

**THE FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH
COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL**

DECEMBER 19TH, 2005

6:00 p.m. The meeting convened with His Worship, Mayor Jeff Kohler, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mayor J. Kohler
Alderman B. Aarts
 C. Barwick
 H. Chapman
 T. Johnston
 T. Shackelton
 M. Turvey
 D. Warden

Officials

W. Graves, City Clerk
W. Day, Director of Finance & City Treasurer
D. Morgan, Manager of Culture and Recreation
J. Dewancker, Director, Environmental Services
G. Dart, Director, Human Resources
C. Hinatsu, Director, Ontario Works
R. Barber, Fire Chief
M. Carroll, Valleyview Administrator
Constable G. Hodgson

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSED SESSION

The Closed Session was held in Committee Room #204 and the minutes are located at the end of Regular Open Council Business.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Alderman Shackelton - Turvey:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on December 12th, 2005 be confirmed.

Carried.

DEPUTATIONS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Council resolved itself into Committee of the Whole.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Chairman H. Chapman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - Chairman M. Turvey

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

City of St. Thomas and Municipality of Central Elgin - Suburban Water Agreement
Appendix “A”

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Mayor Kohler:

CITY CLERK_____CONFIRMED_____MAYOR

The 51st meeting of the 125th Council - 2

THAT: The agreement between the City of St. Thomas and the Municipality of Central Elgin for the Suburban Water Supply to the Municipality of Central Elgin, attached to Report ES110-05, be approved; and,

THAT: A by-law be prepared to authorize the execution of the agreement.

Carried.

Snow Removal

The members discussed the snow removal policy as it relates to the downtown area and also within subdivision areas. Further the members discussed parking of vehicles in front yard areas.

The Director, Environmental Services stated that while people are encouraged not to park on the street during the winter months, zoning does permit them to park in up to 50 percent of their front yard area.

Council, by consensus, directed the Environmental Services Department to review the current policies and consider revising the standards to reflect that snow would be removed in the downtown area when it reaches two feet high rather than three feet with particular focus on snow removal during two week periods close to major shopping times, such as Christmas.

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

PERSONNEL AND LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Chairman D. Warden

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Chairman C. Barwick

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2006 Budget Development Timetable and Instructions - Appendix "B"

The members discussed the possible need to provide partial funding to groups who receive funding from the City, prior to final budget approval.

The Director of Finance & City Treasurer stated that he would follow-up with the groups and work out cash flow arrangements.

Motion by Alderman Chapman - Johnston:

THAT: The 2005 Budget Development Timetable and Instructions pursuant to Report TR 52-05 be approved and circulated by the City Treasurer to all applicable City Departments and Boards.

Carried.

Financing for Valleyview - Appendix "C"

Motion by Alderman Turvey - Shackelton:

THAT: Council approve Report TR 51-05 and enact a by-law to authorize the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Authority (OSIFA) debenture issue in the amount of \$17 million at a rate of 4.76%, it being noted that the proceeds will be used to finance the Valleyview Long Term Care Facility.

Carried.

CITY CLERK _____ CONFIRMED _____ MAYOR _____

The 51st meeting of the 125th Council - 3

Parking Lot Permits - Request by Elections Canada

Motion by Alderman Turvey - Shackelton:

THAT: The motion of December 12, 2005 relating to the issuance of parking permits to Elections Canada be reconsidered.

Carried.

Motion by Alderman Turvey - Shackelton:

THAT: The City Council authorize the issuance of the following parking permits at no cost to Elections Canada for the use in the city parking lots in the vicinity of 449 Talbot Street between December 13, 2005 and January 27, 2006:

70 Day Passes.

Carried.

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - Chairman B. Aarts

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Social Service Worker - Appendix "D"

The members inquired about the need for a supervisor position to manage three people.

The Director, Ontario Works stated that the Best Start Program required a significant amount of staff resources and that this program area will grow significantly over the next few years.

Motion by Alderman Chapman - Warden:

THAT: The Community and Social Services Committee receive and approve Report CR-05-20 of the Director of Ontario Works; and further,

THAT: A Senior Social Service Worker position be created in the Ontario Works Department; and further,

THAT: Staff be authorized to hire a Senior Social Service Worker effective immediately; and further,

THAT: The Social Services Worker complement be reduced by one staff position.

Carried.

