

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2019

Approved Minutes

DATE: October 9, 2019
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Gary Clow; Councillors Derek Smith; Darren MacDougall; Jill Burridge; Steve Gallant; Gail MacDonald (left at 6:00 p.m.); 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; Wendy Watts, Community and Business Engagement Manager; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Nil

CHAIR: Mayor Steve Ogden

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Ogden called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Derek Smith and seconded by Councillor Jill Burridge that the agenda be approved as circulated.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Jill Burridge and seconded by Councillor Gail MacDonald that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2019 and the Special Council Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2019 be approved as circulated.

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5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

Mayor Ogden noted that there was a follow-up item with regards to the business development of our website, and the CAO replied that we have selected the company and they will be advised this week and then the work can start.

Councillor Smith asked if we received a reply to the EI resolution and Mayor Ogden replied that we did receive a reply (which he circulated to everyone) from a federal representative who agreed with changing it back to one zone, and will bring it to the attention of the responsible Minister.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the street lights on Kinlock Creek have been turned on yet and the CAO replied that we put the order in two weeks ago, but Maritime Electric is backed up on their orders because of Hurricane Dorian.

6. **PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

My name is Darlene Doiron and I have been a resident of Stratford for 25 years. I recently became aware of a provincial government program called the 'Green Spaces Program.' What this will do for municipalities is provide trees around school property and government services building. It will provide only native trees and shrubs, and some as educational material. If the town was lacking in some green resources, the Town would be responsible for providing a plan as to which areas could use some development in this way. There is a short two page application that would need to be completed. I do understand that you have a watershed group and a watershed coordinator - would it be appropriate to reach out to her?

Mayor Ogden replied that it would be fine for Ms. Doiron to reach out to the watershed coordinator and very much appreciated. The CAO added that we do plant thousands of trees every year, and the watershed coordinator may already be accessing the program, but if not, we will certainly access it.

Ms. Doiron noted that it is important to replace the trees that have been taken away by new development and natural disasters like Hurricane Dorian.

Mayor Ogden thanked Ms. Doiron for being engaged and for bringing the program to our attention.

Mayor Ogden noted that there was a gentleman who was going to make a presentation tonight, but was not able to be in attendance. He noted that it was his 96 year old neighbour Bus Gay, and he wanted to inform everyone that he is working on the right turn

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lane at the Esso, and he has been speaking with MLA James Aylward to try and make this happen. Mr. Gay hopes to have it the work all done by next fall.

7. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Following is a list of meetings and events attended by the Mayor since the last Council meeting:

- Attended resident Vern Smith's 80th birthday celebration
- Along with Councillor Gallant attended the U12 Provincial Girls Softball Championships held at MacNeill Field, and had the honour of throwing out the first pitch and say a few words. There were more than 200 participants and four teams from Stratford of which two received medals (silver and bronze)
- Met with the auditors to discuss the 2018/19 audit of our accounts
- Attended a Special Council meeting to accept the Wastewater Tender for the pipe to Charlottetown – great milestone for the Town
- Met with MLA James Aylward to discuss the community campus initiative
- Attended the Grand Opening of Aspire Physio along with Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Smith
- Light the Night Walk for Leukemia and Lymphoma
- Met with CARI stakeholders
- Met, along with the rest of Council, Commanding Officer Jennifer Ebert and two other RCMP representatives to discuss priorities and issues of the Town
- Attended the Clearview Estates public meeting regarding changes to a subdivision plan
- Met with a REACH Program representative to discuss opportunities
- Attended the newcomers event which was attended by 12 newcomers
- Attended Fall Fest – a great event
- Attended a full day meeting to update our energy plan and emergency plan with QUEST
- Attended the Atlantic Mayors' Congress in Campbellton, New Brunswick
- Attended the Election Forum
- Met with consultants to discuss sharing services with other jurisdictions
- Attended a meeting with a provincial government representative regarding affordable housing opportunities

Deputy Mayor Clow asked for an update on the meeting with MLA James Aylward and Mayor Ogden replied that the meeting was to discuss the acquisition of the land where the community campus will go.

