

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 10, 2021
Approved Minutes

DATE: November 10, 2021
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:51 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; Robert Hughes, CAO; Jeremy Crosby, Deputy CAO, and Director of Infrastructure; Kevin Reynolds, Director of Planning, Development, and Heritage; 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: Corporal Lutley, 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 called upon everyone to stand for a moment of silence for the veterans who gave their lives in war time, and for those who continue to serve. He added that Councillor Darren MacDougall is a veteran who has been on deployment overseas, and he took a moment to acknowledge and thank him for his service. Mayor Ogden also recognized Corporal Lutley and thanked him for his service.

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 Councillor Gail MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Darren MacDougall that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Jill Burridge and seconded by Deputy Mayor Clow that the Regular Council Minutes of October 13, 2021, 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:

- Participated in the unveiling ceremony for the Stratford Honour Roll to commemorate Stratford Veterans who served in the armed services and those who laid down their lives for our country
- Recorded Remembrance Day message to express our gratitude to all those who have served Canada in wartime and peacetime
- Along with Deputy Mayor Clow, Councillors Burridge, Gallant, MacDonald, and Smith, as well as staff members Jeremy Crosby, Maddy Crowell and Wendy Watts – attended the semi-annual meeting of the Federation of PEI Municipalities in Summerside – Mayor Ogden thanked Maddy and Wendy who gave excellent presentations
- Participated in interviews as part of the process to hire a new CAO
- Attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new SOHO Spa
- Visited with businesses to discuss issues and to encourage them to participate in the business survey
- Attended a fundraising event in support of Women's Network
- Participated in the Atlantic Mayors' meeting
- Interviewed by CBC for Compass, Mainstreet, and Island Morning regarding the concept plan for the new waterfront development, the resident survey, and the community campus plan
- Attended internal meetings and looked after the day-to-day affairs of the Town.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to recognize and thank resident Peggy Forbes who purchased a lovely bench for a Town trail in remembrance of her late husband Alan Forbes. Mayor Ogden noted that Mr. Forbes contributed so much to the community of Keppoch-Kinlock in the early days before the Town of Stratford was formed.

Councillor Smith asked Mayor Ogden if he could elaborate more on the Atlantic Mayor's meeting, and Mayor Ogden replied that there were 24 mayors in attendance, and the impact of climate change, the Charlottetown library, and the waterfront were items of discussion. He noted that he can send the agenda package to any Councillor who is interested in seeing it.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

The CAO reviewed his report as follows:

- Reviewed the draft lease agreement for the Island Gymnastics Academy
- Attended an FCM Community Energy Financing Community of Practice meeting
- Met with Gray Group representatives to continue to identify the bylaw and official plan changes required to implement their plan for the core area
- Joined a Steering Committee with the consultant to review draft capital region housing demand study
- Completed the draft CAO Bylaw and performance evaluation process
- Review draft new version of the long-term forecast spreadsheet
- Coordinated a staff team building day – thank you to Council for allowing us to close the office once a year to work on the team – it was a fun, productive day
- Participated in Natural Assets identification exercises with other staff
- Attended an internal records management committee meeting to assess progress and needs
- Met with ACOA representatives regarding funding for the Waterfront Boardwalk
- Spoke with legal counsel regarding the Landfest Appeal
- Chaired an AIM network Board meeting
- Attended internal meetings on various topics and attended to the day-to-day affairs of the organization.

9. SAFETY SERVICES

a) Report

Councillor Smith noted that the report was included in the package and if anyone has any questions he would be happy to answer them.

