

**Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2019**

**Regular Council Session
6:00 p.m.
In the Council Chamber**

52 Frank Street, Strathroy

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden
Deputy Mayor Brad Richards
Councillor John Brennan
Councillor Neil Flegel
Councillor Sandi Hipple
Councillor Frank Kennes
Councillor Steve Pelkman
Councillor Marie Baker
Councillor Larry Cowan

Also Present:

Greg McClinchey, Chief Administrative Officer
Fred Tranquilli, Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Clerk
Brianna Hammer-Keidel, Deputy Clerk/Communications Co-ordinator (Recorder)
Jennifer Huff, Manager of Building & Planning
Rob Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
George Elliott, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Brian George, Director of Fire Services/Fire Chief
Doug Payne, Manager of Human Resources
Joe Pilon, Director of Information Technology
Kristen Frisa, Middlesex Banner

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest. None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Baker and Deputy Mayor Richards

THAT: the following meeting minutes be approved as written:

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2019. **Carried.**

Moved by Councillors Pelkman and Hipple

THAT: the landscape plan and site plan related to item 6.1.1. (Re: 105/119 Caradoc Street Site Plan Amendment) be added to the agenda for consideration. **Carried.**

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Hipple

THAT: item 6.2.2. (Re: Downtown Strathroy Market Advertising Strategy) be removed from the agenda. **Carried.**

4. Communications

4.1. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Notification that the provincial government will maintain in-year cost sharing adjustments for land ambulance, public health, and child care services.

Moved by Councillors Brennan and Kennes

THAT: the following statement of response presented by Councillor Brennan be entered into the minutes. **Carried.**

“My comments are my own and I do not presume to speak for Council.

The Premier’s implication in his letter to Council this evening - that our municipality requires provincial assistance in responsibly managing our municipal budget as a means of solving Ontario’s financial problems - is both maddening and misleading.

Strathroy-Caradoc never stops implementing efficiencies in our municipal operations. Every year we seek to squeeze maximum value from every tax dollar we spend. Over the last decade we have cut our debt in half and allocated funds for future planned capital requirements. We are reducing our infrastructure debt through the development of our Asset Management Plan and we have also been successful in identifying and developing additional revenue streams to help maintain essential municipal services.

The recent actions taken by the Province to reduce their annual revenue by over \$2.7 billion has left them in a budgetary hole - one that they now seek to fill by reducing payments to local governments. In addition to this provincial downloading of services the Province is also asking local Councils to find a further four cents on the dollar in efficiencies.

So we will be asked to do more, with less, and then cut spending by 4% while maintaining municipal services. And to do all this on our municipal tax base.

Land ambulance services, libraries, flood mitigation programs and many other essential services are threatened, and Bill 108 may even reduce the amount of development charges councils can receive for building infrastructure to service new growth.

And we have only until this November, when we draft our 2020 municipal budget, to prepare for these drastic measures.

We have six months to try to convince the Province that they should not compel municipalities to pay the price of preserving and delivering essential local services in the face of provincial cost-cutting while that same provincial government chooses to reduce its own revenues. If we don't we will be forced to either cut essential services, defer necessary capital expenditures, postpone contributions to dedicated reserve funds, or raise local taxes. Or some combination of these undesirable alternatives.

Our local MPP, Monte McNaughton, sits in the cabinet that is making these fiscal decisions that will harm local communities.

This Council should seek his assistance in asking this government to not shift the burden and the consequences of this manufactured deficit onto the backs of Strathroy-Caradoc ratepayers.”

Moved by Councillors Brennan and Hipple

THAT: Strathroy-Caradoc Council respond to the correspondence from the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier, based on Councillor Brennan's statement. **Carried.**

4.2. **Municipality of North Middlesex**

Correspondence to the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education, regarding the Consultation on Class Sizes in Ontario and Education Funding.

Moved by Councillors Brennan and Hipple

THAT: the communication be referred to staff for preparation of a resolution in support of the report from the Municipality of North Middlesex. **Carried.**

4.3. **Opposition to Bill 108 (More Homes, More Choice Act)**

Resolution opposing Bill 108 (More Homes, More Choice Act) and encouraging positive changes within the Act.

- Town of Oakville
- Town of Grimsby
- City of Markham
- Grey County
- Town of Halton Hills
- York Region

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Pelkman

THAT: the communications be referred to staff for preparation of a resolution in support of item 4.3 (Opposition to Bill 108 – More Homes, More Choice Act). **Carried.**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Richards and Councillor Cowan

THAT: the communications items be received for information. **Carried.**

5. Unfinished Business

5.1. Resolution Re: Funding Cuts to Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service – North

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Brennan

THAT: the following resolution be adopted by Council:

WHEREAS the provincially funded Ontario Library Service agencies (Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service - North) provide vital shared and collaborative public library services that are not sustainable by small and rural libraries alone; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Library Service agencies ensure consistent quality and range of services are available to citizens through all public libraries no matter where they are located; and

WHEREAS the role of these agencies is crucial to the day-to-day provision of services to the public at libraries of all sizes in every part of Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc urges the Ontario government to recognize the importance of services provided by the Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service – North and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc urges the Ontario government to restore funding to the Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service – North at a minimum to the previous 2018 funding level;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to Doug Ford, Premier; the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Sport; and Monte McNaughton, MPP. **Carried.**

5.2. Resolution Re: Maintaining Levels of Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Funding

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Pelkman

THAT: the following motion be adopted by Council:

WHEREAS the Ontario government announced it is conducting a review of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), which provides annual funding allotments to municipal governments to help offset operating and capital costs; and

WHEREAS OMPF grant allocations have steadily decreased from \$598M in 2012 to \$505M in 2019; and

WHEREAS further reductions in the overall spending envelope of the program would have a significant impact on finances for municipalities across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the OMPF is a critical component of the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc expresses concern regarding the potential reduction and/or loss of the OMPF allotment for Ontario municipalities in future years and recommends that the OMPF be maintained at not less than its current funding level;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to Doug Ford, Premier; the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Monte McNaughton, MPP.
Carried.

