



TOWN OF HINTON
Standing Committee of Council Meeting
FEBRUARY 26, 2013

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

ABSENT: Councillors Dale Currie and Ryan Maguhn

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 Lorraine Johnston-MacKay called the Standing Committee Meeting to order. The time was 11:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus to accept the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda of February 26, 2013 with the following additions under Action Items:

- parameters of coffee with council and delegations
- procedural question on communicating status of strategic plan

ACTION ITEMS

Refer to the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda package for February 26, 2013 for detailed background information on these decisions.

Council Input into Municipal Government Act Review

Council was asked to provide their input on the following questions:

- 1) Do you support the principles under the three discussion sections, or have any recommended changes/additions?

DISCUSSION SECTION: DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON GOVERNANCE:

- Local governments are a recognized and respected order of government:
 - Would like to see language indicative of new partnership of collaboratively working together;
- Local governments are empowered:
 - empowerment is a part of collaboration;
 - wants to see empowerment more defined;


Initial

- Local governments are transparent:
 - transparency should be a guiding principle
 - transparency to be defined with guidelines so there is more consistency in municipalities; how is transparency expected

- Local governments are innovative and viable and embrace partnerships, cooperative agreements, and inter-municipal relationships:
 - feels local government is progressing as innovative and viable; need to find funding solutions and not expecting province to do it all; more P3s;
 - all levels of government working together; Hinton already doing that a lot.

- Local governments have the authority to enter into agreements with others:
 - as long as doesn't bind us to working through agreements when municipalities can go it alone; would be as encouragement rather than binding so we wouldn't be stopped in doing something; proceeding with Switzer Drive project for example.; trust goodwill of each other to do the municipal work;
 - currently the bargaining power is unequal so difficult to come to inter-municipal agreements;

DISCUSSION SECTION: DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- yes the desired outcomes are stated as principles
 - the public is less clear of whose responsibility it is (**); that needs more clarity so municipality isn't questioned or faulted for things not their responsibility. (Is this a future public education opportunity provincially?)
- Provincial and municipal governments meet their respective responsibilities and must have agreement for delegated service delivery with adequate resource provisions:
- more municipal governments coming together in partnerships for delivering provincial initiatives by advance agreement to move forward;

DISCUSSION SECTION: DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON REVENUE SOURCES AND AUTHORITIES

- Local councils have the right to make decisions on multifaceted revenue sources (including different types of taxation):
- province should welcome that accountability; municipalities have to have a greater role in revenue collection accountability for covering municipal responsibility/costs.
 - community needs to be educated on property taxes; how much funding provided by province; see where partnerships need to be done and sources of revenue coming from in our tax dollars; (see ** above).
- The Province encourages and supports long-term planning for municipal infrastructure including development, maintenance, and replacement:
- language in this bullet (#3) should be firmer
 - feel these bullet points are several ways of saying same thing


Initial

- would like to have consideration given to have, for example, MGA chapters 1-10 for urban and 11 to 20 for rural municipalities as what is applicable to themselves;
- All provincial resource revenues should be shared equitably among municipalities:
- municipalities want strengths to create more funding; not province dictating what you get;
 - want to have predictable funding and grant funding is not predictable;
 - want municipalities to have a higher amount of revenue to operate; grave concern for MGA to start giving municipalities new writing tax power rather than getting grants as a revenue stream;

Do you want grants or delegated revenue authority to fund the municipality responsibilities?

Several councillors chose “delegated revenue authority” as their answer with one councillor requiring more information on revenue authority in order to make a decision; sees merit for both sides; doesn’t want Hinton people to have to pay more in taxes.

Mayor Duncan advised he will be attending a meeting in Grande Prairie on March 26, 2013 respecting the MGA review topic and asked Administration to provide him with a synoptic of today’s discussions. Council will review the MGA topic again at the next Standing Committee meeting.

2) Are there any high-level ideas you’d like to see addressed in the new MGA
and

3) Are there any specific issues and changes to the MGA you’d like to see

Before the next Standing Committee meeting Council was asked to give some thought to the following questions:

- are there things you feel the MGA is blocking specifically?
- would like to see “pecuniary interest” reviewed and simplified with plain language
- would like to know how many meetings you can miss consecutively

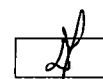
Council can send their specific questions or issues to either Mr. Kreiner or Mrs. Wallace prior to March 7, 2013 to be included in the next meeting discussion.

Deputy Mayor Johnston-MacKay called a short recess at 1:02 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:12 p.m.

Parameters of coffee with council and delegations

Individual councillors have been approached by citizens of Hinton that would like to have more good community news presented during “Minute with Council” at Regular Council meetings as there are so many good things going on in our community. Citizens are to be encouraged to come forward with these sharings.

Clarification was made between “Minute with Council” and appearing as a “Delegation” with the distinction being:


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“Minute with Council” is exactly that, a very short time frame for citizens to bring to council’s attention items of concern or good news items; no questions will be asked by council and no council decisions made at this time;

“Delegations” are given 10 minutes to present their items, including any written materials. Those written materials are to be included in the agenda package before the council meeting so that council has the opportunity to properly review the material being presented and become informed prior to the meeting. Council has the opportunity to ask questions of the delegation after the presentation has been made. No council decision is made at this time. If the delegation does not provide their materials prior to the agenda preparation deadline, then their presentation will be moved from the current agenda to the next available date taking into account the next convenient date for the delegation.

In order to be effective and responsible decision makers, Council requested Administration to continue to monitor the anticipated length of meeting time and to schedule the number of delegations and action items accordingly, with the preference being no more than two delegations per meeting if possible.

Procedural question on communicating status of strategic plan and development

Mr. Kreiner asked council how they would like to more frequently and visibly communicate the municipal strategic plan status updates. **Council’s consensus was that one hour on the Regular Council agenda be set aside quarterly during the year so the municipal strategic plan progress is discussed.**

Mr. Kreiner then asked council how they would like to more frequently receive development updates. **Council’s consensus was that every second month the Director of Planning & Technical Services attend the Regular Council meeting and provide updates to council.**

Council members are to forward all minutes of external committee meetings (where council have been appointed to that committee) they receive to the Executive Assistant for inclusion in the weekly council information packages that are distributed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Urgent Matters from Council and Town Manager

Councillor Jane Macridis advised council she is participating in a teleconference tonight with Doug Griffith and Fred Horne re air ambulance services. It was indicated that West Fraser does have a heli-pad for STARS Ambulance to land.

Bernie Kreiner advised that Woodland Court condo association had their annual general meeting last night and the noise issue is not substantial; there will be trees along the boundary; the proposed access item saw pros and cons of that idea and a final direction back by March 10, 2013; the gate may disappear as time has passed and both parties don’t recall who originally put the gate up.

Executive Assistant Logistics Information

No upcoming events logistics were discussed.


Initial

IN CAMERA

J. CALLIHOO - That Standing Committee move in camera.

Carried

The time was 1:53 p.m.

RECONVENE

J. MACRIDIS - That Standing Committee revert to regular session.

Carried

The time was 2:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

B. BULGER - That Standing Committee Meeting of Council adjourn.

Carried

The time was 2:18 p.m.



Deputy Mayor



Director of Corporate Services

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