Councillor Gallant asked about lights for a crosswalk at the intersection on Stratford Road by the church, and the infrastructure director Jeremy Crosby replied that a letter has been sent to the Department of Transportation to ask them to look at the intersection, but we have not yet received a reply.

b) Street Lights

Councillor Smith asked Jeremy for an update on the new bike path on Keppoch Road. Jeremy noted that the new multi-use path from Tea Hill to the intersection of Kinlock and

Keppoch Road is almost complete. He noted that there are quite a number of existing utility poles where we can install LED lights to light up the path. We did have a resident express some concern regarding the installation of lights due to light pollution. However, it is on the agenda for discussion at the next Safety Services Committee meeting. Jeremy also noted that there were discussions with Maritime Electric to install some additional poles, because we do install lights on our multi-use paths for safety purposes.

c) RCMP Report

The report for the month of October was included in the agenda package. Councillor Smith stated that the night before Halloween he drove around with Citizens on Patrol. The weather was good and there were a lot of people out enjoying themselves, but overall, it was a quiet night.

Councillor Smith noted that there were 88 index checks for the month of October and added that a number of them were for volunteers.

There were 33 tickets issued and 12 of those tickets were for speeding. Tickets were also issued for non-moving violations, seatbelts, intersection, cell phones, Liquor Control Act (LCA), and driving while suspended. It was noted that there were only two 911 calls during the month of October.

Councillor Smith noted that the residents of Stratford were pretty well behaved on Halloween and there was no property damage. Councillor Lutley agreed that the residents of Stratford were very well behaved over the Halloween weekend. However, there was an incident of a house party with more than the public health allowable number of people the evening before Halloween, and a summary offence ticket was issued to each of the four tenants of the house.

Councillor Gallant stated that there was a complaint on Duffy Road on Saturday night of some teens on the beach and the RCMP was quick to take care of it.

Councillor MacDonald thanked Constable Lutley for including cell phone violations in the report.

Councillor MacDonald noted that the fines totaled \$7,552 and she asked what percentage of that amount comes back to Stratford. Mayor Ogden noted that this goes back to a long standing issue of reconciliation of the fine amounts and the actual amounts received by the Town. It is an on-going issue.

Councillor Smith stated that CBC reported that the provincial government plans to go ahead with photo radar, and it will be a province wide initiative. They also plan to have cameras at intersections for red light violations.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of October 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 October was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Smith asked Jeremy to give an update on the pilot project. Jeremy replied that unfortunately, we have not had any uptake on the pilot program. He added that we had flyers delivered to each resident in the area to make them aware of the project, but it is not working the way we had hoped.

Councillor MacDonald asked if we are going to stick with our December deadline for the pilot project, and Councillor Smith replied that this is a question that Council will need to consider. He added that we will need to look at the cost and the results, but if the ridership is not there we will need to consider spending the money elsewhere in the transit system. Jeremy stated that the ridership is up in our regular transit routes, and we are not sure what the barrier is to the on-demand system adding that we have done everything we can to promote it. It was noted that the Safety Services Committee and the Committee of the Whole will be discussing the issue. Deputy Mayor Clow noted that it took years to get the ridership to where it is now, and we are only a couple of months in on the pilot program, so it will take some time and education. Mayor Ogden noted that we approved a pilot program with an end date, but we will have a discussion prior to the end date.

f) Cross Roads Fire Department

The report for the month of October was included in the agenda package.

Councillor Smith stated that two months ago he was at a board meeting of the fire company and discussed the future of Stratford and the growth of the area, and he suggested that the Board look into their upcoming needs due to the growth in the Town.

Councillor Smith took a moment to thank retiring fire chief Dave Hughes for his many years of service. Kevin Reynolds is the new fire chief, and he has taken on the job of restructuring the fire department.

Councillor Smith also took a moment to recognize Carol Ann Duffy who drafted an alumni's fireperson's policy of which Dave Hughes is now part of because he is an alumni.

Carol Ann and her group also drafted new policies and did a conflict of interest update. Kevin Jenkins, retired mayor of Stratford, along with his group developed a five year budget plan.

False Alarms – the fire department is going to try to establish how many alarm companies are installing fire alarms in Stratford in order to determine if the installations were done properly.

The posting is now underway for a new deputy fire chief, as Peter MacDonald is also retiring.

