



Hinton Town Council

What We Do

As your Town of Hinton Mayor, and councillors, we comprise the legislative function to the municipality and represent the residents of our community.

Council’s role is to set policy and objectives for the Town. Our roles and responsibilities are set out in the Municipal Government Act and other legislation. Through Council’s Strategic Plan, we set a series of priorities for the term of the 2013- 2017 office.

Budget

Council and Public Relations		Budget 2016	Budget 2017
Revenue	Other		
	Transfer from Reserves - 2017 (1)	320,000	285,000
Total Revenue		320,000	285,000
Expenditure	Personnel	238,985	233,985
	Council Operations	39,670	40,852
	Public Relations Operations	2,750	1,000
	Community Grants, Citizen Engagement, Contingency	310,000	285,000
Total Expenditure		591,405	560,837
Net Excess (Deficiency)		-271,405	-275,837

(1) Refer to page 21 - ATE - Community Grants, Citizen Engagement, Contingency

Council Strategic Plan Accomplishments and Priorities

Business Readiness

Improvements to our development processes and focus on exceptional customer service in our Planning and Development Division have made a positive impact in the development of our community. This year the focus has been on redeveloping the Land Use Bylaw as another step in the progressive way of doing business with the Town. Overall, the document has been reduced in size, content has been clarified and written in a plain language manner, so that understanding what is required is easier.

2016 Accomplishments

- Developed and approved a new Land-use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan.
 - Feedback from the community and stakeholders incorporated.
 - Simplified document format for practical use by developers and businesses.

2017 Priorities

- Infrastructure Master Plans completed to support growth/expansion.
- Inter-Municipal Development Plan.



Strong and Diverse Economy

In the 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey over half of Hinton Citizens agreed that the Town is doing a good job at managing growth. This may be in part to the visibility and good work of the Hinton and Region Economic Development Coalition. The HREDC continued their community-based approach to economic development and accomplished many areas on a strategic plan that was completed earlier this year.

Council welcomes the many new and expanded businesses in Hinton that provide service, selection and value to our community. We support and promote the values of Hinton First, a campaign that encourages Hintonites to look to our local offerings first, before heading out of town.

Council participated in 2016 on a Geothermal Study with the University of Alberta and Alberta Innovates, and the initial findings are promising. The Town of Hinton entered into a partnership with Epoch Energy to advance the geothermal opportunities further, including a pre-FEED Study to finalize the scope of a district energy system and a detailed capital / operating cost model, to confirm the economic viability of Hinton Geothermal.

2016 Accomplishments

- Geothermal Study.
- 2016 Hinton Satisfaction Survey showed a 14 per cent increase in Hinton Citizens agreeing the Town is doing a good job at managing growth.

2017 Priorities

- Continued work with Hinton and Region Economic Development Coalition including an updated strategic plan in early 2017.
- Review and confirmation of next steps for Hinton Geothermal, including granting or funding options for the district energy pilot project.

Vibrant Community

The Guild Performing Arts Venue was approved to move forward to construction this year and will be opening its doors in fall 2017. The venue will offer a permanent home for performing and visual arts in our community along with cinema functionality to provide movie viewing to the community.

In late 2016 the Recreation Centre 10 Year Strategy was presented to Council and included valuable insight and feedback from the community, as well as high level costs and inclusions for Concept 1. This concept looks at a new aquatic centre and fieldhouse, along with renovated areas within the current recreation facility for fitness, indoor play space and more.

A maintenance plan for the Beaver Boardwalk will be included in the 2017 budget this year to prioritize repair and upkeep of our signature experience.

2016 Accomplishments

- Beaver Boardwalk washrooms completed.
- Expanded Transit Program.
- Improvements to the Community Grant Program with continued focus on community-safety initiatives.

2017 Priorities

- Opening of The Guild along with a Performing Arts Venue Operational Model completed.
- Progress on the Recreation Centre 10 Year Strategy through detailed design, costs and financial assessment, and further community engagement.
- Encourage development of senior citizen housing/lodging in the community.



Sound Responsible Governance

Since our first months in office, Council has worked closely with Administration to review the Town’s overall operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. Administration continues to find new and more efficient ways to run our community, resulting in savings and ever increased service.

The 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results have been received and have verified the priorities Council has identified are aligned with the areas the community feels are important.

2016 Accomplishments

- 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results saw an increase over 2013 results.
- Minister’s Award of Excellence received for work on participatory budgeting.

2017 Priorities

- Multi-year budgeting and business planning.
- Identifying cost-effective ways of doing business.
- Continue to hold the line on operating budgets.
- Launch an on-line citizen budget tool for feedback.

Waste & Water Strategy

Well, often times these are the least glamorous parts of running a community; however, waking up to a toilet that flushes and a faucet that runs clean water is a beautiful thing. The Town is developing and carrying out a waste and water strategy to ensure these basic needs are met without issue for years to come.

2016 Accomplishments

- Ongoing efforts with West Fraser on the transitioning of the management of our water treatment system by January 1, 2018.

2017 Priorities

- Continued planning and preparation for Water Treatment System transition.