



City of Brockville

Council Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM - Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting

The Council meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 6:00 PM, in the Virtual Meeting, with the following present:

Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Nil.

Staff:

Lynda Ferguson, Director of Finance, Janette Loveys, City Manager, Sandra MacDonald, City Clerk, and Robert Nolan, Director of Economic Development

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that he and Councillors Wales and Wren were in the Council Chambers.

His Worship stated that the City is responding to the recent announcement by the Province moving to Stage 3 of the reopening plan. He cautioned that staff are working diligently to get services and facilities open. It does take some time to ensure to develop procedures for the safety of staff, users and the community. He announced that the Chamber of Commerce, Brockville Tourism and the DBIA are partnering on The Big Spend event, July 25th where everyone is encouraged to buy local to help revive Canada's economy.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Wales declared a potential direct pecuniary interest on Staff Report No. SR2020-103 Tourism Visitor Centre Mural as his father is involved in the project in a professional capacity; and Staff Report No. SR2020-102, COVID 19 - Requests for financial Assistance as his employer may benefit financially from a decision on this item.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Wales

THAT the minutes of the Council Meeting of June 30, 2020 be adopted and circulated as read.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. International Self-Care Day
Councillor Bursey

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT Council hereby proclaim July 24th as International Self Care Day in the City of Brockville.

CARRIED

2. International Overdose Awareness Day
Councillor Bursey

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT Council hereby proclaim August 31st, 2020 as International Overdose Awareness Day in the City of Brockville.

CARRIED

3. Employee and Employer Funding (COVID-19)
Town of Prescott

There was no action on this item.

4. Health and Safety Guidance (COVID-19)
Town of Prescott

Moved by: Councillor Fullarton

THAT Council for the Corporation of the City of Brockville supports the resolution from the Town of Prescott, dated July 6, 2020 regarding the development of a clean and concise guide for businesses, in consultation

with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and Leeds and Grenville municipalities.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

1. Municipal Drug Strategy

Jennifer Adams, Harm Reduction PHN Coordinator, Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, Tom Fournier, Staff Sergeant, Brockville Police Service and Dr. Andrew Everett, Change Health Care addressed Council regarding the Municipal Drug Strategy.

Mayor Baker advised that United Counties of Leeds Grenville's Joint Services Committee has struck a working committee on homelessness across the counties. The financial estimates for this service are significant. Mayor Baker and T. Fournier noted the need of a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional approach.

Councillor Wales served a Notice of Motion for the August 18, 2020 Council Meeting:

THAT City of Brockville Council supports the creation of Municipal Drug Strategy; and

THAT City Staff in consultation with community partners report back in September with actionable items in support of the Municipal Drug Strategy.

2. Unity and Equality Alliance of Brockville

Cindy Casselman addressed Council with regard to the Unity and Equality Alliance of Brockville.

C. Casselman stated that the Alliance's mission is to ensure that people of colour are safe. They are first working with community leaders, such as business owners and educators. Their final goal is to get black history into the school system.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Integrity Commissioner
2019 Annual Report

Moved by: Councillor Lavergne

THAT City Council receive the "Integrity Commissioner Services - Annual Report - 2019" as submitted by Tony Flemming, Cunningham Swan dated April 20, 2020; and

THAT the City of Brockville's Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards be amended to include the "Internal Complaint Protocol" as submitted by Tony Flemming, Cunningham Swan.

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

CARRIED 9-0 on a recorded vote

Councillor Wales exited Council Chambers (7:29 pm).

2. Tourism Visitor Centre Mural

Moved by: Councillor Wren

THAT report SR2020-103 Tourism Visitor Centre Mural dated July 9, 2020, be received and the following be adopted:

1. Council approve the painting of a mural on the Tourism Visitor Centre, and
2. The Brockville Chamber of Commerce Tourism Office be required to maintain and repair the mural.

