

# Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 2023

7:00 A.M CITY HALL – MEETING ROOM A

Attendees	<b>Chairperson:</b> Bob Knox <b>Councillors:</b> Councillor Darcy Zaharia <b>Members:</b> David McKerchar, Marty Sveinbjornson, Don Reed, Gwen Machnee, Raymond Sharp
Invited Guests	Mayor Mitch Hipsley, Juanita Polegi, Donna Brothwell (via Zoom)
Staff	David Balysky (Business Liaison)
Regrets	<b>Councillors:</b> Councillor Dustin Brears <b>Members:</b> <b>Guests:</b>
Absent	<b>Councillors:</b> <b>Members:</b> Ayodele Komolafe
Recording	Jody Hahn
Call to Order	7:02 am
Adjourn	8:25 am

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Discussion	Review of agenda items for discussion.
Motion	That the agenda be approved as presented
Motion 40-23	<b>Knox</b> To amend the agenda by adding <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review USask Medical Student Rural Catalogue</li><li>- Business Licenses</li></ul> <b>Carried</b>
Motion 41-23	<b>Reed</b> To approve the agenda as amended. <b>Carried</b>

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Discussion	Minutes from the November 9, 2023 meeting of the Committee were circulated electronically as part of the agenda package, and paper copies were available at the meeting.
Motion 42-23	<b>McKerchar</b> That the minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting be approved as presented. <b>Carried</b>

## CITY PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Balysky presented a memo written by Michael Eger on City procurement practices. A report that went to Council and an updated policy was attached to the agenda.</li><li>- The Committee discussed the desire to utilize local contractors when possible.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mayor Hipsley mentioned that MNP recently audited the City's procurement practices and will be happy to share the results from the final report when available.</li> </ul>
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### **BUILDING PERMIT STATISTICS – SURROUNDING RMs**

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balysky presented building permit statistics from the surrounding RMs. He was not able to get statistics from some of the RMs that have lakes that might have more residential homes being built.</li> <li>- Balysky discussed that there still hasn't been much uptake in the Parade of Homes despite the increased incentive for builders. He foresees more uptake coming in January once builders have wrapped up 2023 projects. The application deadline was extended to Jan. 31, 2024. Balysky sent this opportunity out to local home builders first and then to Regina and Saskatoon home builders.</li> </ul>
Motion	No motion

### **CANADA'S MOST LIVABLE CITIES – THE GLOBE AND MAIL**

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balysky opened up the discussion on Yorkton being ranked 73<sup>rd</sup> on The Globe and Mail's Canada's Most Livable Cities list. A total of 439 municipalities were reviewed based on 10 categories. Only 3 cities in Saskatchewan made it on the list; Yorkton, Saskatoon, and Regina.</li> <li>- The Committee discussed ways that the City could take advantage of this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sharing this on the City of Yorkton's website</li> <li>o Sharing this when we get inquiries about the City of Yorkton</li> <li>o Chamber already has a radio ad going on the Fox, GX94, and the Rock</li> <li>o Making a minimal investment for a Google ad - SEO</li> <li>o Suggestion for taking this topic to a talk radio such as the Evan Bray Show on CJME.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Motion	No motion

### **Review USask Medical Student Rural Catalogue**

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Polegi mentioned that Balysky did a fantastic job on promoting Yorkton in the USask Medical Student Rural Catalogue.</li> <li>- Balysky added that he received a call last week from Dr. Popick, who's trying to recruit optometrists from Ontario. Dr. Popick asked for some City of Yorkton promotional materials which Balysky provided.</li> <li>- Committee members discussed the issue of a lack of doctors in Yorkton and reasons why more students are opting for specialties in medicine rather than become general practitioners, including busy schedules and under payment.</li> </ul>
Motion	No motion

Brothwell exits the meeting via Zoom at 7:45 a.m.
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### **Business Licences**

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee members discussed that 40% of our small businesses will be transitioning over the next 5 years. About 58% of all jobs in the country are currently generated by small businesses.</li> <li>- The Committee inquired about what be done to increase small business in Yorkton. Members discussed the idea of offering a one-time, first-year free business licence to new resident businesses in Yorkton.</li> </ul>
Motion	No motion

### Business from the Floor

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mayor Hipsley thanked everyone on the EDC Committee and hopes all the Members will submit an application to be back on the EDC again for 2024.</li> <li>- Members discussed the upcoming demolition of the old Imperial 400 building.</li> <li>- The Committee inquired about the Via Rail story that was recently on the news. Mayor Hipsley discussed how currently the VIA Rail travels from Melville to Edmonton and doesn't pass through very many cities. The City is advocating for the line to go from Melville to Canora to Warman (instead of Saskatoon) up to Edmonton. This route would allow for more cities and First Nations communities to access the train route. This would be great for tourism and service availability to medical services.</li> </ul>
Motion	No motion

### ACTION ITEMS

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balysky to look into ways to promote that Yorkton was ranked the 73<sup>rd</sup> most livable city in Canada.</li> <li>- Balysky to inquire about offering a one-time, first-year free business licence to new resident businesses in Yorkton.</li> </ul>
Motion	No Motion

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Call of the Chair
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### ADJOURNMENT

Motion 43-23	<p><b>Sharp</b> That the Economic Development Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:25 a.m. <b>Carried</b></p>
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**Bob Knox**

CHAIRPERSON  
Bob Knox

**Jody Hahn**

RECORDING SECRETARY  
Jody Hahn