

The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg
Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting
MINUTES



Tuesday, July 11, 2023
7:30 AM
Council Chambers
200 Broadway, 2nd Floor

ATTENDANCE: Dane Willson
 Cedric Tomico
 Councillor Bob Parsons
 Deb Gilvesy, Mayor
 Lisa Gilvesy
 Andrew Burns
 Randy Thornton
 Gurvir Hans
 Randi-Lee Bain
 Kirby Heckford

Regrets: Suzanne Renken
 Steve Spanjers
 Jesse Goossens

Staff: Kyle Pratt, Chief Administrative Officer
 Cephas Panschow, Development Commissioner
 Laura Pickersgill, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution # 1

Moved By: Kirby Heckford

Seconded By: Randy Thornton

THAT the Agenda as prepared for the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, July 11, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were declared.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution # 2

Moved By: Cedric Tomico

Seconded By: Randy Thornton

THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee of June 13, 2023, be approved.

Carried

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Monthly Activity Update

C. Panschow provided a summary of the monthly activity update.

5.2 Vacancy Rebate Program

S. Pawliwec, Director of Finance/Treasurer and T. Lyons, Revenue Manager provided an overview of the vacancy rebate program proposal.

It was suggested to review residential vacancy rebates. T. Lyons to investigate any properties that have applied inside the BIA area.

Resolution # 3

Moved By: Lisa Gilvesy

Seconded By: Randy Thornton

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the vacancy rebate program not be discontinued on the premise that the program is having minimal cost impact to the Town of

Tillsonburg and can be beneficial to local companies given the pending economic downturn;

AND FURTHER THAT there is confirmation of no negative effect to the Business Improvement Area.

Carried

5.3 Ground Lease Update

C. Panschow provided an update on the completion of the phase one environmental site assessments and the recommendation to proceed with phase two assessments. Staff are obtaining quotes to complete the financial statements audit.

6. Planning Items Circulation

There were no items on this agenda.

7. Community Strategic Plan

7.1 Town Hall Update

A report will be going to Council shortly. The corporate office will be moved out effective October 14, 2023 and can access the new locations as of September 1, 2023. K. Pratt overviewed some challenges regarding space needs for the hydro and water departments.

7.2 Affordable and Attainable Housing Committee

C. Panschow provided an overview of the consultant's work underway regarding conceptual plans for 31 Earle Street. There were concerns discussed with the lack of parking proposed for this development.

7.3 Health Care Committee

K. Pratt provided an overview of the Committee's latest work in that they are reviewing different available models of care, revisiting the physician recruitment matrix and that there is a delegation request submitted to the Provincial government at the AMO conference regarding a walk-in clinic.

8. Boundary Adjustment Committee

There was a discussion regarding boundary adjustment concerns. L. Pickersgill to circulate the National Post article to the Committee.

9. Community Organization Updates

9.1 Downtown Business Improvement Association

9.1.1 Report from BIA Chair

Councillor Parsons provided a brief summary of the financials involved regarding Turtlefest.

A consultant has been retained for the Bridge Street Re-imagining Project that will have community based planning initiatives.

9.2 Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce

The golf tournament was successful.

9.3 Woodstock, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Area Association of Realtors

9.3.1 Monthly Statistics

D. Willson provided a summary of the statistics.

10. Round Table

There was a discussion regarding housing availability for employees coming to work at new factories in neighbouring communities.

Resolution # 4

Moved By: Councillor Parsons

Seconded By: Kirby Heckford

THAT the agenda for the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 be amended, in accordance with section 6.10 (3) of the Procedural By-Law, to allow for the addition of item 11 Bell Coverage.

Carried

11. Bell Coverage

There was a discussion regarding concerns related to the lack of cell phone coverage in and around the Town. G. Hans will reach out to his contacts regarding this concern.

Resolution # 5

Moved By: Councillor Parsons

Seconded By: Kirby Heckford

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends to Council that a letter be sent to local telecommunications providers, SWIFT and local

municipalities regarding poor cellular coverage in the Tillsonburg and surrounding area in support of economic development and our growing community.

Carried

12. Next Meeting

August 8, 2023 7:30 a.m.

13. Adjournment

Resolution # 6

Moved By: Dane Willson

Seconded By: Kirby Heckford

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, July 11, 2023 be adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Carried