



City of Brockville

Council Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM - Tuesday, November 19, 2019
City Hall, Council Chambers

The Council meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:00 PM, in the City Hall, Council Chambers, with the following present:

Members Present:

Mayor Jason Baker, Councillor Leigh Bursey, Councillor Jeff Earle, Councillor Jane Fullarton, Councillor Larry Journal, Councillor Nathalie Lavergne, Councillor Cameron Wales, and Councillor Matt Wren

Regrets:

Councillor Mike Kalivas

Staff:

Janette Loveys, City Manager and Sandra MacDonald, City Clerk

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Nil.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil.

DELEGATIONS

Nil.

STAFF REPORTS

Nil.

NEW BUSINESS - REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1. Standing Committees of Council Citizen Members (POC, EDRTC & FAC)

T. Barnes provided feedback on his experience as a Citizen Member of the Economic development, Recreation and Tourism Committee. He identified challenges he has had over the year; lack of structure on how sub-groups report to EDRTC and lack of reporting format. (a copy of T. Barnes notes are attached to the minutes)

J. Barabash noted that the role and expectations of Citizen Members is not clear; should Citizen Members attend community events when asked; how to engage (or not) on social media; how to and what information can be accessed; training on how to bring new business forward; access to staff needs to be clarified; handling of citizen concerns or complaints; handbook for Citizen Members; what are the responsibilities of citizen members; what they should expect; what is not expected from citizen members; more in depth orientation.

C. Drake reviewed the accomplishments of the FAC and the policies that have been identified for review. Important to have a variety of backgrounds and skills in a Citizen Members. He appreciated the opportunity to be appointed. (a copy of C. Drake notes are attached to the minutes)

A. Koolwine stated that his time on the committee has been an eye opening experience on how City government works. He has found it interesting and challenging. He noted some of the challenges faced including attempting to balance the conflict in demographics (trying to build the community (younger demographic while ensuring the needs of the older demographic). He feels that it is important to have continuity in the Citizen Members over several years or even the term of council. He would appreciate required reading list being provided during orientation.

[2019 11 19 T Barnes presentation](#)

[2019 11 19 C Drake presentation](#)

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

THAT the Citizen Members process for council standing committees continue for the term of council, with the original pilot term structure in place; and

THAT the current slate of Citizen Members be re-appointed to November 2020.

For: Mayor Baker, Councillor Bursey, Councillor Earle, Councillor Fullarton, Councillor Journal, Councillor Lavergne, Councillor Wales, and Councillor Wren

CARRIED 8-0 on a recorded vote

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Nil.

BY-LAWS

Nil.

READING OF THE BYLAWS

Nil.

CONFIRMATORY BYLAW

Moved by: Councillor Earle
Seconded by: Councillor Journal

THAT By-law Number 086-2019 to confirm the Proceedings of Council at its meeting held on November 19, 2019 be read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation and be recorded.

CARRIED

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

Nil.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Earle
Seconded by: Councillor Journal

THAT Council adjourn its proceedings until the next regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2019.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk

19th November, 2019

Your Worship & Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening about my year as a "Citizen Appointee" to the EDRTC, and thank you for accommodating my schedule this evening. Ms. Loveys suggested that I provide you with some feedback on my experiences, opportunities and challenges, so here goes...

There have been 11 meetings of the Committee during the year, and I was able to attend 10 of them. In general terms, I found the agenda items to be substantive (some exceedingly substantive – I think of the exceedingly long and dense report of the Economic Assessment of the St. Lawrence Corridor Region), appropriate for Committee discussion and decision, generally well researched and presented, and well "aired" at the Committee level. Kudos, therefore to the Chair and Staff for their handling of the work.

As I consider myself something of a process "wonk", though, it would be dishonest of me not to comment on the 3 key challenges that I found during the year. The first I think you are aware of, and that is my observations on the seeming lack of structure to the way the 20-plus sub-groups report to the EDRTC, and the lack of standards to the reporting format that those sub-groups use. I wrote about this in January, and accepted the postponement of further discussion pending a review of all committee reporting by the Chairs of the Standing Committees, which I think culminated in the motion from the F&A committee on "Terms of Reference" that they brought to Council last month. If I'm correct in that assumption, then I'd have to suggest this is a good start, but not yet close to a complete response to the suggestions I was making back in January.

And when I say "back in January" that brings me to the next challenge that I feel is worthy of comment this evening, namely the process by which the Administration records and executes Committee requests. My request, which became the Committee request in June, for my January written suggestion to be reviewed by staff, is but one of ten instances I have noted this year, where the Committee has asked for a "report back" without, so far, any "report back". I won't list them all here, but I have included them in an attachment to this report which I have left with the City Manager. It seems that, from a process perspective, issues can disappear from departmental agendas and especially given the rotating nature of council appointees to the Standing Committees, there is a risk that the will of Council might not be carried out. At every other committee table that I have sat at, adopting Minutes, and listing "business arising" from those Minutes tends to provide this process check and balance but we don't do that.

