



MINUTES
Strategic Priorities Committee

September 15, 2020
9:00 am
Town Hall, Council Chambers

Council Present: Mayor Strathdee (in-person)
Councillor Craigmile (videoconference)
Councillor Edney (videoconference)
Councillor Hainer (videoconference)
Councillor Luna (videoconference)
Councillor Pridham (videoconference)
Councillor Winter (in-person)

Staff Present: **In-Person**
Brent Kittmer, Chief Administrative Officer
Jenna McCartney, Clerk
Conference Line
Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works
André Morin, Director of Finance / Treasurer
Dave Blake, Environmental Services Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Strathdee called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Resolution 2020-09-15-01

Moved By: Councillor Craigmile

Seconded By: Councillor Pridham

THAT the September 15, 2020 Strategic Priorities Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REVIEW

4.1 PW 58-2020 Water and Wastewater Financial Assessment

Dave Blake presented PW 58-2020 report and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee discussed the various options related to 2021 fees and the implications that the options for increases will have on future system reserves as well as the impacts fee increases may have on individuals who are financially affected by the pandemic.

In response to Councillor Pridham's inquiry regarding the increase of development charges for specific form of development (i.e. single detached dwellings), André Morin stated that Council does have the option of establishing DC exemptions for multi-residential dwellings within their by-law, and that Council will have the opportunity to review the development charges structure during the next five-year review to begin in 2021.

The Committee discussed staff's proposal to advance various capital upgrades at the sewage treatment plant given that a number of Town grant applications have been denied.

In response to Councillor Pridham, Dave Blake confirmed that the design of the upgrades will accommodate sanitary capacity for today, for the Town's projected 1.5% growth rate target, and for the projected treatment plant capacity increase forecasted for the late 2020s.

In response to Councillor Luna's request for clarification if the treatment plant upgrades are contingent on a 2.4% waste water rate increase, Dave Blake confirmed that the proposed capital project funds are taken from reserve and that if Council chooses not to implement a rate increase for wastewater in 2021, the financial plan period will be extended and the project may need to be delayed.

Resolution 2020-09-15-02

Moved By: Councillor Hainer

Seconded By: Councillor Edney

THAT Report PW 58-2020, Water and Wastewater Financial Assessment be received for discussion; and,

THAT the Committee recommends to Council:

THAT water rates be increased by 2.0% for 2021 in accordance with the Town's current Water System Financial Plan; and,

THAT wastewater rates be increased by 2.4% for 2021 in accordance with the Town's current wastewater system financial plan; and,

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the grit removal, administration and odour control capital project at the Water Pollution Control Plant.

CARRIED

4.2 PW 59-2020 Waste Management Financial Assessment

Dave Blake presented PW 59-2020 report and responded to questions from the Committee.

In response to Councillor Winter's inquiry whether the funding model has factored in future cell expansion at the landfill, Mr. Blake confirmed that all activity related to the expansion has been included in the financial plan.

In response to Councillor Hainer's request for a status update of the environmental assessment of the landfill, Mr. Blake stated that the file has been moving methodically over the last few years but does anticipate a meeting with ministry reviewers within the next week. Mr. Blake confirmed that after a recent meeting with the Minister of Environment the file has progressed more quickly.

In response to Mayor Strathdee's inquiry about the status of landfill reserves, Mr. Morin stated that the dips of the reserves into a negative position can appear to be concerning, but overall the financial plan is driving support for a stronger landfill reserve over the planning period.

Resolution 2020-09-15-03

Moved By: Councillor Edney

Seconded By: Councillor Hainer

THAT Report PW 59-2020, Waste Management Financial Assessment be received for discussion; and,

THAT the Committee Recommends to Council:

THAT Waste Management user fees maintain existing rates for 2021.

CARRIED

5. NEXT MEETING

Chair Stratthdee reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda.

Chair Stratthdee also advised the Committee of the upcoming Perth Municipal Association Day meeting to be held on November 18 which will be held through video conference rather than in-person due to the current public health measures during the pandemic. Details to follow.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2020-09-15-04

Moved By: Councillor Luna

Seconded By: Councillor Pridham

THAT this meeting of the Strategic Priorities Committee adjourns at 10:25 am.

CARRIED

Al Stratthdee, Mayor

Jenna McCartney, Clerk