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

CARRIED 8-0 on a recorded vote

3. COVID 19 - Requests for Financial Assistance

Moved by: Councillor Earle

THAT report SR2020-102 COVID 19 – Requests for Financial Assistance be received, and the following be approved:

1. THAT patio license fees are waived for 2020 and;
2. THAT lease fees for businesses that experienced a mandatory closure due to the Provincial emergency orders be waived, upon request, for up to 4 months or 33% if the lease has a different payment schedule other than 12 payments for 2020 and;
3. THAT docking fees for certain commercial boats that have seasonal agreements be reduced by the equivalent of 33% of the 2020 season, upon request.

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

CARRIED 8-0 on a recorded vote

Councillor Wales re-entered Council Chambers (7:41 pm).

4. 2020 Variance Report July 2020

Moved by: Councillor Journal

THAT report SR2020-104 2020 Variance July 2020 dated July 14, 2020 be received for information and;

THAT staff report back at the August 18 Council meeting and the September 15 Finance and Administration Committee with updated variance reports.

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

CARRIED 9-0 on a recorded vote

5. COVID 19 – Arena(s) Reopening

Moved by: Councillor Kalivas

THAT Council direct city staff to proceed with Option No. 1 as outlined in the report.

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

CARRIED 9-0 on a recorded vote

NEW BUSINESS - REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1. Declaration of Support - Anti-Racism Initiatives
Councillor Wales

Moved by: Councillor Wales

WHEREAS members of our community have issued clear calls for meaningful local action on issues of racism; and

WHEREAS racism remains a significant and pressing public health issue in Canada; and

WHEREAS any form of racism in our community is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS this motion represents a first step for Brockville Council in addressing racism in our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Brockville Council is committed to learning about all forms of historical and ongoing racism in our community; and

THAT Brockville Council is supportive of efforts to develop educational initiatives about racism for community organizations, businesses and members of the public; and

THAT The City of Brockville will work with community partners to identify strategies for addressing racism in Brockville; and

THAT Councillor Wales and Councillor Wren will engage with the Unity and Equality Alliance of Brockville as representatives of Brockville Council, in order to listen to community members and pursue the goals stated in this declaration.

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

CARRIED 9-0 on a recorded vote

2. Request to Establish the Brockville Housing Task Force
Councillor Bursey

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

Whereas COVID-19 has brought to light the necessity for not only shelter in place options, but also disparity between incomes;

And whereas, Brockville's household income (an average of \$51,168.00 (as referenced by townfolio.com) to \$60,324.00 (as referenced by [Area Score](#))) is often referenced when comparing local economic impacts, demonstrating that Brockville's household income is below national averages, even it on average remains above low-income cut off limitations for support services;

And whereas, COVID-19 has also given way to a new normal of remote working opportunities that the City of Brockville is well positioned to benefit from;10

And whereas, national economic forecasts expect a potential drop in housing costs ranging between 9 and 18 percent across Canada (as per Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation projection, referenced in an addendum article attached) but results may vary and create speculation that inflates costs;

And whereas, affordable housing and cost of living (through public offering, charity and the private sector) has been a focal point for many municipal, provincial and federal discussions, including here locally;

And whereas, the Government of the Province of Ontario has committed to a variety of efforts to remove red tape and legislative barriers that would potentially limit new builds of residential housing, including multi-residential buildings through the More Homes, More Choices provincial

framework document and other Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing official plan adjustments, which also includes secondary suites and tiny homes;

And whereas, the Government of Canada has established a National Housing Strategy that not only includes National Right to Housing legislation, but also significant funding streams to support new builds through both public and private partnerships, with approximately \$40 billion in committed federal funding available for current application;

And whereas, further federal announcements have been made in respect to federal purchasing of additional lands for modular housing builds to assist in providing access to safe and durable housing solutions for Canadians, with additional emphasis and funding being earmarked for rural and remote demographics and geographies;

And whereas, access to affordable private market rental housing has been outlined as a key priority of local young professional networks;

And whereas, Brockville currently has an above average vacancy rate for rental housing (3.4 percent as of January 2020 according to CMHC, versus that national average of 2.2 percent) and a thriving real estate market, which would actually place us at an advantage for attracting new residents, including but not limited to retirees looking to relocate from neighbouring big cities (Kingston's vacancy rate sits at 1.9 percent), young professionals looking to start a family (as was an outlined priority in our 2009 Strategic Plan that was re-adopted by following councils), as well as telecommuters who now have a newfound freedom to work from home for companies that are beginning to eliminate their office spaces in larger, more congested urban settings;

