



## **MINUTES Special Meeting of Council**

December 1, 2020

9:00 am

Town Hall, Council Chambers

Council Present: Mayor Strathdee (in-person)  
Councillor Craigmile (videoconference)  
Councillor Edney (videoconference)  
Councillor Luna (videoconference)  
Councillor Hainer (videoconference)  
Councillor Pridham (videoconference)  
Councillor Winter (in-person)

Staff Present: **In-Person**  
Brent Kittmer, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jenna McCartney, Clerk

**Conference Line**  
Richard Anderson, Director of Emergency Services / Fire Chief  
Grant Brouwer, Director of Building and Development  
Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services  
Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works  
Lisa Lawrence, Director of Human Resources  
André Morin, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer  
Sarah Andrews, Library CEO

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Strathdee called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

### **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

### **3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councillor Hainer requested that the topic "Access to Recreation, Leisure and Mental Health Programs in St. Marys" be added to the agenda.

Councillor Luna requested that the topic "Community Safety and Wellbeing" be added to the agenda.

Mayor Strathdee stated that Brent Kittmer will provide an update on public health orders related to COVID-19 compliance within the portion of "Public Input" in the agenda.

Councillor Craigmile requested that the topic "BRA Holiday Schedule" be added to the agenda.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-01**

**Moved By** Councillor Hainer

**Seconded By** Councillor Craigmile

**THAT** the December 1, 2020 special meeting of Council agenda be accepted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

No public input was submitted to the Clerk's Department prior to the deadline.

Brent Kittmer gave an update on the recent orders put in place by Dr. Klassen through the Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH). Mr. Kittmer is waiting for a reply from HPPH regarding the implementation of orders and the process the Town should follow.

Mr. Kittmer also highlighted that there has been an uptick in response to the Town's Community Wellness Program as cases increase throughout the HPPH area.

**5. 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

**5.1 Draft Operation Budget Review**

**5.1.1 Library**

Sarah Andrews, St. Marys Public Library CEO, gave an overview of the St. Marys Public Library draft operation budget for 2021 and introduced the Library Board Chair, Cole Atlin.

**5.2 Staff Reports**

**5.2.1 COR 40-2020 Fire Reserve Fund Strategy**

André Morin presented COR 40-2020 report.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-02**

**Moved By** Councillor Edney

**Seconded By** Councillor Craigmile

**THAT** COR 40-2020 Fire Reserve Fund Strategy report be received; and

**THAT** Council provide staff with approval to proceed with the High Priority needs expenditures for the Fire Hall as outlined in COR 40-2020, to be funded from the Fire Hall Upgrades contingency fund; and

**THAT** Council provide staff with the approval to proceed with the Medium Priority needs expenditures for the Fire Hall as outlined in COR 40-2020, to be funded from the Fire Hall Upgrades contingency fund; and

**THAT** Council approves the 2021 increase of \$10,000 to the Fire Reserve Fund transfer; and

**THAT** Council defers the Fire Pumper truck purchase to the 2022 Budget

**CARRIED**

#### **5.2.2 COR 41-2020 2021 Consolidated Fee By-law**

André Morin presented COR 41-2020 report.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-03**

**Moved By** Councillor Luna

**Seconded By** Councillor Pridham

**THAT** COR 41-2020 2021 Consolidated Fee By-law report be received; and

**THAT** Council consider By-law 104-2020 being a by-law to establish fees or charges for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys.

**CARRIED**

#### **5.2.3 DEV 81-2020 School Partnership for Work on Stone Walls**

Grant Brouwer presented DEV 81-2020 report.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-04**

**Moved By** Councillor Craigmile

**Seconded By** Councillor Winter

**THAT** DEV 81-2020 School Partnership for Work on Stone Walls report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**5.2.4 DEV 84-2020 1221 Water St. S, Landfill Exterior Building Renovation**

Grant Brouwer presented DEV 84-2020 report.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-05**

**Moved By** Councillor Craigmile

**Seconded By** Councillor Hainer

**THAT** DEV 84-2020 1221 Water St. S., Landfill Exterior Building Renovation report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**5.3 Budget Next Steps**

André Morin presented a verbal update on external transfers as it will impact the 2021 municipal budget.

