



TOWN OF HINTON
Standing Committee of Council Meeting
October 8, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Ian Duncan, Deputy Mayor Bill Bulger
Councillors Jane Macridis, Lorraine Johnston-MacKay

ABSENT: Ryan Maguhn, Dale Currie

SECRETARY: Lil Wallace - Executive Assistant

ALSO PRESENT: Bernie Kreiner - Town Manager
Rhonda West - Legislative & Administrative Services Coordinator
Denise Parent - Director of Corporate Services

ORDER

Deputy Mayor Bill Bulger called the Standing Committee Meeting to order. The time was 11:37 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus to accept the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda of October 8, 2013.

ACTION ITEMS

Refer to the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda package for October 8, 2013 for detailed background information on these decisions.

Off-Site Levies/Developer Contribution Fees and In-Fill Development Policy

Jean Anne Fraser, Director of Planning & Technical Services, advised council that an open house was held and she provided a summary of what she heard and understood:

General:

- Some people in attendance did not have an understanding of off-site levies and what gives the municipal authority to collect the fee;
- there was varying levels of knowledge and understanding of what was being presented;
- Chamber of Commerce did a good job in circulating notice of the open house to their members to get the word out to attend;

Off-Site Levies/Developer Contribution Fees:

- didn't seem to be lots of concern around actual rates, not large increase and some will see decrease from district to general wide levy;
- some did like current structure of charging to districts; majority appreciated community wide as not bias to certain areas; we all benefit from arterial road, etc.
- one developer liked the preference to charge district;


Initial

- West Fraser currently has no levies charged to their lands as long as they remain the owner; when land sold the levy would be due; that philosophy would continue;
- it was suggested there could be consideration to remove reserves out of gross area; should they be giving these lands and also paying levy on it? If goes into private sector development then could charge levy; feel it is a double-dip on land with public-wide benefit;
- preference to delay the levies when due; consider due at time of lot transfer from developer to buyer or at time of development permit when doing as a spec development; not considered a construction cost so it is out of pocket as they can't mortgage/borrow these monies; request for deferment of levy payment;

In-Fill Development Policies:

- spoke to people relating directly to this issue, they liked the attempt to come up with a framework so all parties are aware right from the start;
- developers recognize their responsibility of frontage but they feel the municipality should carry the burden of the other frontages as the town can carry that cost longer and/or better than developer;
- also heard group say pick a few areas economically motivated, do the work, go and collect when subdivision occurs; put extra effort into local improvement plan, we each pay our share over period of time (usually 10 to 15 but we've had 5 to 20) with a little interest; suggested the municipality initiate the process and if don't get 2/3 objections, then good to go;
- basic question is "Who should pay? All the community or the people of that neighborhood?" Majority felt should be all community. We all benefit and we all share in it.

There was consensus that the off-site levies/developer contribution fees be brought forward to regular council and the in-fill development policies will be brought back at a later date with the new council.

Return of Town of Hinton property by councillors

Rhonda West advised council that the Town of Hinton property must be returned prior to the election and requested it be done by noon on Friday, October 18, 2013. This includes any laptops, cell phones, keys and credit cards. Binders can be dropped off later and papers to be shredded can also be brought in for shredding.

Coffee with Council/Minute with Council reflection and feedback

After discussion, it was felt that Coffee with Council and Minute with Council are both worthwhile initiatives that are catching on with the public and should be recommended to the new council to be continued.

Post-Secondary Education Facility Work Group

Bernie Kreiner advised that he is the project sponsor and Kimberley Worthington is the project manager. Grande Prairie Regional College has been slow in getting approval to their business plan for this area as they are dealing with cutbacks in provincial funding and this has been taking up a great deal of their focus. At the moment enrollment in Hinton is not strong; and efforts to get short-term space for the welding program has not been progressing; the MLA is

working with the Hinton Training Centre to get that facility available for other opportunities. Mr. Kreiner advised this may not be the best time to push forward on this project.

Councillor Jane Macridis advised that in speaking to a large number of citizens, having a post-secondary education facility in our town still remains high on the public's priority. That message needs to be heard by the MLA and the College's board of governors.

There was consensus to accept this report for information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Urgent Matters from Council and Town Manager

Councillor Macridis reminded everyone of the 1:30 pm signing of the landfill agreement tomorrow and bbq commencing at 12:30 pm.

Bernie Kreiner advised:

- reminded council to encourage citizens to apply for the vacancies in various committees;
- the CN access road is to be closed today for the day due to paving construction;
- the Executive Committee has decided on asset management software and a trial project will be tested
- reminded everyone of the advance vote taking place tomorrow (October 9, 2013) from 10 am to 4 pm in Council Chambers at the Government Centre;
- historical markers to appear in community very shortly in 6 locations; in celebration of our pioneers, they are points of interest describing what was there before; quick link scan barcode also on the markers, access by your phone and it takes person to Town of Hinton website and provides information.

Executive Assistant Logistics Information

Upcoming events logistics were discussed.

IN CAMERA (if necessary)

J. MACRIDIS - That Standing Committee move in camera.

Carried

The time was 1:12 p.m. The mayor then called a short recess and the meeting resumed at 1:23 p.m.

L. JOHNSTON-MACKAY- That Standing Committee revert to regular session.

Carried

The time was 1:56 p.m.


Initial

ADJOURNMENT

L. JOHNSTON-MACKAY- That Standing Committee Meeting of Council adjourn.

Carried

The time was 1:57 p.m.



Deputy Mayor



Director of Corporate Services

Initial