



**The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Committee of the Whole In-camera Session
Minutes**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in In-camera Session on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford and with electronic participation at 2:27 p.m.

Present in

Council Chambers: Mayor Mathieson - Chair presiding,

Council Present

Electronically: Councillors Beatty, Bunting, *Burbach, Clifford, Gaffney, Henderson, Ingram, Ritsma, Sebben and Vassilakos.

Regrets:

Staff Present

in Chambers: Joan Thomson – Acting CAO, Tatiana Dafoe – Acting Clerk

Staff Present

Electronically: Michael Humble – Director of Corporate Services, Ed Dujlovic – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, David St. Louis – Director of Community Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Jacqueline Mockler – Director of Human Resources, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services,

Prior to going to In-camera session, Item 1.0 was dealt with in open session.

Call to Order by Mayor Mathieson

"Strengthening Our Community: Attracting People and Investment"

1.0 Adjournment into In-camera Session

Motion by Councillor Ingram and Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the meeting adjourn to an In-camera Session to discuss:

3.1 COVID-19 Temporary Council Remuneration Reduction [Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)), And Security of municipal property of the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(a))];

4.1 [REDACTED]

Carried

The meeting then adjourned to an In-camera session.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.0 Report of the Director of Corporate Services

3.1 COVID-19 Temporary Council Remuneration Reduction (Personal matters about an identifiable individual(s) including municipal employees or local board employees (section 239.(2)(b)), And Security of municipal property of the municipality or local board (section 239.(2)(a)))

"Strengthening Our Community: Attracting People and Investment"

Objective: To present options for a reduction in Council remuneration for the duration of the declared State of Emergency.

Attachment – Three Scenarios

Background and Analysis: At the 30th March In-camera meeting, Council discussed the option of reducing their remuneration during the declared State of Emergency to assist with addressing the financial position of the City while revenue sources have been curtailed.

Three scenarios are attached and the impact quoted is provided on a monthly basis.

Financial impact: As noted.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities: Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report on COVID - 19 Temporary Council Remuneration Reduction be received for information;

AND THAT Council direction be provided.

In-camera Discussion: It was noted by a member that money is being saved in the Council budget from members not attending meetings or conferences.

*Councillor Burbach now present electronically at 2:30 p.m.

Concern was expressed related to the public opinion when Council approved a raise. It was noted any reductions in council's salary could negatively affect members.

Support for a 15% reduction in salary for members of Council in April and May was expressed. A member noted it is important for council to show leadership during this time, especially given the deferral of the non-union cost of living increase of 1.5% and given the layoffs being experienced by members of the public.

It was questioned whether members of Council who are in a position to receive a decrease could do so while those who are not could refrain from participating. It was noted the salaries of members needs to be transparent and any decision should be applied uniformly.

In-camera Direction: Motion by Councillor Henderson and Councillor Gaffney

THAT the report on COVID - 19 Temporary Council Remuneration Reduction be received for information;

AND THAT the options presented for a reduction in council remuneration be referred to Phase 2 for consideration.

Support was expressed with the idea and a suggestion was made to consider a 5% reduction. Given the savings in travel, meeting and conference attendance the savings will be closer to 15%-20%.

Members were asked to consider making donations to a charity of their choice, if in a position to do so.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

4.0 [REDACTED]

4.1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It was noted the Mayor of Toronto has cancelled all public events until June 30, 2020 and it was questioned whether the City should consider doing the same. Mayor Mathieson advised the City could do the same under the Declaration of the State of Emergency but that consultation with Dr. Klassen should occur first.

A member noted the Region of Waterloo is taking a phased-in approach and is keeping facilities closed until May, 4.

Concern was expressed with cancelling events through a phased-in approach as there could be financial consequences for cancelling an event at a later date. Mayor Mathieson advised Community Services is keeping a list of public events in the community and is monitoring them. A request was made for an updated list of community events to be compiled with the number of expected attendees.

*Councillor Burbach returned to the meeting electronically at 3:00 p.m.

It was questioned whether discussions about cancelling the Pork Congress had started given the fact the facilities are closed. Councillor Ritsma advised they have.

A member asked which 2020 capital projects have been cancelled and whether the Queen Street project was identified for deferral. The Acting CAO advised CLT is reviewing the 2020 capital projects and has identified the Queen Street project as one to be deferred to 2021. It was suggested 2020 is the better year to complete the project as there will be less tourists in the City. The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised gas mains need to be relocated for this project to proceed. This work has to be completed by Enbridge who have pulled their crews and are not completing work at this time.