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Councillor Smith asked about the sharing of services with other jurisdictions. Mayor Ogden replied that this was the second meeting and the consultants are having discussions with the provincial government about their ideas in assisting smaller communities with regards to some of the services that are quite expensive that smaller communities may not be able to afford. They may be looking to tap into the resources of larger communities in the area – on a cost recovery basis. The consultants would be the facilitators and they would study what the needs are for the services under the present Municipal Government Act.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

The report was included in the package. The CAO noted that after we passed the resolution for the housing study, we found out that it was not eligible under the New Deal Capacity Building Program. We were originally told by a staff member that it was, but when we went to submit the application we found out that they made a mistake in telling us that it was eligible. We went to CMHC to see if they had funding, but they didn't, so we asked CADC to go to ACOA on our behalf, but that is not looking positive. However, when we met earlier today with a representative from PEI Social Housing, he indicated that they do have a fund that we may be able to tap into, so we are still working on it.

The CAO noted that there is a strategic planning session for staff scheduled for October 10, and we plan to go through an exercise to try and identify any issues they feel are important, so when Council has their session they will have the information that staff felt was important.

Councillor Smith asked about the cost for the affordable housing study and the CAO replied that the total budget was \$132,000 and we were hoping for 50 cent dollars, and then the Town's contribution was approximately \$16,000, as the three municipalities were cost sharing (Charlottetown, Cornwall, and Stratford). The CAO noted that the person he spoke with earlier today indicated that there was probably a \$50,000 cap on the fund he had mentioned, so that would mean we could only do a \$100,000 study. He suggested that we apply to the fund and if we get it – put out a tender and if it comes within \$100,000 we will be okay, but if it comes in over budget, we can make the decision at that time. He also noted that he had two estimates on the study before we did the application, and one was for the \$132,000 and one was \$75,000, so we may be able to do it within the \$100,000.

9. SAFETY SERVICES

a) The Safety Services Committee did not meet in the month of September because the August meeting was held late in the month.

b) Street Light Report

No Report

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c) RCMP Report

The report for the month of September 2019 was included in the agenda package. The number of SOTS tickets issued was 18 and the number of warnings was 8. Councillor Smith noted that the numbers do seem low and this is something that can be discussed in more detail at the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Smith noted that he did a patrol with Citizens on Patrol recently, and they noticed that a number of people were leaving their garage doors and out building doors open and we want to warn people not to do that.

Councillor Gallant asked if there is any way we can distinguish the tickets by 'type' such as speeding, no insurance, no inspection, or cell phone use so he would have some information when asked for by residents. Councillor Smith agreed that traffic enforcement is more than just speeding tickets and he will bring the issue to the Safety Services Committee and we will make that request to the RCMP. Councillor MacDonald noted that she would also like the location where tickets are written. The finance director Kim O'Connell explained that the RCMP does give a breakdown of the tickets issued as well as the locations under the additional information section of their report.

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that the RCMP is most likely aware of what will be taking place with the Hillsborough Bridge next week when the work starts, and he asked if they will be assisting the Department of Highways at the bridge, and Councillor Smith replied that everyone is aware that the bridge will be going down to three lanes (two going from Stratford in the morning and two from Charlottetown in the evening). He noted that his biggest concern will be the first accident. Deputy Mayor Clow asked if we could have the RCMP there directing traffic for the first two or three days and the infrastructure director Jeremy Crosby replied that there is a very extensive management plan laid out for this project. The Department of Highways has taken control and will be doing the lane changes. He noted that he will contact the RCMP, but they have already been talking to us and they are going to monitor the situation. There will probably be some challenges at the beginning, but it is necessary to get the work done.

Councillor Smith briefly reviewed the RCMP additional information. Mayor Ogden noted that in regard to traffic collisions there was only one with reportable damage. He stated that the most important thing to him would be injuries and he would like to have that reported. Councillor MacDougall noted that if there is an injury as a result of an accident it is reportable. Mayor Ogden noted that he would like to have any information on injuries for the next meeting.

