



MINUTES
Strategic Priorities Committee

November 21, 2017
9:00 am
Council Chambers, Town Hall

Council Present: Mayor Strathdee
Councillor Osborne
Councillor Van Galen
Councillor Winter
Councillor Pope (arrived at 9:33am)
Councillor Craigmile

Council Regrets: Councillor Hainer

Staff Present: Jenna McCartney, Acting Clerk
Grant Brouwer, Director of Building and Development
Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works
Dave Blake, Environmental Services Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Strathdee called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Strathdee announced to the Committee that there would be no microphones at today's meeting due to the necessity of the equipment at another location the previous evening.

Jim Brown introduced Ashely Watson to Council. Ms. Watson is working with the Finance Department as a high school coop student until the New Year.

Resolution 2017-11-21-01

Moved By: Councillor Winter

Seconded By: Councillor Van Galen

THAT November 21, 2017 Strategic Priorities Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REVIEW

5.1 PW 59-2017 Water and Wastewater Rate Evaluations

Dave Blake spoke to PW 59-2017 report and responded to questions from Council.

Dave Blake confirmed that the projections included the 5 year capital plan needs and the 2018 operational budget.

The Wastewater Financial Plan was last updated in 2014. As the Heinz plant closure occurred after 2014, it has not been considered within the current projections.

The Committee discussed the current water reservoir project and that it is being implemented to bring the system up to current safety standards.

Councillor Pope arrived at 9:33am.

Staff will be proposing the 2018 Water and Wastewater Rate By-law at a future Council meeting.

Resolution 2017-11-21-02

Moved By: Councillor Van Galen

Seconded By: Councillor Winter

THAT the Committee recommend to Council that the 2018 Water Rates be set at 3% increase from 2017 and the 2018 Wastewater Rates be set at 3% increase from 2017.

DEFEATED

Resolution 2017-11-21-03

Moved By: Councillor Osborne

Seconded By: Councillor Pope

THAT the Committee recommend to Council that the 2018 Water Rate be set at 3% increase from 2017 and the 2018 Wastewater Rate be set at 5% increase from 2017.

CARRIED

5.2 DEV 36-2017 Sign By-law Update

Grant Brouwer spoke to DEV 36-2017 report and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee discussed options for the review of the Sign Permit Application.

Staff was directed to investigate the Town's liability regarding sandwich boards in the absence of an easement agreement.

The Committee discussed its approach to enforcement.

Staff is going to work out the appeal process within the Sign By-law and present the information to Council at an upcoming meeting.

Resolution 2017-11-21-04

Moved By: Councillor Van Galen

Seconded By: Councillor Osborne

THAT DEV 36-2017 Sign By-law Update be received for discussion; and,

THAT the Strategic Priorities Committee direct Staff to revise By-Law 33-2005, a by-law to prohibit and regulate signs and other advertising devices and the posting of notices on buildings or vacant lots within the Town of St. Marys.

CARRIED

5.3 CAO 42-2017 Discussion of 2018 Strategic Priorities

The Committee took a brief recess at 10:18am.

Chair Strathdee called the meeting back to order at 10:26 am.

Jenna McCartney, on behalf of Brent Kittmer, spoke to CAO 42-2017 report and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee had a thorough discussion about the Strategic Plan and the priorities achieved over the past year and the priorities it feels should be focused on going forward.

The Committee agreed that it has been very helpful to have staff reports reflect on their relationship with the pillars of the Plan.

Balanced Growth - The Committee agreed that a focus on housing should be a priority of this pillar. It was stated that in the absence of attainable housing, the Town will not be able to accommodate balanced growth.

Communication & Marketing - The Committee agreed that the development of a Tourism Plan is necessary to understand what it should be focusing on when attracting tourists.

Culture & Recreation - The Committee agreed that the implementation of the Recreation Master Plan will be very important in 2018. The Committee cited the eventual need for a PRC business plan.

The Committee agreed that the Forestry Management Policy will assist future development within St. Marys as well as the Official Plan review.

The Committee would like to see a redevelopment of the Community Grant Policy. The program should focus on collecting metrics to evaluate the success of each recipient.

Economic Development - The Committee is committed to investigating the James Street Concept Plan. The Committee agreed that an inventory of available industrial and commercial lands are necessary however, the key is that the lands need to be serviced in order to increase the lands attractiveness.

The Committee would like to receive a report on the uptake of the Community Improvement Plan.

Housing - Once again, the Committee agreed that a focus on achieving attainable housing is vital to the Town's growth.

Infrastructure - The Committee agreed that all bullets under the infrastructure pillar are equally important.

The Committee directed staff to investigate fibre options for the Town.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the priorities that were identified at the October 17, 2017 Strategic Priorities Committee meeting. The Committee feels that these priorities are valid.

The Committee concluded by stating the benefit to a working session of this nature and hopes to make it a regular practice going forward.

Resolution 2017-11-21-05

Moved By: Councillor Van Galen

Seconded By: Councillor Osborne

THAT report CAO 42-2017 regarding 2018 strategic priorities be received for discussion and direction to staff.

CARRIED

6. NEXT MEETING

Chair Stratthdee reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda. Councillor Craigmile forwarded his regrets for the December 5 meeting, as did Councillor Pope.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2017-11-21-06

Moved By: Councillor Osborne

Seconded By: Councillor Craigmile

THAT this meeting of the Strategic Priorities Committee adjourn at 11:45am.

CARRIED

Al Stratthdee, Mayor

Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk