



Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting

March 4th, 2025

MINUTES

The Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 @ 7:20 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Bathe, D/M Keizer, Mayor Fergusson, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette

Regrets: Cr. Tuckey

Staff Present: Tracy Thomas, Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Jim Hood, Director of Corporate Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fergusson called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm, confirmed quorum.

B. REVIEW

a. Agenda

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That the agenda be amended to add an in-camera session under (F) Other Business.

PASSED

b. Minutes

Moved by: Cr. Bathe
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That the minutes from the Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting on February 4th 2025, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

Cr. Couvrette followed up on the amended minutes, referencing the motion that was passed regarding a letter to be written for the Minister of ITI concerning the 2030 tourism strategy consultations and the lack of a dedicated session for Fort Smith. Since then, ITI has decided to offer a session in Fort Smith, scheduled for Thursday at 6 PM.

Upon reviewing the GNWT website, Cr. Couvrette noted that most communities were provided with two separate sessions—an afternoon meeting with the tourism industry sector and an evening public session. However, in Fort Smith, these were combined into a single public session from 6 to 8 PM. Cr. Couvrette questioned why ITI did not arrange an in-person discussion downtown and instead opted for a virtual session, suggesting this approach makes Fort Smith appear as a secondary priority in the tourism strategy.

Given Fort Smith's status as a key tourism hub in the NWT, with significant natural attractions and a role as a host community for festivals and events, Cr. Couvrette expressed frustration with ITI's approach. He urged the Mayor to follow up with the Minister to advocate for equitable treatment, similar to what is afforded to Hay River, Yellowknife, and Inuvik, ensuring Fort Smith is given appropriate recognition and engagement in tourism discussions.

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Benwell

To have the Mayor follow up with ITI and the Minister about the level and degree of consultation with the community of Fort Smith, regarding the 2030 tourism strategy.

PASSED



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- c. Vision and Values
- d. Declaration of Financial Interest – none at this time

C. DELEGATIONS

D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. The Corporate Services Director's Report for February

Director Hood noted that the auditors will be here between March 27th and April 3rd.

- b. Accounts Payable Report
- c. Correspondence

Council discussed a request from Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre to adjust lottery licensing rates. Mayor Fergusson noted that similar concerns had been raised in the past and believed prior bylaw amendments aimed at equity were not fully implemented. She emphasized that this issue should be prioritized in the ongoing bylaw review, given its impact on community organizations.

Cr. Heaton highlighted the Friendship Centre's vital role in supporting children facing food insecurity through its lunch and snack programs. She noted that structural issues and insufficient core funding pose significant challenges. With many families struggling, she stressed the urgency of reassessing bingo regulations for NGOs and charities to ensure these essential services continue, warning that without action, many children could go without meals.

E. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Briefing Note- CAMA Board Meeting – Ottawa February 2025 – **For Information Only**

- a. Briefing Note – Approval of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That Council approve the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan: *Foundations for the Future: Our Strategic Path 2025-2029*, as presented, and direct Administration to proceed with implementation.

PASSED

- b. Briefing Note – 2025 Mill Rate Calculations

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Heaton

That Council select, from the above scenarios, the Mill Rate calculation to be used in the preparation of the 2025 Mill Rate Bylaw.

I move that Council select Scenario Two in which the weighting factor used for Residential and Country Residential properties is unchanged, and the weighting factor for Industrial, Institutional and Telecommunications is increased by 5%. This scenario is to be used for the calculation to be used in the preparation of the 2025 Mill Rate Bylaw.



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PT on average asssed value					
PT CLASSES	WEIGHTING	AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE OF TAXABLE AND GRANTABLE PROPERTIES	PROPOSED MILL RATE 2025	MILL RATE 2024	ESTIMATED DIFFERENCE
Residential	0.4350	\$ 144,596	14.61	13.87	\$ 107
Residential - Undeveloped	0.4475	\$ 16,323	15.03	14.18	\$ 14
Commercial	0.8250	\$ 338,894	27.71	26.31	\$ 474
Commercial - Undeveloped	0.8750	\$ 23,571	29.39	27.90	\$ 35
Industrial	0.8670	\$ 240,385	29.12	26.32	\$ 673
Industrial - Undeveloped	0.9290	\$ 13,335	31.20	28.22	\$ 40
Institutional	1.1870	\$ 1,910,141	39.87	36.03	\$ 7,333
Institutional - Undeveloped	1.2390	\$ 55,159	41.62	37.63	\$ 220
Recreation	0.5000	\$ 113,783	16.79	15.94	\$ 97
Telecommunications	1.1660	\$ 514,367	39.16	35.39	\$ 1,941
Country - Residential	0.3866	\$ 158,547	12.99	12.33	\$ 104
Country - Undeveloped	0.3890	\$ 10,067	13.07	12.40	\$ 7
Country - Mixed	0.4500	\$ -	15.11	14.35	\$ -

PASSED

c. Briefing Note – Status Update – NLMCC Co-Stewardship Agreement in Principle

Moved by: Cr. Benwell
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

To ensure the process stays in line with Council’s direction, Administration recommends:

1. Clarifying with TLC partners that the Town’s participation in the AIP is strictly for due diligence and investigation, and that there is no commitment to proceed at this stage.
2. Requesting SRFN, SLFN, and FSMC to form a working group consisting of only Chiefs/Mayors and key Administration personnel.
3. Delaying the review of the Draft AIP until after the working group has been created and the Draft has been revised to clearly state that no party, including the Town of Fort Smith, is obligated to move beyond investigation without formal Council approval.
4. Ensuring that any financial commitments are clearly defined before proceeding further, including identifying who will cover costs associated with the next steps (e.g., legal and environmental assessments)
5. Bringing the matter back to Council; before any further action is taken beyond engagement and investigation.

I move that Council approve the recommendations outlined in the briefing note and direct Administration to take the necessary steps to implement them.

PASSED

*Cr. Couvrette excused himself from this discussion

F. OTHER BUSINESS

a. In Camera Session

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That Council move in-camera in accordance with the Cities, Towns, and Villages Act, Section 23(3)(e) a matter still under consideration and on which Council has not yet publicly announced a decision if discussion in public would likely prejudice the municipal corporation’s ability to carry out its activities or negotiations.

PASSED

*Cr. Benwell removed herself from the in-camera due to conflict of interest.

Moved by: D/M Keizer
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe



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That Council reaffirms its commitment to working collaboratively with Salt River First Nation to develop a fair, equitable, and sustainable Municipal Services Agreement that benefits both parties. Council remains dedicated to fostering a strong partnership and ensuring that a mutually beneficial agreement is reached as a priority.

PASSED

Moved by: Cr. Heaton
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That Council move out of in-camera at 9 pm.

PASSED

G. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: DM Keizer

That Cr. Tuckey be excused from the Corporate Services Standing Committee meeting on March 4th, 2025.

PASSED

H. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That next Corporate Services Standing Committee meeting be on April 1st, 2025.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Cr. Bathe
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 pm.

PASSED