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Councillor Gallant asked about the revenue from the criminal record checks and Councillor Smith agreed that it is an avenue that should be explored, and it can be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of September 2019 was included in the agenda package. Councillor Smith stated that there is an on-going case, but because it is on-going he can't report on it. He noted that the Humane Society does a good job when there is a serious incident.

e) Transit Report

Report was included in the agenda package. There were 244 riders per day in the month of September. On the first Saturday, the ridership was 18 people and from there it went to 30 people per day which was a good number for the first month. There were actually complaints that the busses were too full. Mayor Ogden noted that if the busses are being filled we have to be sure no one gets left behind.

Councillor Smith noted that UPEI students have bus passes that are paid in their tuition and because of that and the lack of affordable housing – some students have moved to Stratford. However, Holland College does not have the same arrangement.

Deputy Mayor Clow thanked Councillor Smith and staff for all the work they are doing to get transit to ward 3. He added that he spoke to Matthew Cassidy and he knows that transit will eventually be in ward 3.

Councillor Burrige noted that she was at a meeting recently where under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP) \$27 million was slated for public transit and they said they would never spend it all, so they were going to shift some funds to other aspects of ICIP. The infrastructure director Jeremy Crosby noted that we are dipping into the fund; we have tenders out for six new busses and two new mini busses. The larger busses came in on budget, but the mini busses did not, so we are looking at moving some of that money around. He noted that we will meet with officials from the infrastructure secretariat and we can ask about the reallocation. The CAO stated that his concern is that they are talking about reallocating the money so early in the program and we haven't advised them yet of our 10 year plan, so he will follow up on it.

f) Fire Company

Report was included in the agenda package. Councillor Smith briefly reviewed the report stating that the fire trucks have been moved to the new building and the old fire

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hall building has been taken down. He also noted that four of the five fires over the past month were mostly Maritime Electric poles due to Hurricane Dorian.

The CAO noted that the Town doesn't have a lease agreement with the fire company yet. We did meet with the Board and presented a draft lease and we worked thorough it, but they still had a concern about the HST issue. Our auditors have a tax specialist in Halifax, and we received an opinion on how to deal with the HST which is to declare them a para-municipal corporation which means they will be treated the same as the Town and they won't have to pay the HST. However, they currently get a rebate on the operating expense portion of the HST which equals 6%, so they would save 5% on the capital lease payments but they would lose 1% on some of their operating expenses. They are going through their own analysis and talking to their own accountant, and they have asked the Town for some time to do their own analysis.

Councillor Smith stated that it was reported that some people were hooking their generators into their main lines. When they do that it means that electricity goes right out to the downed lines, and if someone was to go across the property and touch those downed lines they would get electrocuted. He noted that he is going to bring it up to the fire company and maybe they can do a campaign to make residents aware of the dangers. They could ask people if they plan to put in a generator to let the fire department go and look at it to make sure it is safe.

11. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

The following is an overview of projects and items being worked on within the recreation, culture and events department:

Recreation, Culture and Events Committee – the Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee met on September 26, 2019 and some of the items discussed were a land acquisition request, a preview of Fall Fest planning, an update on the two approved ICIP projects planned for Pondsides and Fullerton's, a disc golf request for Stratford; and a lighting request for a Stratford park and trail.

Arts and Culture Sub-Committee – the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee held a meeting on October 3, 2019 and discussed the Fall Fest, the potential waterfront park development, Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park natural playground, updates on the Artist in Residence programs and updates on the numerous fall art programs being offered by the Town.

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Youth Centre – the Stratford Youth Centre opened on September 11 for the season and as of September 30 there were 40 registered members which is a significant increase.

The Stratford Youth Centre will be hosting its annual Spooktoberfest event on Saturday October 26, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Robert Cotton Park.

The new Youth Centre Newspaper Club had its first meeting. The group will be creating their own monthly youth newspaper. All the content will be created by youth for youth. The plan is to release the first issue by November 1, 2019.

