



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Electronic Meeting

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Dan Gieruszak, Deputy Mayor
Tim Elphick, Councillor
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor
James Lang, Councillor
Dean Leifso, Councillor

Council Regrets: Steve Adams, Councillor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Clerk
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk
Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator
Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services
Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations
John Strader, Roads Supervisor
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager

1. Acceptance of Special Council Agenda

Mayor Peabody called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Resolution 21-08-01

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Dan Gieruszak

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on March 2, 2021 as presented.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

3. Delegations

3.1 Bill Winegard and Associates - Brockton Strategic Action Plan Visioning Session and Secondary Workshop

Bill Winegard and Associates started the session with an overview of the benefits and proposal of the comprehensive community surveys that would be used as part of the drafting for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Winegard reminded Council that the more specific and targeted the questions, the more useful the data that could be

collated and the greater the potential that residents would participate. Mr. Winegard also described the importance of ensuring that a sufficient number of surveys were received to ensure statistical significant for decision making purposes. Mr. Windegard provided examples of the proposed structure of the survey questions and summarized the information that would be requested.

4. Business for Which the Meeting Was Called

4.1 Discussion on Strategic Action Plan 2025

Each Council member commented on some of the questions they thought were important to pose to the public.

Gravel Roads and Infrastructure

Council discussed seeking public input about how the public would prioritize maintenance of our gravel roads over other potential infrastructure needs, such as building a new arena. It was noted that it was likely the capital improvements of the road rather than frequency of the grading, etc.

Council then discussed how to best phrase the questions to gain public input. Mr. Winegard clarified that the questions would begin with a description of the current status and the second question may involve asking the public to rank various solutions or options for the future. Council also requested feedback from the public about whether a complex should include a municipal office at the time of construction or at a future fate. The need to ensure the survey did not just focus around issues related to a potential complex was also identified.

Services

It was noted that an overall question about what services we need to expand or enhance and a question about what services are no longer as needed for the overall cost would be useful. It was noted that the demographics of the residents may be helpful in the context of questions about services.

Council also discussed clarifying optional services rather than statutory duties and the need to ensure the questions sought input on improving statutory duties as well.

Heritage

The Heritage murals were cited as a recent project that could be expanded to the rural hamlets if that program was popular, as well as a question aimed at gaining feedback related to obtaining and displaying heritage items.

Green Initiatives and Environmental Concerns

Council identified the need to obtain public feedback about whether green initiatives should be implemented, and whether spending may be desired to ensure environmental concerns are met.

Other Recreational Programming

One member of Council identified whether the skating oval should be repeated in other years, and the need to remain competitive with other municipalities

Development

Council also identified the number of residential developments that were progressing and the need to ensure those developments met the priorities of Brockton's residents with opportunities to expand development in the smaller communities. The increased traffic and concerns about water capacity as potential drawbacks to development.

It was also noted it would be helpful to identify any gaps in businesses that residents would like to see Council encourage.

It was noted that a question about what type of housing our residents would be seeking in the next 5-10 years would assist in ensuring adequate choice in the future.

Transportation

One initiative that Council wanted the public's feedback on was whether carpooling lots should be established, along with what other strategies could be adopted to improve transportation

Communication

The Municipality of Brockton uses various means of communication, and it was noted that some feedback on the preferred methods would be helpful. The example of implementing a municipal app was raised by Council.

Protective Services

Council noted the high cost of protective services and discussed the various options for the future. Mr. Winegard noted that issues with various options could make for difficult survey questions, but suggested crafting a question allowing residents to comment on their satisfaction with the service.

Mr. Winegard invited staff members to provide their suggestions and feedback.

Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager discussed the importance of community well-being and supporting service groups, especially through the facilitation of large events after the pandemic concludes to ensure the Municipality provides support to community groups.

Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor advocated for long-term planning for the location and maintenance of Municipal facilities, including the Municipal Office and Walkerton Arena.

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services supported planning for the future of Municipal facilities from a health and safety perspective as development growth continues, and the need to plan ahead to ensure adequate fire protection for all inhabitants.

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator suggested that the survey further inquire on types of businesses or services residents prefer that staff can assist in pursuing. Ms. Peirol discussed remote working or hybrid office working arrangements that have increased due to the pandemic, and investigating the demand for such services. Ms. Peirol further suggested inquiring for input on the Saugeen Municipal Airport to determine residents and business' opinion on the value of the asset, or investigating other potential uses for the land. Ms. Peirol suggested inquiring if the community would prefer larger farmer's markets due to Brockton's agricultural strengths.

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services discussed the importance of strategic planning, and balancing discretionary and legislative services with taxpayers' specific priorities. Mr. Coleman noted that the Recreation Master Plan will be updated in 2021, and the Strategic Plan will assist in future consultation processes to determine priorities for facilities, parks, and programming. Mr. Coleman noted that demographics will affect the goals and objectives, and suggested that Brockton compare neighbouring municipalities to determine serviced areas or potential improvements that can be made within the available budgets. Mr. Coleman advocated for creating financial plans to assist with asset

management, and ensuring that financial implications are included within the Strategic Plan.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer suggested finding innovative ways to support current and future infrastructure and increased operating costs, including revisiting development charges, or implementing new user fees. Ms. Serratore suggested determining the portion of the annual budget the community and Council wishes to allocate towards infrastructure and create a balance between tax rate reserve funds and long-term debt. Ms. Serratore further suggested providing an overview of current services and infrastructure and determining which of those are being used more frequently.

Fiona Hamilton, Clerk discussed the increased role of By-Law Enforcement, and determining whether the public supports expanding the service. Ms. Hamilton suggested inquiring about the community's preference for broadcasted Council Meetings to assist in future planning for the service. Ms. Hamilton noted that infrastructure needs will be a challenge, and obtaining input on avenues that can assist in balancing priorities, and possibly implementing or considering development charges, community benefit charges, or local improvement charges to fund development growth. Ms. Hamilton suggested obtaining feedback on the impact and preparation of both climate change, and emergency planning.

Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk supported obtaining resident feedback on Municipal communications, and including clarification on the survey that the Strategic Plan is collaborating with past studies, such as the Municipal Services Review, to implement and expand on past objectives while also responding to new community growth and change over the past five years.

Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator suggested obtaining feedback on the services residents are aware of that Brockton offers and determining their frequency of use, such as recycling programs, and inquiring about services that can be offered in smaller hamlets.

Sonya Watson, CAO stated the priority to balance community growth with development charges and ways to fund infrastructure. Ms. Watson suggested investigating ways to improve aging infrastructure, including Public Works shops, and plan financially to address such concerns, and identify community priorities for our infrastructure to plan for the future and provide accessible facilities. Ms. Watson further suggested investigating growth management plans or master servicing plans to sustain our community going forward. Ms. Watson noted that Brockton prides itself on being a safe and affordable community, and suggested obtaining resident opinion on police services, and community safety.

After all staff had an opportunity to provide some suggestions, Mr. Winegard summarized the next steps involved in the implementation of the survey and the overall strategic planning process.

5. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 21-08-02

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2021-024 - March 2, 2021 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

6. Adjournment

Resolution 21-08-03

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Dan Gieruszak

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 10:56 a.m.
to meet again on March 9, 2021.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Clerk– Fiona Hamilton