Kevin Reynolds has taken on the initiative as the new fire chief, and he has taken on the task of reorganizing the structure of the fire department. Kevin stated that there is going to be an information session to give people an idea of what is involved in becoming a volunteer with the fire department. He added that recruitment and retention are high on the list of things to try and improve in the department. Mayor Ogden also thanked Kevin for stepping forward to keep our 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:

Committee Meetings – At their October meeting, the Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee discussed the community campus site design, waterfront park design, 2022 capital and operational budgets, park security, and programming updates.

Arts and Culture – The interactive public art piece for Pondsides Park – the “Leap” by Stratford Artist Gerald Beaulieu, will be installed in the spring of 2022. The artist has experienced multiple delays with receiving materials over the past year.

Events - Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide an in-person Remembrance Day Service. In lieu of the service, the public is welcome to visit the Stratford Cenotaph on their own time to pay tribute. The Town will replay the 2018 Remembrance Day Service on November 11, along with a message from Mayor Ogden.

The Veterans banners will be available for public viewing until November 15 in the front foyer during regular hours. While viewing the banners, the public is encouraged to view the art collection on the second level on loan from the Daniel J. MacDonald building and Veterans Affairs Canada. Project Remembrance, a dramatic art installation by renowned

Canadian artist Brian Lorimer, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

Stratford Youth Centre and Council – The Youth Centre currently has 46 active members with regular programs operating four days a week, with the odd Friday and Saturday event.

On October 16, the Youth Council hosted a yard sale at Cotton Park. The event required people to show proof of vaccine before entering. One hundred and twenty five people attended, with 11 volunteers participating. The group raised \$327 for their efforts.

Recreation Programs – The Skills and Drills Instructional Hockey program is full and has 26 participants between the age of 3 to 14 years getting their initial introduction to hockey. The program operates from October to March on Saturday mornings at the Pownal Sports Centre.

The ever popular sport of Pickleball now has six program sessions. With a capacity of 32 participants per group, pickleball is now offered five days a week.

Fitness Area and Gymnasium - The Vax Pass has led to a noticeable decrease in the fitness area's daily use. It now averages 70 people per day down from more than 100 per day at the same time last year. Programming in the gymnasium has remained busy operating at full capacity with programs from 6:30 a.m. until closing. The Town has helped facilitate local groups to use local elementary schools for extra sport and recreation programming.

Event Partnership – During the evening of October 30 a "*Night Nine Glow Disc Golf*" event had a total of 56 participants, playing disc golf in the darkened evening illuminated by glow in the dark lights and several dozen jack-o-Lanterns.

Councillor Smith asked for an update on how the food preparation (being done at the Town Centre kitchen) for our schools and the recreation director Jeremy Pierced replied that it is a wonderful program. The program feeds from 180 to 200 kids every day, and the kids can pay anywhere from zero dollars to five dollars – whatever they can afford to pay.

Councillor Smith asked about the addition of more garden plots, and it was noted that environmental sustainability coordinator Maddy Crowell and the Stratford and Area Watershed Improvement Group (SAWIG) are involved with the garden plots.

- Mayor Ogden took a moment to welcome Michele Beaton, and her daughter Ava.

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:

- Met to discuss the budget process for 2022/23
- Submitted financial statements for March 31, 2021, and municipal reports to the province as required under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) guidelines
- Worked on budget request form that will be posted on the Town's social media site and website
- Staff is currently working on information package for Geographical Information System (GIS) requirements to classify consumption on row housing type of development
- Staff attended a team building day
- Met with TD Bank and CIBC Bank to do annual reviews
- Staff is working on the long range forecast
- Attended meeting with provincial tax commissioner and other municipalities on commercial taxes
- Staff continues to be busy getting information to Maddy Crowell on the Switch Program

b) Financial Statements

Included in the agenda package. Councillor MacDonald briefly reviewed the financial statements noting that Town revenue is up 11.5% and expenses are down 8% for the month, and the Utility revenue is up 16.9% and the expenses are down 10.2%.

Councillor Burrridge also asked about the meeting with the RCMP, and Kim replied that they were to meet on October 19, 2021, but that meeting was postponed, and a new date has not yet been set.

Councillor Smith asked if there were many submissions coming in for the budget and Kim replied that to date she has not received very many.