Fall Fest – the weekend of September 27 and 28 saw Stratford host the first Fall Fest at Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park and the event was an opportunity to showcase Stratford's gem of a park. There were more than 1200 visitors over a two day period and for a first time event that was a great turnout. Councillor Gallant thanked everyone who took part in putting the event together.

Stratford Parks and Trails – The Town has installed park benches at numerous Stratford parks and additional benches will be placed on the Shakespeare Trail, close to Andrews's of Stratford, and on the trail that runs under the Trans Canada Highway. Selections of native Acadian Forest trees were planted at Clearview Park and Sprucehill Park. The trees will provide some park shading and wind break for park visitors.

Special Mention – Congratulations to the Stratford U12 girls' softball teams who medaled at the recent Provincial Championships held at Bunbury Field and the Upper MacNeill Field the weekend of September 14 and 15. The Stratford Team #3 won Silver and Stratford Team #2 won Bronze. The recreation department would like to offer a special mention to the U12 Provincial Championships' Host Committee and the Town of Stratford's staff who hosted this event over a 12 day period due to Hurricane Dorian which interrupted for a four day period. The contingency planning and communication between the two organizations allowed for these young athletes to finish off the season on a positive note.

The recreation director noted that one of the reasons Stratford was selected was that the host committee wanted to run the event on a very high level to gage whether Stratford would be a good host for larger events such as the Eastern Canadians, and they are very happy with our two fields and happy with how everything operated, so they are potentially going to put a bid in to host the Eastern Canadian Championships. Mayor Ogden noted that the one issue we will need to look at is parking to make sure it is safe, as there is a limited capacity at the MacNeill Field to handle parking.

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Councillor Smith noted that the Jump Start Learn to Skate Program starts up on October 26, 2019 and he understands when it was posted on our website it was filled within a matter of hours, and the recreation director replied that it is a very popular program. He also noted that last year there were two sessions, but unfortunately there is no ice time this year to offer a second session. It was noted that 45 students is all they can take and that is a lot of kids on the ice surface. It was noted that there is a short waiting list.

Councillor Gallant noted that the four benches down on the Cotton Park trail were painted by the Stratford Lion's Club led by Roger Kennedy and his crew. A letter was drafted and sent to the Stratford Lion's Club and it was read aloud at their meeting thanking them for their time and materials. Mayor Ogden agreed it is a great initiative to thank volunteers who do things for the Town. He noted that we also had some discussions regarding the issuing of an actual certificate of appreciation to our volunteers.

Councillor Burrige noted that there was a film crew filming a production over the past few weeks for a 2020 Tourism Guide. There has been horseback riding on Kinlock Beach and Tea Hill, and hopefully we will make the promotional video.

12. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- a) Report was included in the agenda package. Councillor MacDonald gave a brief overview of the report noting that there was an update on the waste water treatment plant and the financing of it.

There was also a discussion on the amendment to the Tax Rate Group Bylaw which will be coming forward in a resolution.

Councillor MacDonald noted that one of the committee members was going to speak on the ride sharing program. He is the committee member who brings the technology discussions to the group. However, the province was already looking at something similar so he has put it on 'the back burner for now.' However, he is interested in sharing his knowledge with the Town in some of the things we could be looking at in the way of technology.

It was noted that our CIBC short term financing on the Emergency Services Facility was extended until December 31, 2019.

Councillor MacDonald noted that because the Welcome Centre Application was declined, the New Deal funds were reallocated to Active Transportation.

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The committee reviewed the draft audited consolidated financial statements. Councillor MacDonald noted that there was a meeting with the auditors and everything looks good.

b) Financial Statements

The financial statements were included in the agenda package and Councillor MacDonald noted that the final audited financial statements were released today.

c) Resolution FT016-2019 – Amendment to Bylaw #37 – Tax Rate Group Bylaw – First Reading

Moved by Councillor Gail MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Derek Smith

WHEREAS Council has identified additional tax rate groups that are used by other municipalities to generate additional tax revenue; and

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford requires additional tax revenue in order to provide all the current services that we offer to our residents and for future expenses required to meet the need of our residents; and

WHEREAS Bylaw #37, the Town of Stratford's Tax Rate Group Bylaw must be amended to add in additional tax rate groups.

BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw #37-A, a Bylaw to amend the Town of Stratford Tax Rate Group Bylaw, Bylaw #37, be hereby read and approved a first time.

Discussion: Mayor Ogden noted that there will be discussion leading up to the budget and we will be having at least one public meeting. He would also like to have some discussion with the people who will be affected by this change. It was noted that although we are making the change to match up to other municipalities, it is something that is now necessary and there will need to be consultation and he asked for suggestions on ways to get feedback from residents. Councillor Smith replied that he would prefer an open house as they are always well attended.

Mayor Ogden noted that the one thing we need to keep in mind is that we have to have the second reading and approval before December. Councillor MacDonald noted that we are just setting up the tax rate groups at this point – they do not have any dollar value attached to them. That can be discussed after the second reading and approval.

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Deputy Mayor Clow stated that Council needs to meet to determine the dollar amounts that will be presented to the public. Councillor MacDonald noted that we only have draft numbers at this point. The CAO added that until we have a draft budget, we won't know what any of the rates need to be, including the existing rates.

This resolution bears the recommendation of the Finance and Technology Committee and the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

Councillor MacDonald noted that she has to leave early to attend the FPEIM board meeting and asked that the Seniors Report be moved up in the agenda.

Stratford Seniors Complex

Councillor MacDonald gave a brief overview of the report noting that the building is fully rented and the inspections of each unit have taken place. The capital replacement plans were discussed and there was also a discussion on amending the management committee policy in regards to tenant selection and whether or not to have a separate waiting list for couples. There was also some discussion on the snow removal for the 2019/20 winter season.

A letter received from the Provincial Fire Marshall noting that all barbeques must be removed from the decks and all tenants have complied and all barbeques have been removed.

Mayor Ogden asked what the cost will be to move generator - because it is too close to the diesel tank - and the finance director replied that we are still receiving quotes because there are a few different components to it, but added that it will likely be about \$5000 and is funded through CMHC.

Councillor Gallant asked about the waiting list and Councillor MacDonald replied that there are about 35 people on the waiting list. He asked if there would be room in the area to build another building and Councillor MacDonald replied that we could expand the current building. However, we will have to wait to see what is going to happen with CMHC when the contract is up in four years.

13. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

a) Report

The report was included in the package. Councillor Burrridge gave a brief overview of the report. She noted that the Foxwood Subdivision had an open house, as they are

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proposing a revision to the development scheme, and residents had a change to ask questions and give their feedback.

There is also a revision of a development scheme coming forward for the Clearview Estates on phase II of the MacDonald subdivision. They had an open house and some of the things noted were access to the Trans Canada Highway, domestic water, side yards, and stormwater. It was a well attended open house and residents were able to ask questions and give their feedback.

Reddin Meadows – there is a proposal and a potential rezoning and they are working on that. They are currently trying to get a traffic study done and then it will go back to planning board.

b) Permit Summary

The permit summary was included in the package and was reviewed by Councillor BurrIDGE.

Councillor Smith asked if the community campus would factor in to the numbers and Councillor BurrIDGE replied that they wouldn't tie in yet. Councillor Smith asked about the building permits for businesses, and the planning director replied that a few have already passed through Council and Price Mart is proposed to start this fall. We haven't seen an application from them yet, although they do have preliminary approval from Council. We have another two buildings that are being proposed to start in the business park; the files just came in over the past two days, and another one that came in by email today. The planning director noted that the numbers for commercial are up from previous years.

