

Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

7:00 A.M CITY HALL – MEETING ROOM A

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| Attendees | Chairperson: Bob Knox Councillors: Councillor Darcy Zaharia (via Zoom), Councillor Dustin Brears Members: David McKerchar, Marty Sveinbjornson, Don Reed, Ayodele Komolafe (via Zoom) |
| Invited Guests | Donna Brothwell |
| Staff | David Balysky (Business Liaison) |
| Regrets | Councillors: Members: Gwen Machnee, Raymond Sharp Guests: Mayor Mitch Hipsley, Juanita Polegi |
| Absent | Councillors: Members: Staff: |
| Recording | David Balysky |
| Call to Order | 7:05 am |
| Adjourn | 8:30 am |

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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| Discussion | Review of agenda items for discussion. |
| Motion 35-23 | That the agenda be approved as presented |
| Motion 36-23 | Knox To amend the agenda by adding - USask Medical Student Rural Catalogue Carried |
| | Sveinbjornson To approve the agenda as amended. Carried |

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2023

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| Discussion | Minutes from the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee were circulated electronically as part of the agenda package, and paper copies were available at the meeting. |
| Motion 37-23 | McKerchar That the minutes of the October 12, 2023 meeting be approved as presented. Carried |

TOURISM SASKATCHEWAN RESOURCES – DAVID BALYSKY

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Balysky shared that a representative of Tourism Saskatchewan had visited Yorkton a few weeks prior to meet with Tourism Yorkton and share information on free resources currently offered by Tourism Saskatchewan.- Balysky encouraged members to view the resources, including funding opportunities, upcoming and recordings of past webinars, and training and marketing resources, at www.business.tourismsaskatchewan.com. |
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| Motion | No Motion |
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SHOW HOME REBATE PROGRAM QUESTIONS

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balysky shared that a few questions have come up since the program was launched on November 1, 2023. One of the questions was whether the City should contact local furniture and appliance businesses to support with staging the homes or leave it up to the builders to work with their existing suppliers. - Members discussed that furnishing the house should not be a requirement of the program and that it should be up to each builder to decide how much of the house they'd like to furnish. The reason being that often much of the furniture has to be removed before the buyer moves in as they bring their own furniture with them. This results in increased possibility of the staging furniture being damaged while being moved. - Other comments the Committee had regarding the Show Home Rebate Program included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The City should select a set of specific lots on the same street rather than allowing the builders to select lots in different subdivisions. o The deadline should be extended to at least October 1, 2024. o More specific parameters should be set, such as square footage and architectural design to ensure all of the houses are somewhat comparable to each other. |
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Komolafe enters the meeting via Zoom at 7:30 a.m.

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee suggested that Balysky arrange a meeting with local builders to discuss the comments above, and adjust the policy accordingly. - Balysky explained that the current format was established to offer five rebates from an approved budget of \$100,000. - Councillor Brears suggested using money from the Land Fund to add to the existing \$100,000 budget. - Councillor Brears mentioned that the York Colony signage should be updated to reflect the new name, York Landing, especially if the new show homes will be built there. |
| Motion 38-23 | <p>Reed That the Committee recommend that Administration take the Show Home Rebate Program back to Council with amendments that limits lot selection to one street and that the rebate amount be changed from \$20,000 to 50% of the lot price.</p> <p>Carried</p> |

WHAT DEFINES LOCAL IN THE TENDERING PROCESS – COUNCILLOR ZAHARIA

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Zaharia brought this topic forward following a recent discussion Council had with the Chamber of Commerce about what can be done to give preference to local companies when awarding tenders. Councillor Zaharia proceed to ask the Committee what they would consider a local business. - Members discussed whether or not any business with a City of Yorkton business licence should be considered local. It was determined that this |
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| | <p>shouldn't be the case as many out of town businesses working on temporary jobs in the city purchase a business licence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A suggestion was brought forward to consider increasing the business licence cost for non-resident businesses. However, it was noted that the cost of the licence isn't a barrier for businesses, but instead the certifications that are often required when bidding on City of Yorkton tenders. - The Committee suggested implementing a tiered system to award points based on locality when reviewing bid submissions. - The Committee asked Balysky to bring the current bid grading system to a future meeting. |
| Motion | No motion |

BUSINESS LICENCE STATS – OUT OF TOWN BUSINESSES

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balysky shared statistics on the number of resident, non-resident, and home based businesses who have purchased a business licence in 2023, as requested by Councillor Zaharia. - Members suggested promoting the new businesses on City social media pages, possibly with a monthly or annual update displaying the new businesses, beginning prior to the Christmas season of 2023. It was noted that YBID and the Chamber visit the new businesses to welcome them and share information and will often promote them in their communications. - Members also suggested putting together a welcome package for new business owners that could be given to them when picking up their business licence. |
| Motion | No motion |

USASK MEDICAL STUDENT RURAL CATALOGUE

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knox shared that the Chamber met with Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) staff who help attract doctors and medical students to rural communities. SHA shared an information package that is provided to University of Saskatchewan (USask) medical students during their studies. There was very little information on Yorkton in the package and what was there was dated. Knox suggested that Balysky and the Committee put together updated information to include in next year's information package. - Balysky noted that Mayor Hipplesley had mentioned this earlier in the week and he had begun putting the information together. |
| Motion | No Motion |

ACTION ITEMS

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| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balysky to take Motion 38-23 regarding changes to the SHRP back to Council. - Balysky to arrange meeting with local builders to gather input on which lots should be selected for the SHRP and what parameters should be set in terms of square footage and architectural design. - Balysky to bring scoring system currently used in the tender process back to the Committee for review. - Balysky to investigate ways to promote new business openings in the city. - Balysky to develop some form of welcome package that can be distributed to new businesses when they obtain their business licence. |
| Motion | No Motion |

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| NEXT MEETING | December 14, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall – Meeting Room A |
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ADJOURNMENT

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| Motion 39-23 | Reed That the Economic Development Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:30 a.m. Carried |
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Bob Knox

 CHAIRPERSON
 Bob Knox

David Balysky

 RECORDING SECRETARY
 David Balysky