Proposed Outdoor Recreation Facility Rates - 2006 - Appendix "E"

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Warden:

THAT: Council receive Report TR-53-05 of the Manager of Culture and Recreation, entitled "Proposed Ball Facility Rates - 2006" as information; and further,

THAT: Council approve the Proposed 2006 Fee Schedules for Ball Facilities, Soccer Facilities, Pavilions and Aquatic Program, as attached to Report TR-53-05, effective January 1, 2006.

Carried.

2005 Aquatics Program - Review - Appendix “F”

Alderman Turvey inquired if there had been an adjustment in invoices the City had received because of an incorrect diagnosis of the pool water quality.

The Manager of Culture and Recreation stated that staff would review this matter.

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Turvey:

THAT: Council receive Report TR-54-05 of the Manager of Culture and Recreation, entitled “2005 Aquatics Program - Review” as information; and further,

THAT: The following 2006 hourly wage rates for the Municipal Aquatic Staff be approved:

Aquatic Supervisor	\$13.80
Senior Aquatic Instructor/Lifeguard	\$ 9.12
Junior Aquatic Instructor/Lifeguard	\$ 8.55
Basket/Wading Pool Attendant	\$ 7.75 (2006 General Minimum Wage)

Carried.

Renaming of Park Pavilions

Alderman Aarts stated that a report would be coming to Council in January relating to the naming of park pavilions.

St. Thomas Community Centre

Alderman Johnston inquired when the final report would be coming forth regarding the final inspection with Lucas Smith.

Alderman Aarts stated that he hoped the report would be available in January.

Future Use of Northside Arena Property

Alderman Warden inquired if all avenues had been exhausted for the potential use of Northside Arena.

The Director of Finance & City Treasurer stated that the building was a money pit and that this had been defined some time ago in a related report.

Mayor Kohler stated that the potential costs had been laid out including conversion costs and at that time Council started looking at a new arena.

Alderman Barwick stated that in addition to the building itself, there were concerns about the zoning and possible future uses that could be located on that site.

Summer Staff

Alderman Warden expressed concern regarding negative comments being made about a family member who had worked for the City.

The Manager of Culture and Recreation stated that Alderman Warden’s family member was qualified for the summer position.

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

PROTECTIVE SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - Chairman T. Shackelton

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Elmina Street and Oak Street Intersection

Captain Dennis A. Redman No.2 Fire Station

CITY CLERK_____CONFIRMED_____MAYOR

NEW BUSINESS

Police Services Report

Constable Glen Hodgson was in attendance to present the Police Services Report.

Fire Incident at Kettle Creek Gardens

Alderman Aarts commended the staff at Valleyview for their accommodation of residents from Kettle Creek Gardens as a result of a recent fire at that location.

Request for "No Standing" Zone - Forest Park Walkway

A petition had been received from the residents of Myrtle Street and Gregory Place requesting a "No Standing "zone around the area of the Forest Park walkway.

The members directed that this matter be forwarded to the Environmental Services Department for a report.

BUSINESS CONCLUDED

REPORTS PENDING

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW 44-2000(REGULATION OF WATER SUPPLY IN THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS) - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. THOMAS ENERGY INC. (PROVISION OF WATER METER READING/BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES) _____ - J. Dewancker

ESDA SERVICING MASTER PLAN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - J. Dewancker

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND USE - P. Keenan

DRIVEWAY RECONSTRUCTION - MAPLE STREET - J. Dewancker

FUTURE USE OF VALLEYVIEW PROPERTY - ELYSIAN STREET - E. Sebestyen

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE REVIEW - D. White

DENNIS ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS - J. Dewancker

COUNCIL

Council reconvened into regular session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Planning and Development Committee - Chairman H. Chapman

Environmental Services Committee - Chairman M. Turvey

Personnel and Labour Relations Committee - Chairman D. Warden

Finance and Administration Committee - Chairman C. Barwick

Community and Social Services Committee - Chairman B. Aarts

Protective Services and Transportation Committee - Chairman T. Shackelton

Motion by Alderman Warden - Turvey:

The 51st meeting of the 125th Council - 6

THAT: The recommendations, directions and actions of Council in Committee of the Whole as recorded in the minutes of this date be confirmed, ratified and adopted.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Eighth Report of the Site Plan Control Committee - Appendix "G"

Motion by Alderman Chapman - Aarts:

THAT: Clauses 1 and 2 of the Eighth Report of the Site Plan Control Committee be adopted.

