



PUBLIC MINUTES – SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE WITH SASKATOON NDP CAUCUS

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Committee Room E, Ground Floor, City Hall**

- PRESENT:** His Worship Mayor C. Clark
Councillor C. Block
Councillor R. Donauer
Councillor B. Dubois
Councillor S. Gersher
Councillor H. Gough
Councillor Z. Jeffries
- ABSENT:** Councillor T. Davies
Councillor D. Hill
Councillor A. Iwanchuk
Councillor M. Loewen
- ALSO PRESENT:** City of Saskatoon
City Manager M. Totland
City Solicitor P. Warwick
Director of Government Relations M. Jordan
Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office M. Beveridge
Policy and Communications Advisor J. Sherbino
City Clerk J. Sproule
- Saskatoon NDP Caucus
Saskatoon Nutana MLA C. Sproule
Saskatoon Meewasin MLA Dr. R. Meili
Saskatoon Riversdale MLA D. Chartier
Saskatoon Centre MLA D. Forbes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was Co-Chaired by Mayor Clark and Cathy Sproule. Introductions were made. The Co-Chairs welcomed participants to the meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Meewasin Valley Authority

The approach taken by the Provincial Government with respect to funding of the Meewasin Valley Authority was discussed. The importance of the MVA along with urban parks was acknowledged. Meewasin attracts people to the City and provides the City with economic growth. The MVA Board continues to work hard and its work is not finished. Meewasin has legislative powers allowing for a strong voice at the regional level. Community support continues for Meewasin.

Discussion followed regarding the swale and a report provided to the City. It was noted that the City will be creating a stakeholder group and the swale watchers group will be included, along with the University. Councillor Gersher undertook to provide the members with a copy of the referenced report received by City Council.

4.2 Public Transit (STC Depot)

The question of the economic impact of the closure of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company on the City was discussed. The City has not undertaken any study in this regard. The City is not aware of what the plans are for the former STC Bus Depot.

Further discussion followed regarding PTIF funding, regional transportation projects, and regional plan and transit.

4.3 Provincial/Infrastructure Funding and Municipal Budgeting

Mayor Clark discussed the impact of the provincial funding on the City's budget and the City's steps to deal with the shortfall. It was noted that municipal budgeting is different than provincial budgeting. There are Crown buildings in the City not paying taxes and the expectation is that if a solution is achieved for 2018, there should not be an exemption for 2017. The City is working with SUMA to achieve a solution.

Discussion followed around the increased PST and the impact on capital projects, insurance benefits and wage reductions. It was noted the City has not reduced wages and has a zero percent mandate to be negotiated for 2017.

The following documents attached to the agenda were noted:

- Report of the CFO/General Manager, Asset & Financial Management Department dated March 26, 2017 entitled '2017 Provincial Budget Impact';
- Report of the CFO/General Manager, Asset & Financial Management Department dated May 15, 2017 entitled '2018 Budget Indicative Rate'; and
- Report of the General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department dated June 12, 2017 entitled 'Urban Highway Connector Program'

4.4 Other

4.4.1 Election Timing

The 2020 election timing for the Province and Municipalities was discussed. The Chief Electoral Officer has filed a report with Government in this regard. It was noted a June 2020 provincial election would be helpful with the City's proceeding on the regularly scheduled date. This will be decided in the fall by Government; however, everything is on the table.

Mayor Clark indicated Council has not had any discussion on this matter but that this would be a matter to bring to the SUMA Board as well as the School Boards.

4.4.2 GHG Emission Targets

Councillor Gersher summarized the discussion earlier in the week at the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services meeting regarding targets. The opportunity to make representation to the Province on carbon tax was raised.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Attendees were thanked for participating in the joint meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

His Worship, Mayor C. Clark, Co-Chair

J. Sproule, City Clerk