



**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 Monday, November 9, 2020 electronically at 1:00 p.m.

Present in Chambers: *Mayor Mathieson - Chair Presiding

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

Regrets:

Staff Present in Chambers: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk

Staff Present Electronically: Ed Dujlovic – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Janice Beirness - Director of Corporate Services, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, *Naeem Khan – Manager of IT & Business Systems (Item 4.3), *Paula Lombardi – City Solicitor (Item 4.1 and 4.3), *Joani Gerber – CEO, investStratford (Item 4.1), Neil Anderson - Deputy Fire Chief

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

Call to Order by Mayor Mathieson

1.0 Adjournment into In-camera Session:

"Strengthening Our Community: Attracting People and Investment"

Motion by Councillor Ritsma and Councillor Burbach

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

4.1 [Redacted]

4.2 Community Hub Update
[Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f))];

4.3 [Redacted]

5.1 [Redacted]

6.1 [Redacted]

6.2 [Redacted]

6.3 [Redacted]

6.4 [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

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Carried

The meeting then adjourned to an In-camera session.

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4.2 Community Hub Update

[Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose (section 239.(2)(f))]

Objective: To consider an update with respect to the Community Hub Grant.

Attachment – None

Background and Analysis: The development of Council's (approved) Master Plan for the Grand Trunk Site sets out the guiding principles and the vision for this project in phases and over time. As noted in the Master Plan, the community hub phase includes a bus terminal (completed) and the intended adaptive reuse of portions of the Grand Trunk building to house a new YMCA and community gathering spaces.

The City submitted an application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) under the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream for the Grand Trunk Community Hub in September 2019. The funds, if received would be spent on the shell of the former Cooper building and to bring municipal services to the building and site.

Following a delay in reviewing applications due to COVID-19, the City was advised that our ICIP application was not recommended for this funding. In following up regarding the City's application it was noted that the fund was heavily subscribed to,

a lot of projects were not supported, and with COVID-19, the upper levels of government were recommending smaller projects closer to being shovel-ready.

An update on the COC project to be provided at the In-camera Session. Previous direction of Council confirmed Council's continued interest in pursuing the relocation of the Canadian Opera Company by entering into a Binding Letter of Intent with a revised provision that grants First Right of Refusal for COC that would allow COC to pursue other possible locations. There would also be a condition to protect the City, that the Binding Letter of Intent is subject to receipt of government funding by the City.

While the City will continue to seek funding from upper levels of government, it will be necessary to also consider pursuing alternate sources of funding for the site in order to advance both projects.

Financial impact: There are no funds identified for advancing the City portions of the overall projects.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Mobility, Accessibility and Design Excellence

Improving ways to get around, to and from Stratford by public transit, active transportation and private vehicle.

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Widening our Economic Opportunities

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

Staff recommendation: THAT direction be provided to authorize the City to continue to seek grants and to investigate alternate funding sources for the Grand Trunk Site.

In-camera Discussion: The Chief Administrative Officer advised the purpose of this report is to provide an update on the City's Community Hub grant application. The City applied for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) under the

Community, Culture and Recreation Stream for the Grand Trunk Community Hub in September 2019.

Following a delay in reviewing applications due to COVID-19, the City was advised that our ICIP application was not recommended for this funding. There is no funding available for the development of a Community Hub at this time. Staff sought direction to authorize the City to continue to seek grants and to investigate alternate funding sources for the Grand Trunk Site.

A member expressed their disappointment that the application was not successful. It was questioned whether a fund raising initiative could begin. Mayor Mathieson advised staff would consult with the YMCA and the University of Waterloo and provide a further update in January, 2021. It was noted a motion was previously passed to initiative a fundraising campaign.

In-camera Direction: Motion by Councillor Ritsma and Councillor Sebben **THAT direction be provided to authorize the City to continue to seek grants and to investigate alternate funding sources for the Grand Trunk Site.**

Discussion was held on the possibility of tearing down the burnt portion and on the agreement with the Canadian Opera Company.

Mayor Mathieson called the question on the motion.

Carried

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