Mayor Ogden noted that our guest Ms. Doiron would be interested in one of the questions that was asked at the MacDonald Quality Housing Clearview Estate open house and that was will trees be planted in the new subdivisions. There is a great interest in having trees in new subdivisions.

b) Resolution PH019-2019 – -Street Name Roundabout – Dale Drive

Moved by Councillor Jill BurrIDGE

Seconded by Councillor Darren MacDougall

WHEREAS as a result of the new roundabout being constructed on the TCH and the extension of Georgetown Road, a new street is being constructed between Dale Drive

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and the new portion of Georgetown Road in order to meet civic addressing guidelines; and

WHEREAS the Heritage Committee has suggested the following street name:

- McCallum Drive; and

WHEREAS the land within this area had been owned by McCallum's as shown on the 1880 atlas.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council grant approval to the following street name for the new street being constructed between Dale Drive and the new extension of the Georgetown Road:

- **McCallum Drive**

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

Mayor Ogden noted that the McCallum family is one of the founding families of Stratford. They have been here since before 1880 and it is very appropriate that we name the street McCallum Drive. The CAO noted that we also named some of the trails after the family because we purchased some land from them.

With the aid of the overhead the planning director indicated where the new street was located and that it does meet civic addressing guidelines.

Question: **CARRIED**

14. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Report

Deputy Mayor Gary Clow noted that some of the items being worked on by the infrastructure department are as follows:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update – the facility continues to function well.

Wastewater Collection System to the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant – the project has been awarded to Birch Hill Construction and they plan to begin construction on October 14, 2019. Work is proposed to begin with the pump station and the pipework along the Trans Canada Highway (TCH). The project is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2020.

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Emergency Services Facility – work continues on the Stratford Emergency Services Centre and the Cross Roads office areas of the building. The Cross Roads Fire Department has moved in the apparatus bay portion of the building. They can run the fire service from this portion of the building while the other areas are being finished. The remainder of the building is scheduled to be completed by December.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy – installation of manhole trays and recording of flow continue. There are approximately 210 trays installed in the manholes to prevent surface water from entering the sewer system. There have been 12 floating frames and covers installed on manholes that are in asphalt. The floating frame will rise with the surrounding ground during frost heave so that the cover does not sit in a depression and collect surface water. Areas requiring pipe repair and/or replacement are being identified so quotes for the work can be obtained.

Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program - we have received funding for two projects which fall under the infrastructure department:

- Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades including upgrades of pumps and backup power supply at Corrish - redirecting flow from Pondsides to Bayside, upgrades at Bayside to accommodate additional flow; and
- Water Station Upgrades including at the Pondsides water station, as well as adding lightning protection at Pondsides, Fullerton, Cable Heights, and Beacon Hill stations.

It was noted that the Town is currently soliciting quotes for engineering services on these projects and hopes to have the design portion of the project started soon.

SCADA Software and System Control Upgrades – this project is out for tender.

Town Hall Partial Roof Replacement – one bid was received for the work by MacBeth Bros. Roofing in the amount of \$68,790.00 plus HST. This was within budget and has been awarded to MacBeth Bros. Roofing. Work is to take place in late winter and be completed by March 31, 2010.

Subdivision/Development Projects:

- Marshall MacPherson Shakespeare Drive Units – under construction
- Stratford Emergency Services Centre – under construction
- Kinlock Plaza - under construction
- APM Waterfront Apartment Building - under construction

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- Dale Drive Apartment Building - under construction
- Southside Greens Subdivision Lot 3 - under construction
- Concord Properties North Phase – preliminary plans submitted for review
- Forest Trails Phase 3 – construction to begin
- Maki MacLean Subdivision - preliminary plans submitted for review
- Courtney Estates – out to tender

The Utility staff is busy with maintenance and adjustments to the wastewater treatment facility. Pump station cleaning and sewer main flushing is being coordinated and anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

Utility staff is also busy with water and sewer connection inspections. Work continues with our valve exercising program and water distribution/watermain flushing.

Infrastructure staff is busy getting all Town buildings and properties ready for the upcoming winter season.

During September there were no major issues with our water distribution or wastewater collection system.

Councillor MacDougall asked if the Birch hill construction bid was broken down to subcontracts – he noted that he had a resident who put in a tender and he was curious to know if it was broken down in the tender. The infrastructure director replied that there was a list of the breakdown, and there was a start-up meeting held last week to discuss it.

