

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015, 9:00 A.M.

1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young.

Staff Present: J. Johnson – City Manager; J. Schmidt – Manager of Legislative & Regulatory Services; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; K. Hamilton – Director of Civic Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; D. Kalynchuk – Director of Engineering & Public Works; J. MacDougall – Acting Director of Parks & Recreation; T. Askam – Manager of Recreation Programs & Facilities; E. Robertson Assistant Director of Public Works; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Planning; T. Zworski – City Solicitor; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; C. Mycroft – Assistant to City Manager; A. Ferguson – Recording Secretary.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Action: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that the Agenda of the February 10, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC081

3. FINANCIAL PLAN

Staff provided Committee with an overview of the draft 2015 Financial Plan for information and consideration on February 19, 2015. Staff discussed a few areas in which the budget would be allocated such as active transportation improvements, park improvements, and facility upgrades. A director from each department will be providing Committee with an overview on budget allocation for their respective department and elaborate further on specific projects. Staff also discussed the estimated impact the budget would have on tax and rate payers based on 2014 assessed property values and 2014 water usage.

The City will be working towards improving community engagement within the budgeting process. Pending approval of the draft 2015 Financial Plan and further consultation with Committee the following plans for community engagement will commence:

- A budget toolkit to assist with breaking down the terminology to be more meaningful to the community
- Videos to educate the community on the budgeting process
- E-Town Hall
- Property tax estimator
- 2016 – budget simulator
- Participatory budget

Committee Discussed:

- Preference for the property tax estimator to include costs such as CRD, waste management etc.
- The process for the February 16, 2015, meeting.
- Further consultation and community involvement for the creation of the participatory budget.
- Having the E-Town Hall publicized as part of the budget and strategic plan.
- Identifying what areas will be conducive to participatory budgeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of February 10, 2015, be adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC082

Mayor Helps, Chair