Councillor Smith asked how the PACE/Switch Program is going and Kim replied that the finance department provides Maddy with financial information regarding their utility accounts – if the accounts are in good standing. She added that there is a lot of people taking advantage of the program. Councillor Smith asked if the system was working as it should and Kim replied that so far it is working well.

Mayor Ogden asked what the deadline was for budget requests and Kim replied that the deadline is November 23, 2021. She added that the budget request form is on our Town website.

Councillor Burrridge stated that she was on the Town website looking for the budget request form and it isn't on the front page. It is actually under Finance and Technology. Wendy explained that once Remembrance Day is over it will be on the front page.

c) **Resolution FT013-2021 Stratford Community Campus Land Purchase Interim Financing**

Moved by Councillor Gail MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Jill Burrridge

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford has purchased land from 1011523 P.E.I Inc. (part of PID 608141) and Paul & Robert Farquharson (part of PID 1086107) for the development of a community campus; and

WHEREAS a portion of the land will be sold to the province for the construction of a new high school, and a portion will be sold to the Business Park Corporation for an extension of the business park; and

WHEREAS the Town has arranged for short term financing of \$2,500,000 through a Bankers Acceptance (BA) with the Royal Bank of Canada for a 3 month term in August 2021, as the rates for BA are significantly lower than our line of credit, and they are the only bank that the Town currently has a BA with; and

AND WHEREAS the short term financing of \$2,500,000 is within the 10% capital debt threshold of the Town of Stratford given that the current borrowing limits for the Town of Stratford is based on its total assessed tax base ($\$935,740,000 \times 10\% = \$93,574,000$) of which the Town of Stratford is using \$15,250,673 as of March 31, 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford enter into a Bankers' Acceptance with the Royal Bank of Canada for an additional 3 month term for the Community Campus Land Purchase in the amount of \$2,500,000, at the rate of 0.48% and a credit spread of 0.47% for an all-in rate of 0.95% subject to market fluctuations prior to closing, and that the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into the Bankers' Acceptance Service Agreement with RBC, on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

Discussion: Deputy Mayor Clow asked if three months would be enough, and Mayor Ogden replied that over the next three months we will be looking at locking it in.

Question: **CARRIED**

12. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

- a) Report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Burrridge noted that she is going to start with Heritage. She stated that she went out today to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph which is now fully accessible.

Stratford Honour Roll Project - the purpose of this project was to ensure those who died while serving our country while at war are not forgotten. This project recognizes and honours 10 soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, who did not return from overseas conflicts, and those who died at home as a result of the injuries received in those conflicts. This project has also made the existing cenotaph fully accessible so it can be used as an engagement piece for Veterans, Armed Forces members, and residents. It will also serve as a community learning piece for our youth. It is intended to be a place where people can gather throughout the year for remembrance and reflection.

Two Interpretive Panels have also been created by the Town of Stratford's Heritage Committee to tell the story of the 10 individuals.

Thanks to the Town of Stratford's Heritage Committee members for their work on this project, with a special thanks to Doug Kelly who does all the research and brings it all together.

Thanks also go to the family representatives of Daniel W. MacInnis and William Joseph Stewart for attending the event that was held on November 8, 2021.

Thanks also to the Department of Veterans Affairs Canada for partnering with the Town to fund this project through the Commemorative Partnership Program - Community War Memorial Funding.

Councillor Burrridge gave a brief overview of her planning report noting that our planner is working on the report from Upland, who continues to work on the Community Campus concept, to see what the best way would be to deal with it. She also noted that we are in an Official Plan review year and that will rest a lot on what the housing study tells us when it comes in.

Councillor Smith noted that the Stratford Heritage Committee wrote a book about the first world war. He also noted that there may be more veterans out there and maybe we should be encouraging them to contact us. Kevin replied what happens is usually a family member will come forward with the information on the person in their family who was a veteran.

Mayor Ogden noted that now – a veteran is defined as anyone who completed basic training and/or has been on a deployment, so Councillor Darren MacDougall is a veteran, and his name should be added to our list. There may also be others in the same situation that we could consider adding to the list.

