

Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2023

7:00 A.M.

CITY HALL – MEETING ROOM A

Attendees	Chairperson: Brian Hilderman Councillors: Councillor Dustin Brears, Councillor Darcy Zaharia, Members: Don Reed, David McKerchar, Bob Knox, Raymond Sharp, Gwen Machnee, Marty Sveinbjornson, Ayodele Komolafe, Bob Knox
Invited Guests	Mayor Mitch Hipsley Donna Brothwell
Staff	David Balysky (Business Liaison), Lonnie Kaal (City Manager)
Regrets	Councillors: Members: Guests: Juanita Polegi Staff:
Absent	Councillors: Members: Staff:
Recording	Zuleny Rodriguez
Call to order	7:03 a.m.
Adjourn	8:39 a.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Discussion	Review of agenda items for discussion
Motion 12-23	Sveinbjornson That the agenda be approved as presented Carried Unanimously

Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Meeting

Discussion	Minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting of the Committee were circulated electronically as part of the agenda package and paper copies were available at the meeting.
Motion 13-23	McKerchar That the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting be approved as presented. Carried Unanimously

Sacred Heart Assisted Living – David Balysky/Lonnie Kaal

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Balysky updated the group on the status of the Sacred Heart Assisted Living Facility which was mentioned during the previous meetingThe facility is for sale but is not publicly listed. The owners asked the City of Yorkton to try to identify and refer any interested parties. Balysky is working on arranging a tour of the facility with the Social Housing Committee and any interested parties.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members offered suggestions of organizations that may be interested. Balysky to follow up with these organizations. The Committee also suggested inviting Ministers from the Provincial Government and media. Mayor Hipsley will try to discuss this facility with Ministers at the upcoming SUMA convention.
Motion	No motion

Residential Construction Incentive – David Balysky

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balysky provided an overview of the Residential Construction Incentive (RCI) that was approved by Council in 2022. He shared the results of the incentive in 2022 and noted that the program was approved as a one year trial in order to limit potential tax losses in the event of a large uptake. Balysky asked members to provide feedback on the RCI and asked if the Committee would recommend that Council renew the policy. Members were in favour of renewing of the policy and suggested additional ways to incentivize and promote residential development. Members discussed expanding the RCI to include three and four unit dwellings. The Committee discussed different ways to promote this incentive as well as the other incentives currently offered by the City of Yorkton.
Motion 14-23	<p>Sveinbjornson That City Council consider renewing the Residential Construction Incentive as is and that Administration investigate additional incentives and promotions to encourage development.</p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>

Business From the Floor

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee discussed businesses that are missing in the city, such as a local bakery, truck stop, pet grooming, etc., and what the City could be doing attract these types of businesses. It was suggested that increased building improvement costs may be a barrier to entry for smaller, locally-owned businesses. It was also noted that local establishments are sometimes forced to sell products and services at a higher price in order to remain profitable and that consumers often are not willing to spend a few extra dollars to support local. Members voiced concerns about current highway infrastructure around Yorkton. Members noted that the expansions of the industrial businesses in and around the city will increase traffic coming into the city and that the Provincial Government should consider investing in improvements to these roads. The Committee discussed connecting with CN and CP regarding the unused rail spur in the City, as had been mentioned at a previous meeting. It was suggested that Richardson, LDC, and Grain Millers may have more influence in conversations with CN and CP than the City would. Members suggested that the City should consider developing a destination marketing plan to attract more conferences and events to the city.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee discussed the need for more hotel rooms in the city. Hotels are often full as it is and increased construction as a result of LDC's expansion will only increase demand for hotel rooms.
Motion	No motion

Action Items	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration to follow up with organizations that may be interested in Sacred Heart Assisted Living Facility regarding a tour of the facility. Administration to present the Residential Construction Incentive to City Council for renewal with the support of the Economic Development Committee. Administration to investigate additional incentives and promotions to encourage residential development.
Motion	No motion

Next Meeting	Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall.
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Adjournment	
Motion 15-23	Reed That the Economic Development Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

Bob Knox

CHAIRPERSON
Bob Knox

Zuleny Rodriguez

RECORDING SECRETARY
Zuleny Rodriguez