My third process concern relates to the apparent lack of Standing Committee input to the Budget process. In many of my "other lives" it would be usual for a Standing Committee to "sweat the budget details" of those departments/groups reporting to it, prior to them moving on to Committee of the Whole. This level of budgetary buy-in and involvement by the Standing Committee, I think, could provide other Council colleagues with a better comfort level that, at least, a first due diligence lens has already been applied to the proposals before them. Nothing here conflicts with the zero-based approach currently underway.

So this brings me to what I think should be the central question to contemplate this evening, namely, "what is the role of a "citizen appointee" to a Standing Committee?" I believe there are two clear and possibly competing answers to that question.

- (1) Is the appointee expected to be an additional pair of eyes and ears and to use his/her common sense when presented with issues and alternatives to consider? In this scenario, the appointee is acting just like any other elected councilor, and the qualifications of the appointee and the duration of the appointment are not germane, or...
- (2) Does Council want the appointee to either already possess and bring specific subject knowledge to the specific Committee appointment, or at least be able to acquire that subject knowledge over time in order to be able to provide the Committee with a more informed perspective on issues and alternatives to consider? In this case the qualifications for and duration of the appointment are more central to the role.

As long as the appointees continue to have no vote at full Council meetings, I don't believe democracy is being compromised in either of these two scenarios, but I do, personally, believe that Council and therefore Citizens may be better served by the latter, providing such volunteers can be identified.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this level of feedback, and I would be very pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

Respectfully submitted.



Tony Barnes

2019 EDRTC items requiring "Report Back"

1. Proposal for perpetual reporting calendar and standardized reports to EDRTC
2. Revision of proposed rules relating to Hardy Park "food events"
3. Staff comments on report presented to EDRTC by Henry Noble on tele-commuting
4. Terms of Reference for the St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Analysis Report implementation committee
5. Report on the next steps towards implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan
6. Determination of the location for Dave Sheridan's sculpture donation
7. Implementation plan for the action plan arising out of the BR&E Final Report
8. Project status report on the Proctor and Gamble Pavilion construction
9. Report on how and why it is appropriate to bring the administration of Tourism back in-house
10. Recommendation of a "Public Arts Policy"
11. Recommendation on a "Municipal Accommodation Tax" dispersal policy
12. Recommendation on the wording of a contract between Brockville and SLX regarding residential attraction

PRESENT TO COUNCIL RE CITIZEN MEMBERS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Your Worship, members of Council. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on being a Citizen Member on the Finance and Administration Committee.

I have to say overall it has been a very good experience. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work on the FAC and have input on updating the process and the bylaws. I think the FAC has done a lot of good work over the past year and this was made possible by the healthy attitude of the Mayor, Council and Staff. You can achieve a lot when you have a good working environment.

For me, the wheels of Government seem to turn a little slower than the wheels of industry. As you know I grew up in the industrial world so I am learning to adjust and I appreciate everyone's support in this process. I am especially thankful to the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their help over the past year and I should include their patience and understanding as well.

There are people in the community that are opposed to the initiative of Citizen Members, saying we are not elected and should not be voting on City matters.

To them I say ... I serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council and if you wish to make a complaint please contact them.

On the other hand a very large number of our community thinks it is a great idea. Everywhere I go people talk to me about the effort being made by Council and the committees to update the process and keep the city moving forward on a positive note. A good example is the budget process. Returning to a more detailed budget structure has caught the attention of a lot of taxpayers and they like it.

The FAC with the support of Staff have updated the Budget Control bylaw and the Procurement bylaw. The project recommendations from the KPMG audit are now in a format for Committees to use. We have a ~~monthly~~ project report that

By-monthly

looks at variances. We are discussing an update of the Financial Plan and reviewing key indicators such as the debt to reserve ratio.

The FAC continues to be focused on oversight and transparency, two corner stones of good governance.

The opportunity for me to be on this committee has allowed me to share some of my expertise and business experience and I hope in some small way it is benefiting the people of Brockville. When I say “I think a lot of the city of Brockville and the people in it” I mean that sincerely.

In closing I would like to plant the idea, across the city, of a Brockville Recreation Center. There are many benefits that can evolve from this type of facility. This proposal expands the idea of a Twin Pad Arena to an idea that can include everyone with a variety of interests from all over the region. There would be a sports element, social programs and cultural events. This is not my idea, but one that has been presented to me many times by the people of Brockville. This could be a great growth opportunity and become an economic engine for the City of Brockville and the Region. This would be an important investment in our future. On behalf of all those who have promoted this idea to me, I hope you, our council, will share the vision. Thank you.

Cec Drake