Councillor MacDonald understood there was a lot of discussion on the waterfront core plan, and she asked if the committee was in support of the plan as it stands now; and she also noted that the committee recommended a public meeting. Councillor Burrridge replied that a public meeting will be held if we decide to make official plan changes based on the recommendations from the consultant. The Planning director added that there is a fair bit of public consultation that has to come as part of the Official Plan Review, and we are trying to incorporate the waterfront core area as part of it.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Burrridge briefly reviewed the permit summaries.

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 work to remove the biosolid material from the larger cell is ongoing. There were a few hurdles with equipment malfunctions and availability to overcome which has slowed the progress. Once the biosolid material has been removed, the infilling operation should be completed smoothly and efficiently.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy – – Eastern Trenchless are awaiting the materials to be delivered to complete the pipe lining work on East River Drive, Clifton Road and Bayside Drive. Work is anticipated to be done by the end of the month.

Sewer Lift Station Upgrades - We are awaiting confirmation of funding, due to a change of scope of the project before the tender can be recommended to council for award. The contractor has agreed to push the work to the 2022 construction season.

Keppoch Road Multi-Use Trail – The trail is now paved and well used. All asphalt repair is complete and shoulder material placed along the edge of the road. Work is nearing completion for the season. There will be some landscaping to finish up in the spring.

SCADA System Upgrades – Phase 2 – – Belanger Electric Ltd. continue with the upgrade work and will be fully complete by the end of the year.

Dry Storage Building – Coles Associates have fallen behind on the design schedule. Their proposed schedule submitted originally was to tender the project October 19, 2021, and they are now proposing to tender on November 16, 2021. We have been pushing them to shorten the delay as much as possible to ensure construction start in December.

During the month of October, there were no major issues with the water distribution or wastewater collection system. There was a leak detected in the watermain on Dale Drive and a contractor has been engaged to complete the repair. There was a sewer blockage complaint on Beaconhill Drive. The investigation showed a blockage in a small section within the utility's portion of the lateral, which was repaired immediately. There have been a few complaints of higher-than-normal utility bills, which is not abnormal after bills are issued. Once investigated, these were determined to be leaks on the property owner's side, typically toilet flappers which is a common culprit.

Infrastructure Staff has been busy with the following:

- Fall maintenance of fields and grooming of trails;
- Removal of speed humps for the season;
- Replacing borders on play structures;
- Shutting down the splash pad, sport field irrigation systems, community gardens and seasonal buildings for the season;
- Bylaw complaints and investigations;
- Inspections and servicing of sewer lift stations;
- Flushing of sanitary sewer mains has been completed;
- Water system maintenance and preparation for fall flushing;
- Water and sewer inspections and water turn-ons for new development; and
- Water turn-offs for seasonal properties.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the committee recommended a rate for the chargers for electric vehicles and Deputy Mayor Clow replied that they haven't decided yet what the rate will be. Jeannie added although we haven't decided on a rate, we are gathering

additional information to help up determine a rate. She noted that it is difficult to determine what we need to recoup our cost, because we don't know how many hours the chargers will be used. The stations are currently in a 'demo' mode which means they have 10 charges of 10 minutes that can be used, but beyond that we need to set a rate so we can set the chargers up for public use.

Councillor Smith suggested asking the question of how many electric cars are in the Town on our resident survey next year.

Councillor Gallant asked if there was any interest in putting a guard rail on the Keppoch Road by the beach at the turn, as there have been a lot of accidents in that area. Deputy Mayor Clow added that he has also had some concerns mentioned to him regarding this area. Jeannie stated that she is not aware of any guard rail going in where there wasn't one before our project went through, but they will be reinstating what they took out. She could bring it forward to see if it is something that could be looked at. Mayor Ogden asked that staff follow-up on Councillor Gallant's request regarding a guard rail.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

a) Resolution CW011-2021 CAO Bylaw – 1st Reading

Moved by Councillor Gail MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Darren MacDougall

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act stipulates the roles of Council as the governing body and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) as the head of the municipal corporation with responsibility for staffing; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to establish a CAO Bylaw to clearly articulate the duties, powers, and expectations of the CAO, and the process for the annual evaluation of the CAO, to ensure that the municipal corporation is achieving the goals set by Council.

