staff is also working on government claim forms for ICIP funding; New Deal allocations for March 31, 2022, year-end; MCEG Grant for capital purchases for year end March 31, 2022; RCMP retroactive file; and other day to day duties.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the agenda package. Councillor MacDonald briefly reviewed the financial statements.

12. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

- a) The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Burrridge briefly reviewed the report noting that there were updates on the two ongoing developments. One is the Chen Sun property off of Mason Road and the other is the MacDonald development in Clearview. Councillor Burrridge noted that there is still some work to be done on both of these developments before they come to Council. Short term rentals and text amendments in regard to child care were also discussed.

Councillor Burrridge took a moment to recognize Doug Kelly who won a 2022 Heritage Award.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the agenda package. The Town planner reviewed the development permit summary.

- c) **Resolution PH013-2022 – A002-22 General Text Amendments – Town of Stratford Zoning and Development Bylaw #45 – Public Meeting**

Moved by Councillor Jill Burrridge

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Gary Clow

WHEREAS Several text amendments to the Zoning and Development Bylaw #45 have been identified to bring Child Care Facility up to date with the PEI Government *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Minor text amendments are required to aid in clarification to Section 11.3.6 -Medium Density Residential Zone (R2) for lot coverage, and other text amendments bringing updated language to improve the Zoning and Development Bylaw #45; and

WHEREAS Pursuant to Section 3 of the Zoning and Development Bylaw, it is required that a public meeting be held to solicit public input from residents.

BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to Bylaw #45, be brought to a public meeting on March 23, 2022, to solicit public input from residents.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee.

Councillor Burridge noted that an application came in and what we discovered was that our bylaw does not align with the current Early Learning and Child Care Act. The proposed text amendments will bring our bylaw into alignment with the Act.

Question: **CARRIED**

Mayor Ogden noted that our town planner Blaine Yatabe is leaving us to move to Ontario to be closer to his family and we wish him all the best. Blaine thanked Mayor Ogden and noted that it was a great experience working for the Town of Stratford.

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Report

The report was included in the package. Deputy Mayor Clow highlighted some of the items from the report:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning – the contractor continues with the grading of the site and is expected to have all material placed in another week. The last touches of applying the final topsoil and hydroseed will be done in the spring.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy – we continue to monitor and assess the sanitary sewer collection system to identify any areas requiring repair that will reduce the amount of surface and groundwater entering the collection system.

Dry Storage Building – construction is progressing well on the building and is on track for owner occupancy by the end of March.

New Water Reservoir – a review is being completed by the consultant to determine the size of the reservoir to be added. The RFP for design services will be issued when these details are finalized.

Pondside Watershed Restoration - An RFP has been issued to engage a consultant to develop the plans and oversee the construction involved with the restoration of Kelly's Pond and Moore's Pond. Questions have been fielded on the scope and deliverables of the project, and the submission deadline for proposals has been extended to March 11.

Community Campus Site Servicing – An RFP has been issued to engage a consultant to develop the plans and oversee the construction involved with the water, sewer, storm, electrical, road, and active transportation infrastructure for the community campus site. The submission deadline for receiving proposals is March 16.

The infrastructure staff has been busy with the following tasks:

- Maintaining rinks and clearing snow from hydrants and lift stations;
- Repairs and painting continue at the Town Hall;
- Replacement of heat pump filters and air handling unit filters at the Town Hall;
- Salting, sanding, and snow removal operations are ongoing;
- Bylaw complaints and investigations are ongoing;
- Water system sampling and maintenance is ongoing; and
- Water and sewer inspections and water turn-ons for new development is on-going.

During the month of February there was a minor residential sewer lateral blockage on Harbourview Drive. The investigation showed an issue with the owner's portion and a low section in the Utility portion of the lateral. A cleanout is being installed to allow the utility to provide regular maintenance of this section of the lateral.

The CAO noted that the letter in regard to the community campus active transportation funding was received and we hope to have construction start in July, and he took a moment to thank both the provincial and the federal government.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

No report

15. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Included in the agenda package. Councillor MacDougall gave a brief overview of his report noting that the environmental sustainability coordinator gave an update on the municipal natural assets initiative. There was also an update on the Switch program and the question of whether or not to have the lien process continue was discussed. The committee collectively agreed that a lien wasn't necessary and PACE Atlantic who oversees the program has told us that no other communities are using the lien requirement. Councillor Smith added that PACE Atlantic also advised us that not one person reneged on the payment plan.

Councillor MacDougall noted that the CAO gave an update on the Bunbury forest land and the community campus, and the environmental sustainability coordinator gave an update on Kelly's Pond restoration.

Mayor Ogden asked if for the next meeting he could get a progress report on our energy plan that was established in 2016. The CAO explained that we had hired a temporary staff person to work on the energy plan and we do have all the information. He noted that he will work with the environmental sustainability coordinator to provide the report. He also noted that PACE Atlantic that oversees our Switch program is also tracking this information for us.

Councillor Smith noted that the Switch Program will help residents save on fuel. He noted that many residents are taking advantage of the program, but more could also access it.

Mayor Ogden thanked Councillor MacDougall for championing the Switch program and congratulated him on the success of the program.

16. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Mayor Ogden noted that the committee met but they didn't have a quorum, so they went ahead with a discussion meeting. It was noted that the resident survey closed on March 8, 2022, and we received more than 1000 responses which is a good confidence level for a survey.

17. HUMAN RESOURCES

Nil

18. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Smith noted that Council is currently wearing the blue and yellow ribbons in support of the Ukraine. What is happening is wrong and we need to take a stand on it. Mayor Ogden agreed that it is a terrible situation and he hoped it could end without further loss of life.

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Community Seniors

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that everything is status quo at the complex. He stated that there were some issues with the snow removal from the patios, but that issue was resolved. Deputy Mayor Clow noted that he was informed that the North Shore Seniors subsidized housing has five vacancies, and they wanted to get the information out to the public.

b) Community Campus

Councillor Burrige noted that we did receive funding on three applications for 14 million dollars and the RFP has gone out for the campus site servicing. The province also had an RFP out for architecture design and that has closed. The Upland Masterplan Report for the Community Campus has been reviewed by the committee and was sent back to Upland to make the revisions. We will be getting a revised copy soon which could possibly come to the next Council meeting for approval.

Councillor Burrige noted that there will be three agreements with the province in different capacities. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purchase and sale of the piece of land to the province. There will be an MOU for site servicing, and there will be a shared use agreement between the Public Schools Branch and the Town of Stratford. The CAO noted that a survey will be done for our road portion,

and we want to make sure it matches with what the province is doing for the school. He added that it will be part of the RFP for our road alignment.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

21. PROCLAMATIONS

Kidney Foundation Proclamation

Whereas each day 1 in 10 Canadians learn that their kidneys have failed, and this number is on the rise as 45% of new kidney patients are under 65. Their survival will depend on dialysis treatments or a kidney transplant. In 2021, kidney disease was the tenth leading cause of death in Canada. There are currently 100 people in Prince Edward Island receiving hemodialysis treatments three or more times a week. Twenty three people receive peritoneal dialysis in their homes, 1 Islander received a kidney transplant compared to 5 in 2020, and 11 patients are waiting for a kidney transplant. Short term final assistance requests increased significantly in 2021, with 141 Islanders receiving close to \$27,000; and

Whereas the Kidney Foundation of Canada is the only national health charity serving the needs of people living with kidney disease through funding research, providing educational and emotional support programs, promoting access to high quality health care, and, actively promoting awareness of, and commitment to, kidney health and organ donation; and

Whereas March 10, 2022, is World Kidney Day and the theme is “Bridge the Knowledge Gap to Better Kidney Care.” The Kidney Foundation, Atlantic Branch aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems.

Therefore I, Mayor Steve Ogden hereby proclaim that the month of March be observed as “Kidney Month” in the Town of Stratford. I urge all Islanders to become aware of your own kidney health and learn about the role your kidneys play in your body and the kidney disease warnings signs to look for, as well as the awareness of the organ donation registry.

22. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

23. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Steve Ogden

Jeremy Crosby, CAO