Councillor Smith noted that at the Arts and Culture Committee meeting there was a discussion about the land where the sewer lagoon is currently. He wondered how fast it will be decommissioned and ready for public use. He wondered about the environmental studies that will have to be done and asked if we might be looking at years before the land is useable. The infrastructure director replied that we want to get the system in operation and then have it in operation for at least a month before we make the decision to start to decommission it.

Councillor Burrridge stated that now that we have a waste water plan in place, are we able to provide residents a timeline for hookup to the municipal sewer (for those who still don't have it). Robert replied that it depends entirely on infrastructure funding and the timing is hard to predict until we get a sense of how much infrastructure funding we will be able to access.

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15. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

a) Report

Report was included in the agenda package.

b) Resolution CW022 – 2019 – CARI Partnership Agreement Changes

Moved by Councillor Steve Gallant

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Gary Clow

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford is a partner in the Bell Aliant Centre previously called the CARI complex; and

WHEREAS the CARI board is looking to standardize the wording of the partnership agreement among the City of Charlottetown, UPEI, the Town of Stratford and CARI; and

WHEREAS the CARI board has requested an amendment to clause V (b)- Reporting requirements *from*

(b) Upon completion of the construction of the facility, CARI will provide operational reports on a bi monthly basis.

to

(b) Upon completion of the construction of the facility, CARI will provide, on a monthly basis, standard accepted financial statements on the operation of the facility as well as annual audited statements within 120 days of the CARI year end.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the partnership agreement clause V(b) – Reporting requirements be amended to read “Upon completion of the construction of the facility, CARI will provide, on a monthly basis, standard accepted financial statements on the operation of the facility as well as annual audited statements within 120 days of the CARI year end.”

Discussion: the finance director, who sits on the board, noted that they want a standardized report from all shareholders. It was also noted that the resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

c) Resolution CW023– 2019 – Support for FCM’s Request to Double the Gas Tax Permanently

Moved by Councillor Darren MacDougall

Seconded by Councillor Derek Smith

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WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) called for an ongoing federal revenue sharing agreement and the federal government legislated a permanent annual investment of \$2 billion in municipal infrastructure through the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) in their 2011 budget, and an annual increase of 2% was applied as an index to protect the Fund against inflation in 2014/15; and

WHEREAS the 2019 budget included a one-time doubling of the GTF, transferring an additional \$2.2 billion to communities; and

WHEREAS in election 2019, FCM is calling called on all parties to commit to a permanent doubling of the Gas Tax Fund transfer to municipalities for infrastructure renewal, with a predictable annual growth rate of 3.5% that better reflects Canada's long term economic growth.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford supports FCM in their request for a permanent doubling of the Gas Tax Fund transfer to municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all candidates in the federal riding of Cardigan be asked to support this request.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. It was felt that when the question was put to the candidates in the federal riding of Cardigan at least one candidate misunderstood and thought it had to do with the price of gas at the pumps. A letter will be sent to all the federal Cardigan candidates to explain in more detail what it is and ask for their support if the resolution passes.

Councillor Smith added that the candidates may have also thought that this was just for Stratford, but in fact it is for every town and city in Canada.

Question: **CARRIED**

16. SUSTAINABILITY

a) No Report.

b) Resolution SC001 – 2019 Blue Communities Commitment

Moved by Councillor Darren MacDougall

Seconded by Councillor Derek Smith

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Water and Sanitation as a Human Right

WHEREAS almost 2 billion people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water, 4 billion people face severe water scarcity and 2.5 billion people do not have adequate sanitation; and

WHEREAS Indigenous communities in Canada have been disproportionately affected by lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and

WHEREAS on July 28, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the human rights to water and sanitation; and

WHEREAS on September 23, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and called on governments to take concrete action by developing plans of action, establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and ensuring affordable services for everyone; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Eau Secours and the Council of Canadians have asked Canadian municipalities to assist in their effort to have the federal government protect water and sanitation as human rights;

WHEREAS recognizing the rights to water and sanitation is one of three steps needed to declare the Town of Stratford a Blue Community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford recognizes and affirms that water and sanitation services are fundamental human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford will make every effort to find a solution in cases of non-payment before shutting off water and wastewater services in any residence where residents have not paid their bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford will call on the federal and provincial governments to enshrine the human rights to water and sanitation in federal and provincial law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford will call on the Government of Canada to develop a national plan of action to implement the human rights to water and sanitation.