BE IT RESOLVED that the CAO Bylaw, Bylaw # 53, be hereby read and approved a first time.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. Councillor Smith stated that Robert did a lot of work on this bylaw and this Council and future Councils will benefit from it.

Question: **CARRIED**

15. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Report was included in the package for Council to review. Councillor MacDougall noted that the Gray Group is front and centre for us and will be building for years to come. We were all

privy to their presentation as was the public. It is definitely an exciting time for our community. The Town is transitioning from a bedroom community to a full service community. The Gray Group, in partnership with the Town, is endeavoring to reflect the values that we have, and we highlighted that in our meeting.

To enable the Gray Group to continue with their plans, there will need to be changes and the planning department is working with the Group to identify the changes that are needed. There will be public meetings to get the public's input as part of the process.

It was noted that Killam bought the Southport Motel property, and they are looking to develop it in a similar high density fashion similar to the Gray Group.

Councillor MacDougall noted that we will soon be assembling the survey questions for the annual resident survey, and we are looking for ideas for one-time questions.

Councillor Smith noted that there was a solar panel meeting at the Stratford Emergency Services Building which was well attended.

Councillor Smith noted that some of the Councillors attended the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities in Summerside on Saturday, November 6, 2021, and Maddy Crowell gave a presentation on the PACE program, and it was well received. The possibility of businesses being able to apply to the program next year is being considered. Wendy Watts also gave a presentation on the Town of Stratford and sustainability which also went over very well.

Councillor MacDonald noted that 22 people have signed an agreement with the PACE Program and 200 have expressed an interest. She asked Councillor MacDougall if he was happy with the numbers and Councillor MacDougall replied that he is engaged in the process and the first thing that needs to be done is an energy assessment and his appointment is December 14 which gives you an indication of how busy they are. Councillor MacDonald asked Councillor MacDougall if he know how many projects were completed and Councillor MacDougall replied that he doesn't have the answer to that question. The CAO noted that he can't answer the question at this time either, but he has requested a monthly report for Stratford that can be brought to Council each month. The CAO added that there is a backlog on getting the energy assessments done.

Councillor Smith noted that if you drive around the Town you will see that a lot of people already have heat pumps and solar panels.

Mayor Ogden asked about the business survey and Wendy replied that we just received it and she and the CAO are currently reviewing it, and we will send our comments back to the consultant by the end of the week. Mayor Ogden asked how many surveys we received back, and Wendy replied that we received 50 cleaned surveys and that is very good.

At this time Mayor Ogden called upon Michele Beaton, MLA who introduced herself and noted that she has 10 Stratford Brownies and 2 Stratford Sparks, as well as two co-leaders with her. She noted that without the help of volunteers we would not be able to do all the things that we do. Ms. Beaton took a moment to recognize Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Burrige and noted that because there are women who are on Council it allows the girls to see themselves in that role at some point. At this time, each member of Council introduced themselves and explained briefly their role on Council.

16. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Report was included in the package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden noted that the annual resident survey was presented to the committee and there were a number of excellent comments on how to improve the survey. There was also some discussion on the upcoming budget process.

17. HUMAN RESOURCES

a) No Report

18. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a) Nil

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Community Seniors

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Deputy Mayor Clow noted the following:

New tenant has moved in to complex as of November 1.

- Social media is also being used to look for applicants.
- Vacant disabled parking spot has been allocated to tenant
- Spoke to CMHC about extending agreement with federal government past 2025. There is a new funding program that we will be able to apply for to be able to provide subsidized housing
- Fall yard maintenance is being completed
- Decorations will be done for Christmas over the next few weeks.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

21. PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

22. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

23. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Mayor Steve Ogden

Robert Hughes, CAO