



increase Business Improvement Area staff wages by 3.5% for 2026 to account for an increase in cost of living.

#### 8. Treasurer Report

Proposed levy increase of 2.71%.

Discussion regarding the Community Collaboration and the Grant Revenue lines versus 2025.

Motion: To approve the proposed 2026 budget moved by Shawn Malvern, seconded by Carly Douglas. Carried.

#### 9. Council Update

Emily Skelding updating regarding municipal recycling collection that is outside of the provincial program.

The new Municipal Accommodation Tax committee that is being formed is being announced at the December 8 City Council meeting.

A Grand Trunk discussion happened at Council. The City's Chief Administrative Officer brought forward that this is a downtown revitalization project. Due to this, Councillor Burbach recommends that the BIA submit a report regarding what the BIA would like to have happen. An Expression of Interest process would be followed if Council feels comfortable with the next study coming to Council.

#### 10. Sub-Committee and Working Group Update

##### Beautification

<Beautification Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday November 13, 9:30 AM>

Three art pieces in Allen's Alley will be taken down as the wall needs to be repaired. A light project will also be considered. Administrator will pull history regarding these murals.

The new building owners are not likely to pay for the mural replacement.

Pole wraps are installed. Watching the concrete posts to see how they fare over winter.

The Heritage Stratford Committee does not like the proposed Ontario Street mural, however, the City staff have said that they do not have the final say.

##### Advocacy and Education

<BIA Advocacy and Education Minutes Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 11:00 am>

Thinking about takeout containers and reducing single-use items. The Ask First initiative is what Toronto has decided on instead of fines. We like this approach - an opt-in, rather than an opt-out approach.

BIA Members Lights On bus tour Thursday, January 8. The Destination Stewardship Council via Destination Stratford will be touring the same evening.

##### Marketing

<Marketing Sub-Committee Minutes Wednesday November 12, 9:00AM>

Winter Wander-land this weekend. Some indoor crafting spots open.

#### 11. Governance Review

City Clerk will review and be back in touch in January. The City Clerk would like the BIA to review the application and send feedback regarding revisions early 2026. Administrator will send previous version to the General Manager. A group will be struck to review the application – Stephanie Theodoropolous and Jennifer Birmingham will assist the General Manager.

12. General Manager Report

<General Managers Report to the Board of Directors November 18/19, 2025>

According to the Director of Corporate Services via the Municipal Act, the BIA needs to send their annual budget to the members of the BIA as a notice, prior to the Board approving the budget and then sending to City Council for by-law approval. The 2026 budget will go as usual, and this will be implemented in 2027.

13. December Board Meeting

Cancelled. Aware of Special Meeting notice needs.

14. New Business

Job postings for the BIA Website go to the General Manager.

15. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:25 P.M. moved by Ryan O'Donnell.