And whereas, a succinct overview of available housing options would not just serve as a blueprint for local builders hoping to expand their private market share, but also could be used as an effective advertising component for our community to target new residents, as well as new commercial and industrial users;

And whereas, new emphasis has been placed on options for supportive housing options which often may include tiny homes and modular housing to combat homelessness and address societal disconnects, while currently no specific land inventory exists for these types of smaller spaced development proposals;

And whereas, new wide-ranging emphasis has been put on options for

seniors housing and aging in place. And popular misnomers regarding secondary suites are easily addressed when MPAC reassessments indicate that a secondary suite would increase the value of a property and the neighbourhood properties adjacent to it;

And whereas, communities such as North Grenville (locally within the United Counties of Leeds Grenville), and Smiths Falls (within the greater public health catchment area of Leeds Grenville-Lanark) are currently working on or have already delivered housing strategies to address both social needs and micro/macro economic objectives, spurring further financial and strategic considerations at our local Joint Services committee that are currently without a specific inventory or objectives list coming from our community;

And whereas, growing homelessness has been a topic of much concern across our united communities, forcing resource allocation to temporary solutions that often cannot provide avenues of access to sustain affordable housing;

And whereas, the Brockville Official Plan highlights in section 3.5.1 that:

"The provision of housing is an essential part of planning in the city. It is desirable to have close cooperation between all levels of government and the private sector in order to provide for sufficient, diverse and affordable housing, and a stable residential market."

And whereas, the Brockville Official Plan goes on to highlight that:

"It shall be the policy of the City that:

1. The provision of housing that is affordable and accessible to low- and moderate-income households shall be a priority.
2. A housing strategy shall be completed by the City to establish an appropriate target for the provision of housing to be affordable to low and moderate incomes."

And whereas, the definition section in the Brockville Official Plan highlights in section 2010/1-17 that affordable housing is "housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 percent below the average purchase price of a resale unit in the regional market area";

And whereas, the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) has

published a template framework document for municipalities entitled "A Guide For Canadian Municipalities for the Development of A Housing Action Plan" (as listed as an additional resource), and numerous other communities have published reports ranging in size (with some samples also listed as additional resources); creation of this type of document is often accomplished in house without significant cost to the corporation or the need to hire outside consultants;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Brockville establish a Brockville Housing Task Force of seven to nine at-large members, including a municipal council representative, to initiate the development of a City of Brockville Housing Strategy that would be returned to this council for discussion before adoption or implementation;

And that the Brockville Housing Task Force work in partnership with interested community stakeholders to compile a list of suggestions on how to improve our current rental accommodations, strategies to advertise our housing market to other communities, and to address stop gaps in our designs, zoning allowances, and third-party partnership services, with the intention of encouraging more business, more residential development, and more focus on a welcoming and inclusive community that all demographics of potential builder, renter, homeowner, or businessperson can enjoy and benefit from;

And that the Brockville Housing Task Force include in terms of reference that it may begin utilizing digital mediums, with the intention of reporting back to Brockville Council in the near future with preliminary suggestions and status updates leading into the 2021 municipal forecasting and budgeting process.

REFERRED to EDRTC September meeting

Motion to Refer

Moved by: Councillor Journal

THAT the request to establish the Brockville Housing Task Force be referred to the Economic Development, Recreation and Tourism Committee.

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

Against: Councillor Bursey and Councillor Earle

REFERRED to the Economic Development, Recreation and Tourism Committee 7-2 on a recorded vote

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

BY-LAWS

Nil.

CONFIRMATORY BYLAW

Moved by: Councillor Earle
Seconded by: Councillor Kalivas

THAT By-law Number 056-2020 to confirm the Proceedings of Council at its meeting held on July 14, 2020 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

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Earle

Seconded by: Councillor Kalivas

THAT Council adjourn its proceedings until the next regular meeting scheduled for August 18, 2020.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk