

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC GROWTH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

HYBRID - COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND MICROSOFT TEAMS
400 Main Street SE

PRESENT

Councillor A. Jones (Chair) (Voting)
Councillor T. Petrow (via MS Teams) (Voting)
Councillor R. Chapman (via MS Teams) (Voting)
M. Elsoqheir (Non-Voting)
K. Mitchell (via MS Teams) (Non-Voting) – arrived at 1:13 p.m.

STAFF

L. Stevens, Director Community Infrastructure
S. Utz, Director Strategic Growth & Investment
E. Lund, Manager Utility Operations
S. Rice, Team Leader Waste & Recycling Services
L. Moreira, Program Coordinator Waste & Recycling Services
K. Jiang, Legislative Officer II/Committee Clerk
N. Parkinson, Legislative Officer I
K. Rushford, Recording Technician

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Jones called the meeting to order at 12:57 p.m. and confirmed that quorum has been met for this meeting.

6. AGENDA REPORTS

6.1 Automated Garbage Collection Program (Leanne Moreira, Program Coordinator Waste and Recycling)

2024-CISG-031

Moved By Councillor Petrow

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee recommends that City Council accepts the revised garbage collection program that includes the following service levels: Automated garbage collection, Standard 120L cart, Weekly collection, Excess waste tag program, Medical exemption program, and Diaper exemption program, as presented, with the following considerations:

1. That black cart use parameters (like mandatory bagging) through bylaw is part of the program;

2. More information about environmental aspects;
3. Logistics of pick-ups in areas with cul-de-sacs, zero lot line lots, etc.;
4. Manual vs automated collection and the rationale for both; and
5. Explanation of how garbage that has been scattered from carts is managed.

Carried

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Regular Meeting of August 27, 2024

2024-CISG-032

Moved By Councillor Petrow

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee adopts the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2024 as presented.

Carried

2. DIRECTOR'S BRIEF (verbal only)

L. Stevens, Director Community Infrastructure, expression appreciation for the combined efforts of residents and the business community in this round of level 4 water restrictions. We have achieved an average of 28% water reduction from previous levels. The City of Calgary has advised that they are tracking completion of urgent repairs by September 23, which is on schedule.

The City has said farewell to our summer students. They did a great job in our parks and green spaces this year. The Roads department is now developing and finalizing the shift schedules for implementation in mid-October for our 24/7 snow and ice responses.

It was asked whether we anticipate a gradual step-down from the level 4 water restrictions. L. Stevens advised that it is staff's understanding that once the repairs are completed, all restrictions will be dropped.

A comment was made that if the water is turned off in a house, you don't normally turn everything on full blast due to risk of air in the system. L. Stevens advised that the first time, Calgary had an uncontrolled event that introduced air pockets and debris into the system. This time, there was a scheduled reduction, not a complete shutdown. Calgary gradually eased the water restrictions the last time due to the timing and nature of the repairs and sensitivity to what was happening in other parts of the system. Calgary has since done a more thorough investigation of their key feeder main, which has driven these repairs. Volume consumption is not at risk of being as high as it was previously and some of the areas of concern in the system have been addressed.

It was asked whether there was considerable usage of the water that was trucked in. L. Stevens advised that there was not as much usage as in the previous water restrictions in June and July. We only had a single location in June and July and there were two different locations this time, so the water was distributed better. This time around, residents had advance notice and were able to fill up bins and rain barrels, which reduced the need to go to an alternate site for non-potable water.

Councillor Petrow commented that Airdrie as a city does very well with water conservation in general. Our residents seem to understand the importance of water conservation, which is a testament to the job of City staff over the years.

S. Utz, Director Strategic Growth & Investment, advised that our residential and non-residential growth have both remained strong. We are tracking about 30% more inspection requests for our Safety Code officers than typical or compared to last year. We are experiencing strong development permit and business licensing application numbers, about 20% above already high volumes of the last few years. A new Area Structure Plan application has come in for lands east of East Points. There is construction fencing up for a 213 unit apartment building within the Community Revitalization Levy boundary at First Avenue and Edwards Way.

On the investment side, work is progressing on the first phase of the North East Regional Park. There has been a change in leadership in Transit. Chris MacIsaac has moved on and Billie-Jo Arnott has stepped up in the interim.

On the advocacy side, we are gearing up for the Alberta Municipalities fall meeting starting on September 25th, as well as some Minister meetings in October, and Airdrie Day at the Legislature. There was some change-over in staff at the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board. The CAO has left, but their meetings and Board meetings have progressed, as well as our Joint Planning Area with Rocky View and Calgary.

Downtown Enhancement – About 6,000 people came out to Ribfest in the downtown. The land use amendment application for the vacant site on Edmonton Trail will be at Council for Public Hearing on September 17th.

It was asked how Ribfest revitalizes the downtown, seeing as they are an out-of-town business that doesn't pay taxes in Airdrie. S. Utz advised that Administration is cognizant of Economic Development's strategy for tourism. Any time we bring people into the City, they are spending money that would not otherwise occur. Getting people excited about coming into the downtown is a good thing, as it makes people more aware of other businesses in the downtown. S. Utz will check with the Downtown Revitalization coordinator to see if there are statistics for the number of people that came into Airdrie from out of town for Ribfest and whether the City invested any money in Ribfest.

A question was asked about the music festival held at a bar. The understanding is that we have to support something that is for all ages. S. Utz will get more information from the Downtown Revitalization coordinator. Councillor Chapman commented that the event was in a parking lot.

It was asked whether the City made a financial investment in Ribfest. S. Utz advised that there is an activation and collaboration grant that Council has approved and has discretion for. The purpose of having incentives for the downtown was to get more private investment occurring within the downtown, to get more activity generated in the downtown, and to accelerate re-development.

S. Utz advised that he and City assessors will be giving a presentation to the Assessment Association of Alberta conference this week. At this point in time, for every \$1.00 we have invested publicly, more than \$3.00 has come in from the private sector. We essentially had zero dollars of new construction from 2012-2022 in the Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) boundary, and about \$75M of leasehold improvements in the first two years since the CRL was adopted. In the first year in which we have had incentives, we have seen the uplift of over \$92M of assessed value in the downtown.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There are no items.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

There are no items.

7. ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

There are no items.

8. UPDATE OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

There are no items.

9. CLOSED SESSION

There are no items.

10. ITEMS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

There are no items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jones adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Committee Chair

Committee Clerk