

Stratford Town Crier

Town Crier, February 17, 2024

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedule

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT CITY OF STRATFORD 2024 BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that Stratford City Council intends to consider adopting the 2024 budget of The Corporation of the City of Stratford at the Regular Council meeting scheduled for February 26, 2024. The Regular Council meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Council Chambers located at Stratford City Hall, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON N5A 6W1. The By-law to adopt the 2024 estimated revenues and expenditures for The Corporation of the City of Stratford, including municipal departments, municipal service boards, advisory committees, and boards will also be considered at this meeting.

The agenda for this meeting will be uploaded to the City's website at <https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings> by Friday, February 23, 2024. A link to watch the Council meeting live will be available on the agenda. To provide written comments or to obtain further information, please contact Karmen Krueger, Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer by phone: 519-271-0250 extension 5202, by email: stfdbudget@stratford.ca or by mail to:

Finance Division, Stratford City Hall
Attention: Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer
1 Wellington Street,
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1

Written comments must be submitted by February 20, 2024.

FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

Administration Offices and the Landfill Site will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024.

CURBSIDE GARBAGE, GREEN BIN AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

There will be no change in the curbside collection programs on Monday, February 19, 2024. Please ensure materials are to the curb prior to 8:00 a.m. on collection dates.

RETAIL CLOSINGS – FAMILY DAY

Shoppers and merchants are reminded that under the Retail Business Holidays Act, Family Day, February 19, 2024, is among the days annually when most stores must be closed.

The Act, administered by the Ministry of Government Services, exempts some retail operations. Flower shops, gas stations and book or magazine stores under 2,400 square feet with a maximum of three employees, are among the exempted businesses.

Stratford's designated tourism season is May 1 to November 12 each year and does not extend to Family Day.

There are fines for opening on prohibited days of retail operation. Retail outlets found guilty may be fined up to \$50,000 or the total amount of gross sales for the day, whichever is greater. Enforcement of the Retail Business Holidays Act in Stratford is the responsibility of Stratford Police Services.

To find out which retail operations are exempted by the Act, please call the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services toll-free at 1-800-889-9768. For more information, visit www.cbs.gov.on.ca.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR LEASE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The City of Stratford is calling for Requests for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for Lease of Agricultural land – located adjacent to the Stratford Municipal Airport. The City is leasing 160 acres of agricultural land located adjacent to the Stratford Municipal Airport, approximately 100 acres of that land is farmable. As this land is currently part of the Stratford Municipal Airport, there are restrictions. More details are located in the Request for Expressions of Interest for Lease of Agricultural Land document. This RFEOI is inviting submissions from Respondents that detail their desire, relevant experience, expertise and resources to undertake the lease of the land.

To Obtain More Information and Apply:

Any potential applicant must contact Fire Chief Neil Anderson at 519-271-0250, extension 7225 or nanderson@stratford.ca to receive all the documents and to apply.

The RFEOI closes on March 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING (2AM-6AM) – REMINDER

Drivers are reminded that overnight parking in the City of Stratford is not permitted on any roadway, shoulder, or City parking lot between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless otherwise designated. Parking in a manner which obstructs municipal snow clearing operations is also prohibited. This is even more important during significant snowfall events to ensure that City snow plow operators can safely and efficiently clear roads. Parking in a manner which obstructs municipal snow clearing operations and/or parking overnight (between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.) each carry a set fine of \$80, or a \$60 voluntary payment if paid within 7 days.

Stratford Police Services enforce this restriction and should be contacted if there is an overnight parking situation at the non-emergency line of 519-271-4141.

For additional information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 519-271-0250, extension 5230.

CLEARING SIDEWALKS OF SNOW AND ICE IN THE CORE AREA AND CLEARING OVERHANGING SNOW AND ICE FROM ROOFS IN THE CITY OF STRATFORD

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that under the conditions of the City of Stratford By-law #225-2005, the owner, occupant or person in charge of any property in the core area as designated in the By-law is required to clear the sidewalks adjacent to their property of all snow and ice throughout the winter.

The sidewalks shall be cleared of snow and ice prior to 10:00 a.m. everyday, except Sundays and Holidays as defined in the Retail Business Holidays Act. Sidewalk conditions must then be monitored between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and to continue to keep the sidewalks cleared at all times. The By-law also requires that icy conditions be treated with sand and/or salt or other suitable substance.

Also, the owner, occupant or person in charge of an occupied or unoccupied building is required to clear away and remove snow and ice from the roof of a building where such snow and ice may fall on a sidewalk or street. All

snow or ice from roofs must be removed by 10:00 a.m. every day except Sundays and Holidays as defined in the Retail Business Holidays Act. The person clearing away the snow and ice shall take all necessary care and precautions for the warning and safety of passers-by and other persons.

Any snow and ice which falls onto the sidewalk shall be placed at the edge of the street immediately adjacent to the curb. Snow should not be placed on the travelled portion of the roadway or in such a way as to obstruct access to any fire hydrant.

Regular inspections will be made of the core area sidewalks after snowfalls and to identify any buildings which have snow and ice which may fall on the sidewalk or street. The set fine for contravention of this By-law is \$115.00 for each occurrence, exclusive of costs. The snow and ice may be removed at the discretion of the Infrastructure Services Department or the Chief of Police, and charged to the owner.

**ATTENTION STRATFORD PROPERTY OWNERS
PROPERTY TAX – 2024 INTERIM LEVY DUE DATE FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

Your 2024 Interim Tax Bill has now been mailed. If you have not received a Tax Notice or would like to set up a pre-authorized monthly/quarterly payment plan, please call the City Tax Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5212. Property tax payments may be made at your bank in person, by telephone or on-line banking. Cash, Debit or Cheques payable to the "City of Stratford" are also accepted at City Hall. Cheques may also be deposited in the mailbox at the rear entrance to City Hall off Market Square or mailed to P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY INCOME TAX CLINIC

The City of Stratford is offering its annual community income tax clinic again! This program serves low-income residents of the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and County of Perth. The complimentary services for the current year tax returns are being provided by:

- Famme & Co. Professional Corporation
- McCutchen & Pearce Professional Corporation

The total annual gross income restrictions to participate are:

Participants	Income Restrictions
On Social Assistance (Ontario Works, ODSP) with a T5007	Eligible
Seniors 65+	Single: \$25,396 or less Couple: \$34,346 or less
All others	Single: \$16,000 or less Couple: \$32,000 or less

Disability income received should be included in your total gross income. Please ensure you are within the limits stated.

What to Bring with You:

Participants should bring Photo ID and the following if applicable:

- T4s, T5s
- Rent Receipts and/or Property Tax Receipts
- Medical Receipts
- Donation Receipts
- Disability Tax Credit Certificate Form (T2201)
- Date of Entry to Canada

Please call to **register in advance by Thursday, March 7, 2024** by contacting the Social Services Clerks at 519-271-3773 extension 6277, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. An appointment time will be provided for document delivery between March 8-14, 2024.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Feb 20	Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee	4:30 p.m.	Council Chambers

Meetings are open to the public to attend with the exception of In-Camera sessions (please note the adjournment into the In-camera Session is open to the public to attend and observe). Agendas can be accessed from the City's website. Please check the City's website for the Sub-committee, Committee, Council and Advisory Committee Meeting Schedules as these schedules are subject to change.

The Town Crier is available on the City of Stratford's website.

www.stratford.ca