Banning Bottled Water in Municipal Facilities and at Municipal Events

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford operates and maintains a regulated and sophisticated water treatment and distribution system that meets some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the world; and

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WHEREAS the regulatory requirements for monitoring water quality contained in single-use bottled water are not as stringent as those that must be met by the Town of Stratford; and

WHEREAS single-use bottled water is up to 3,000 times more expensive than water from the tap in the Town of Stratford, even though bottled water can originate from municipal water systems; and

WHEREAS resource extraction, packaging and distribution of single-use bottled water creates unnecessary air quality and climate change impacts, consumes unnecessary resources such as oil in the manufacturing of plastic bottles and fuel used in the transportation of bottled water to the consumer, and creates unnecessary recycling and waste disposal costs; and

WHEREAS Stratford's tap water is safe, healthy and accessible to residents and visitors, is readily available at most indoor public facilities, and is substantially more sustainable than bottled water; and

WHEREAS when access to municipal tap water does not exist, bottled water can be an appropriate alternative; and

WHEREAS banning the sale and provision of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events is one of three steps needed to declare the Town of Stratford a Blue Community

BE IT RESOLVED that where access to municipal tap water exists, single-use bottled water will no longer be sold in municipal facilities, from municipally-owned or municipally administered concessions, or from vending machines in public facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that single-use bottled water will no longer be purchased and provided at municipal meetings, events, or work performed outdoors where access to municipal water exists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the availability of water jugs with municipal water will be increased at municipally-organized meetings and events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a staff and public awareness campaign will be developed to support the rationale for these changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff develop an implementation schedule with timelines that includes an assessment of access to tap water at municipal facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff provides a progress report at regular intervals.

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Promote Public Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

WHEREAS public health depends on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation systems; and

WHEREAS public ownership and operation of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems have been fundamental to access and quality over the past century; and

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford is committed to protecting water and wastewater systems from the consequences of privatization through “public-private partnerships,” or P3s, including:

- lack of transparency and public accountability;
- increased costs;
- higher user fees;
- multi-decade contracts that limit the policy options of future local governments; and
- international trade deals providing private water companies with rights to sue municipalities that bring water services into public hands; and

WHEREAS the privatization of municipal water and wastewater treatment systems and services through P3s or contracting out turns water into a commodity to be sold for profit; and

WHEREAS the federal government is requiring much-needed improvements to wastewater standards – a situation that could open the door to privatization unless dedicated public infrastructure funding is provided to upgrade treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS keeping water and wastewater infrastructure public is one of three steps needed to declare Promote public water and wastewater infrastructure a Blue Community; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford oppose privatization in any form of water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and services, including through P3s or short-term service contracts, and resolve to keep these services publicly financed, owned, operated and managed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford lobby the federal government to fulfill its responsibility to support municipal infrastructure by investing in a national water and wastewater infrastructure fund that would address the growing need to renew existing water and wastewater infrastructure and build new systems, and that would only fund public projects; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for circulation to its members.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee and the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

17. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Report was included in the agenda package. Mayor Ogden noted that the committee completed the review of the key performance indicators (kpi's). Each item was discussed individually and the comments and discussion held by the committee will be helpful when Council holds their strategic planning meeting. Robert added that there will be a presentation made to all of Council in either November or December.

18. HUMAN RESOURCES

No Report. It was noted that a meeting will be scheduled within the next week or two.

19. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Nil

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

21. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Community Campus Report

No Report

22. PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

23. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Steve Ogden

Robert Hughes CAO