6. Reports from Departments

6.1. Building and Planning Services – Councillor John Brennan, Chair

6.1.1. 105/119 Caradoc Street - Site Plan Amendment (K.F.C./Starbucks)

The Manager of Building & Planning presented the report, noting that the zoning had already been approved by Council. Staff feel that concerns relating to fencing and lighting have been adequately addressed by the site plan.

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Pelkman

THAT: Council approve the site plan agreement for the re-development of 105/119 Caradoc St. known as K.F.C./Starbucks. **Carried.**

6.1.2. 105/119 Caradoc Street - Request to Remove H-2 Holding Zone

Moved by Councillors Cowan and Baker

THAT: the application for the removal of the holding zone be approved. **Carried.**

6.2. Chief Administrative Office – Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden, Chair

6.2.1. Fire Inspection Update - Verbal Report

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update, noting that effective June 15, 2019, the County of Middlesex will no longer provide fire inspection services to lower-tier municipalities. The recommendation is to consider rescinding the appointments of those individuals who previously conducted such services on behalf of the Municipality. Staff are investigating prudent, long-term recommendations to bring back to Council. There is the possibility of contracting out the service on a short-term basis until all the information has been gathered.

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Baker

THAT: the appointments of John Elston, Fire Prevention Officer, and Stephen Guay, Fire Prevention Officer, as Officers of the Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Department for the purpose of delivering fire safety inspections, public fire safety education and fire investigations services within the Municipality of Strathroy-

Caradoc are hereby rescinded effective June 15, 2019. **Carried.**

6.2.2. **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference – Verbal Report**

Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden, CAO Greg McClinchey, and Director of Community Services Robert Lilbourne recently attended the FCM Annual Conference in Quebec City. The CAO reported that Mayor Vanderheyden was elected as 2nd Vice-President of FCM.

7. Reports from Boards and Committees

7.1. Caradoc Housing Corporation – Minutes of November 20, 2018 Meeting

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Flegel

THAT: the reports from Boards & Committees be received and filed. **Carried.**

8. Consideration of By-laws

8.1. **By-law 29-19**

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Hipple

THAT: By-law 29-19, being a by-law to appoint a marriage officiant for the Corporation of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, receive first, second, and third and final reading. **Carried.**

8.2. **By-law 30-19**

Moved by Councillor Kennes and Deputy Mayor Richards

THAT: By-law 30-19, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a site plan agreement between the Corporation of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and Caradoc Commercial Inc. (Re: 105/119 Caradoc Street South), receive first, second, and third and final reading. **Carried.**

8.3. **By-law 31-19**

Moved by Councillors Kennes and Brennan

THAT: By-law 31-19, being a by-law to remove the holding (H) symbol from certain lands located in the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc (Re: 105/119 Caradoc Street South), receive first, second, and third and final reading. **Carried.**

8.4. **By-law 32-19**

Moved by Councillors Baker and Hipple

THAT: By-law 32-19, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement with the Corporation of the County of Middlesex - Middlesex Supports Program (Re: “Can I Play Too?” Program), receive first, second, and third and final reading. **Carried.**

8.5. **By-law 33-19**

Moved by Councillors Pelkman and Flegel

THAT: Bylaw 33-19, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement with the Corporation of the County of Middlesex (Re: “Play It Forward” Program), receive first, second, and third and final reading. **Carried.**

9. **New Business.** None.

10. **County Council Report**

Deputy Mayor Richards reported that the previously scheduled County Council meeting had been cancelled. The Library Board received notification that funding to the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) has returned, however, members fear the reversal of the funding decision will be short-lived.

11. **Enquiries or Comments by Members**

Councillor Kennes reported on the Mayor’s Breakfast in support of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital and noted the support of all local municipalities.

Councillor Brennan will be participating in a ceremonial tree-planting at SDCI on June 6 in honour of the anniversary of D-Day. Downtown merchants are concerned about bicycle riding on downtown sidewalks and inquired about signage encouraging cyclists to walk their bikes down sidewalks. Councillor Brennan attended the Canadian Water Summit and noted it was an excellent opportunity for elected officials to attend and speak to a range of water professionals.

Councillor Cowan noted the unfortunate amount of rain received this spring and its impact on local farmers and the agricultural industry. This may eventually impact local businesses.

Councillor Pelkman attended the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards conference with other Police Services Board members. He reported changes to the Police Services Board Act and discussions about the implementation of Community Well-Being Plans. The Municipality needs to have a plan prepared by 2020, and will look to the Police Board Secretary and the Legal & Legislative Services Department for support.

Councillor Hipple reported excellent attendance at Mount Brydges Community Fest. Councillor Hipple also reported that CMHA Middlesex and a group from the local high school were able to raise the Pride Flag at Strathroy-Caradoc Town Hall on June 1, and thanked everyone involved.

Deputy Mayor Brad Richards attended a federal funding announcement in support of Women’s Rural Resource Centre to assist with planning and education programs.

Mayor Vanderheyden reported on her attendance at the FCM Annual Conference. Councillor Kennes will attend a photo opportunity for OneRun scheduled for June 14 at 11:30am.

12. Schedule of Meetings

- Regular Council Meeting – Monday, June 17, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – **Tuesday**, July 2, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Monday, July 15, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – **Tuesday**, August 6, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Deputy Mayor Richards and Councillor Kennes
THAT: the meeting adjourn at 6:57 p.m. **Carried.**