Carried.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Alzheimer Awareness Month - January 2006

Motion by Alderman Shackelton - Aarts:

THAT: The Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas proclaim the month of January 2006 as "Alzheimer Awareness Month" in the City of St. Thomas.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

"Solid Pension - Secure Future" - C.A.W. Local 1001

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Care

Alderman Barwick updated the members about the Christmas Care effort and on behalf of Christmas Care thanked the citizens of St. Thomas for their support.

Review of City Cheques

Alderman Warden inquired if as a member of Council he could have the opportunity to review cheques that are written for City accounts.

Alderman Barwick stated that as an elected official any member could ask how public funds are spent and further, that within a proper process, cheques written could be reviewed.

"Kids Count Too" - Fundraiser for Hurricane Katrina

Mayor Kohler informed the members about an upcoming event being planned by Kids Count Too to be held on January 15th, 2006 at the St. Thomas Seniors' Centre to raise funds for relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina. Further, Mayor Kohler stated that groups within the City were looking at other relief efforts.

Mutual Boundary Adjustment with Central Elgin

Mayor Kohler informed the members and the community that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing had signed the Order to authorize the Boundary Adjustment with the Municipality of Central Elgin effective January 1, 2006.

BY-LAWS

Motion by Alderman Aarts - Turvey:

THAT: Leave be granted to bring in the following by-laws:

CITY CLERK_____CONFIRMED_____MAYOR

The 51st meeting of the 125th Council - 7

1. A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on the 19th day of December, 2005.
2. A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon debentures in the amount of \$17,000,000 towards the cost of certain capital works of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas. (Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Authority (OSIFA) debenture issue - Valleyview Long Term Care Facility)
3. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Cottonwood Drive, Magnolia Court, Amberwood Court)
4. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Riverbank Drive, Goldenrod Court)
5. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Steeplechase Court, Lexington Court, Highview Drive, Chestnut Street)
6. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Highview Drive, Windemere Place, Steeplechase Court, Bodkin Street)
7. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Cottonwood Drive, Goldenrod Court, Linden Lane)
8. A by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute and affix the Seal of the Corporation to a certain agreement between the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas and the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin. (Suburban Water Supply)

Carried.

First and Second Readings

Motion by Alderman Aarts - Turvey:

THAT: The by-laws be now read a first time, referred to Council in Committee of the Whole and read a second time.

Carried.

Alderman T. Johnston was appointed Chairman of Council in Committee of the Whole and conducted the second reading of the by-laws.

On motion duly moved and seconded, the Chairman was ordered to report on the passing of the by-laws. The Chairman reported as ordered and the Mayor resumed the Chair.

Third Reading

Motion by Alderman Aarts - Turvey:

THAT: The report of Council in Committee of the Whole on the following by-laws be received and adopted, the same be read a third time, engrossed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed and numbered.

1. A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on the 19th day of December, 2005. (B/L 172-2005)
2. A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon debentures in the amount of \$17,000,000 towards the cost of certain capital works of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas. (Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Authority (OSIFA) debenture issue - Valleyview Long Term Care Facility) (B/L 173-2005)
3. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Cottonwood Drive, Magnolia Court, Amberwood Court) (B/L 174-2005)

CITY CLERK_____CONFIRMED_____MAYOR

The 51st meeting of the 125th Council - 8

4. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Riverbank Drive, Goldenrod Court) (B/L 175-2005)

5. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Steeplechase Court, Lexington Court, Highview Drive, Chestnut Street) (B/L 176-2005)

6. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Highview Drive, Windemere Place, Steeplechase Court, Bodkin Street) (B/L 177-2005)

7. A by-law to assume certain lands as part of the public highway. (Cottonwood Drive, Goldenrod Court, Linden Lane) (B/L 178-2005)

8. A by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute and affix the Seal of the Corporation to a certain agreement between the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas and the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin. (Suburban Water Supply) (B/L 179-2005) (A/G 67-2005)

Carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fees/Charges for Wastewater Services - Water and Sewage Service Rates

A public meeting will be held on January 16th, 2006 regarding a proposed by-law to increase sewage service rates and water rates.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Re-creation of Chief Administrative Officer Position

A notice of motion was received from Alderman D. Warden to authorize the immediate re-creation of a Chief Administrative Officer position, with costs being included in the 2006 operating budget.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Aarts:

THAT: This meeting be closed to deal with a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality and a labour relations matter.

Carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Aarts:

THAT: We do now rise from Closed Session. (6:56 P.M.)

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Warden:

THAT: We do now adjourn. (8:27 P.M.)

Carried.