Mr. Morin noted that with the adjustments to external transfers, the 2021 draft budget has improved, but there are expected increases to these services in 2021.

The only concerning risk to the draft budget 2021 budget is the budgeted 2021 assessment growth may be less than projected due to an assessment appeal. Mr. Morin stated that an update on the assessment growth will be presented at the January 2021 budget meeting, and that the draft budget may end up reflecting a 1% increase.

The next budget meeting is January 19, 2021 to review: Community Grants, tax policy, and COVID Relief funds update.

**5.4 Access to Recreation, Leisure and Mental Health Programs in St. Marys**

Councillor Hainer proposed that the Town should consider a COVID funding stream to support individuals with access to recreation, leisure and mental health programs during the pandemic.

Councillor Hainer put motion # 2020-12-01-06 on the floor.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-06**

**Moved By** Councillor Hainer

**Seconded By** Councillor Pridham

**THAT** a portion of the COVID relief program be allocated to financial relief for recreation, leisure and mental health programs; and

**THAT** staff report back with a policy.

**CARRIED**

**5.5 Community Safety and Wellbeing**

Councillor Luna inquired whether the Stratford Police Service could be asked about its mental health check policy.

Councillor Winter stated the matter can be added to the next Community Policing Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Kittmer provided a brief update on additional funding to support mobile crisis rapid response that has been received by the Stratford Police Service.

Mr. Kittmer stated that staff are prepared to report back to Council at the December 8, 2020 meeting regarding the Town's Community Wellness Plan.

**5.6 Bluewater Recycling Association Holiday Schedule**

Councillor Craigmile stated that BRA has made provisions within the waste and recycling schedule in the month of December to accommodate for Christmas and New Year's Eve. If resident's recycling and waste collection is regularly scheduled for December 25 and January 1, it will occur the following day on Saturday.

Council took a brief recess at 11:09 am.

Mayor Strathdee called the meeting back to order at 11:20am.

**6. CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution 2020-12-01-07**

**Moved By** Councillor Luna

**Seconded By** Councillor Edney

**THAT** Council move into a session that is closed to the public at 11:20 am as authorized under the *Municipal Act*, Section 239(2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

**CARRIED**

**6.1 HR 13-2020 CONFIDENTIAL Cost of Living Report Back**

**7. RISE AND REPORT**

**Resolution 2020-12-01-08**

**Moved By** Councillor Hainer

**Seconded By** Councillor Edney

**THAT** Council rise from a closed session at 11:58 am.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Strathdee reported a closed session was held with one matter being considered. Council will now consider a resolution on the matter.

Councillor Craigmile requested a recorded vote for motion 2020-12-01-09.

**Resolution 2020-12-01-09**

**Moved By** Councillor Luna

**Seconded By** Councillor Edney

**THAT** the draft 2021 municipal budget be amended to include an increase to the cost of living allowance to 1.46% from 1.17% to adjust for the negative impact that COVID-19 had on the CPI in 2020.

Support (2): Councillor Edney, and Councillor Luna

Oppose (5): Mayor Strathdee, Councillor Craigmile, Councillor Hainer, Councillor Pridham, and Councillor Winter

**DEFEATED**

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Mayor Strathdee reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda.

**9. BY-LAWS**

**Resolution 2020-12-01-10**

**Moved By** Councillor Hainer

**Seconded By** Councillor Craigmile

**THAT** By-Law 104-2020 be read a first, second and third time; and be finally passed by Council and signed and sealed by the Mayor and the Clerk.

**CARRIED**

**10. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

**Resolution 2020-12-01-11**

**Moved By** Councillor Hainer

**Seconded By** Councillor Pridham

**THAT** By-Law 105-2020, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the December 1, 2020 special Council meeting, be read a first, second and third time; and be finally passed by Council and signed and sealed by the Mayor and the Clerk.

**CARRIED**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution 2020-12-01-12**

**Moved By** Councillor Edney

**Seconded By** Councillor Hainer

**THAT** this special meeting of Council adjourns at 12:07 pm.

**CARRIED**

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Al Strathdee, Mayor

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Jenna McCartney, Clerk