



**TOWN OF HINTON  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 23, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Rob Mackin, Deputy Mayor Dale Currie  
Councillors Dale Currie, Glen Barrow, Marcel Michaels, Matthew Young

**ABSENT:** Councillors Stuart Taylor, Ryan Maguhn

**SECRETARY:** Lil Wallace - Executive Assistant

**ALSO PRESENT:** Denise Parent - Director of Corporate Services, Acting Town Manager  
Town Manager Mike Schwirtz (arrived at 5:41 p.m.)

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**ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Dale Currie called the Standing Committee Meeting to order. The time was 4:01 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

There was consensus to accept the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda of June 23, 2015.

**DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**AB Innovates / Geothermal Power - Presented by Jonathan Banks**

Jonathan Banks told Council that Hinton is sitting on top of the best geothermal properties in Alberta. Thermal energy is extracted from the water and used directly as heat or converted to electricity. There are ten reservoirs in Alberta, and five are located around Hinton. The resource gets stronger the closer to the mountains.

The cost to obtain 3D photos, in order to determine the volume of energy available, would be approximately \$129,000. He is asking the affected municipalities to contribute up to half that amount (approximately \$65,000). Other communities have told him they would be willing to do their share if everyone else is also willing to do so. If one municipality is thinking of paying for it entirely, then the project could be tailored to that specific municipality.

The project could start in January, 2016 and is estimated to take one year. A demonstration plant could be up and running in three years, if all the capital funds were in place.

Council thanked him for his presentation.

There was consensus that Administration ensure a Letter of Intention is provided by August 1, 2015 and details worked out on either full or partial partnership, and bring the matter back to Council.

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***Refer to the Standing Committee Meeting Agenda package for June 23, 2015 for detailed background information on these decisions.***

  
Initial

### **Gateway Signage**

**There was consensus that Council direct Administration to bring back information on powder coating (reflective paint), and improving landscaping (zero maintenance if possible) for immediate results; with a line item added to the budget for long term results.**

### **Process to Sell or Re-Zone Lands**

Councillor Glen Barrow declared he was removing himself from the discussion as he had a possible conflict because of his business. He left the room at 5:13 p.m.

**There was consensus that Council direct Administration to prepare a “business case” to install full/partial services at the Town campground and/or exit strategy to get out of the campground business by January, 2016.**

The Chair called for a recess at 5:32 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:39 pm and Councillor Glen Barrow joined the meeting again at that time.

### **Incentive Program**

The Mayor told Council he wanted to have a discussion on various ways to stimulate the economy and encourage business growth. By offering an incentive program such as that set out in his attachments, which is simple and easy to apply for, encourages new development and new jobs in the community. He stated that by delaying future revenue, the town would not be losing any money from the tax amount collected today as the total dollar amount would remain the same. This program shows that Council is doing their part to encourage business to grow.

Town Manager Mike Schwirtz joined the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Council questioned if there truly is a need for a tax incentive program, and discussed some pros and cons to having it. The Mayor encouraged Council to have this discussion with citizens and chamber members. He stated Council needs to keep asking businesses what they can do to help them expand their businesses and see Hinton as an attractive place to work and live.

**There was consensus that Council accept this report for information.**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Urgent Matters from Council**

Councillor Glen Barrow enquired about water pressure in the Fir Avenue area and was advised that most of that area is private service. The residences that are hooked to town water do not have a water pressure issue. If there are concerns, those citizens should contact Gordie Lee, Director of Infrastructure Services at 780-865-6043.

Administration advised if there are any other operational concerns, citizens should contact 780-865-2634 so the matters can be taken care of by Administration.

Councillor Dale Currie advised he has heard from several citizens that the mine truck should be moved but not to Green Square. He is still surveying where the majority of people want the truck to be located.

**Town Manager Status Report**

Town Manager Mike Schwirtz presented an update on the Council action pending list.

Council was advised that Administration is working with AB Transportation to repair Highway 16. It is anticipated the work will start either Thursday or Friday of this week and should take between 5 to 7 days to complete. During this time, the traffic will be redirected to a single lane.

**Executive Assistant Logistics Information**

Upcoming events logistics were discussed.

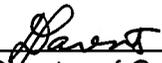
**ADJOURNMENT**

**M. MICHAELS - That Standing Committee Meeting of Council adjourn.**

**Carried**

The time was 6:20 p.m.

  
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Deputy Mayor

  
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Director of Corporate Services

