Harvey Rural Community
Council in Committee
Location: Harvey Rural Community Board Room
Date: November 18th, 2024

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506-366-6240
58 Hanselpacker Road,
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Present: Mayor Corey, Deputy Mayor McLean, Councillors Little, Chessie, Chase and Pepin.
CAO/Clerk Shawn Hawley and Assistant Clerk Morgan Kotsovos

1. Call to Order
    - The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Corey.
2. Adoption of the Agenda
    - Moved by Councillor Chessie, seconded by Councillor Chase to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Disclosure of conflict of interest
    - None to report
4. Presentations
    - Dial-a-ride – Darlene Hood from Harvey Outreach presented to Council her request of a $5000 grant to help support the Dial-a-ride program. Darlene stated for the previous year the cost was not as high, however due to inflation, cost have increased for the program moving forward. Mayor Corey stated the municipality currently pays a fee to Capital Region Service Commission for Urban Rural Rides. Councillor Chessie asked Darlene is she could be more specific with the influx in cost. Councillor Pepin asked if subsidy is available for residents. Council thanked Darlene for her presentation and requested more financial information before a decision can be made. The CAO will follow up with the specifics needed to proceed.
5. Correspondence
    - Ignite submitted a poster for RSC11 stating how to connect with Ignite for business support.
6. CAO Report
    - Potential Partnership with King's Landing for Development of Public Recreational Spaces including St. John River Access – Partnership Opportunity with Kings Landing:
    - Exploring collaboration to develop walking trails, outdoor recreational facilities, and water access to the Saint John River in Prince William, enhancing local amenities while driving increased community engagement and tourism.

Community Benefits

- Provides expanded recreational opportunities and stronger connections to natural and historical landmarks, while Kings Landing gains greater local involvement and increased visitor activity.

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Next Steps

- Awaiting Kings Landing Board feedback following their December 6th meeting to advance discussions on this strategic partnership.

Recycling Transition with Circular Materials

- Continued discussions with Circular Materials focused on the recycling transition. Requested assistance for a central cardboard depot, receiving initial approval to proceed. Highlighted the community's preference for bi-weekly pick-up instead of monthly, due to reduced bin sizes. Conversations are underway to explore this option for the new year. Councillor Little asked if the municipality receives a recycle tonnage to see how much the municipality uses per month.

Brand Rollout Update

- Received initial technical brand guides from Ginger. Finalization of digital assets is in progress, with plans to roll out the branding across the community in early 2025.

Lionews Delivery Disruption

- Due to the postal strike, the Lionews will not be delivered as usual. The Lions Club will distribute newsletter bundles at various community locations. The municipality will assist with communications to inform residents of these changes in the coming days.

December Meeting Proposal

- Proposed moving the December 9th meeting to December 16th to allow additional time for projecting year-end reserve transfers. Seeking feedback from Council on this adjustment—please advise of any objections. All of Council are available for December 16th, 2024 meeting instead of December 9th, 2024.

7. Business Arising. None to report.
8. Discussion and Recommendation

i. 2025 General Operating Budget Review - CAO discussed with Council the 2025 General Operating Budget draft. CAO reviewed the draft reflects a proactive and balances approach to managing the municipality's finances leveraging increased assessment values to maintain services, address inflationary pressures, and support strategic priorities. CAO discussed currently the Department of Justice and Public Safety have not provided the 2025 Policing Cost for the RCMP therefore, an assumption of 2024's cost +5% until we receive the actual costs, which are anticipated this week. CAO discussed the draft proposed 2025 budget balances growth in assessment revenue with rising cost and strategic investments. CAO states the budget absorbs inflationary pressures and prepares for future needs; it also harmonizes tax rates across subunits in an equitable distribution with necessary adjustments for localized services. Councillor Pepin inquired if the Voyent alert system is part of next year budget and if there will be a grant program. Councillor Chessie inquired about the increase revenue assessment of 9.5% in some areas and not others. Councillor Little questioned with adding new trails and water access in time where those funds will come from. Mayor Corey stated the Operating Reserve funds can only be removed by motion of Council.

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ii. Recreational Need Analysis Recommendation Related to Strategic Priority #1 – CAO discussed with Council the newly developed Five-Year Strategic Plan for Harvey Rural Community has been identified as, Recreation and Wellness as Strategic Priority #1. CAO discussed to advance this priority, a Recreation Needs Analysis is a critical step in assessing current recreation assets identifying gaps, and to determine future needs to guide strategic investments. This proposal is supported by the Regional Development corporation (RDC), which has agreed to fund 40% of the project cost. CAO stated this analysis will help provide a complete inventory of current recreation facilities, programs, and activities. Identify gaps and opportunities through SWAT analysis. Engage the community to ensure their needs and priorities and reflected in the future recreation planning. CAO recommendation to Council to approve the Recreation Needs Analysis as presented, with 40% funding from RDC and remaining costs covered by the municipal general operating budget, including community engagement and the HMCC building assessment to guide future recreation planning specific to HMCC.

iii. Old Harvey Fire Department Building – CAO discussed with Council the former Harvey Fire Department building is no longer in active use but remains an important asset for Harvey Rural Community Fire Department. Currently, the building is owned by a group of trustees who are no longer active. CAO informed Council that Irving Oil had an oil leak on the property, they had the old tanks removed and worked with Dillion Consulting to clean up contamination and install monitoring wells. Irving has committed to repaving the affected areas, weather permitting (likely 2025). CAO discussed with Council the importance of this facility for Harvey Rural Community operations and the following steps have been undertaken. CAO stated since this summer, Harvey Rural Community has been lobbying the Department of Environment and Local Government (ELG) for funding to repair and modernize the building. ELG has confirmed $80,000 in new external funding to perform essential repairs and harden the facility for the next 25 years. CAO stated the goal is to restore the building's structural integrity, address storm damage, and align its exterior appearance with the new fire hall. This will ensure the facility is a functional and visually cohesive part of Harvey Rural Community's fire service infrastructure. Harvey Rural Community aims to assume ownership of the property from the inactive trustee group. This will allow the municipality to formally manage the building and ensure it meets operational needs. Councillor Chessie asked why the building isn't insured currently. CAO stated since we do not own it as a municipality, we are unable to take over. Deputy Mayor McLean asked where the liability lies with taking over the ownership.

9. Motion for adjournment

- 8:16 pm Motion: Moved by Councillor Chessie, seconded by Councillor Chase to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Assistant Clerk Morgan Kotsovos

Richard Corey
Mayor

Shawn Hawley
CAO/Clerk

Harvey
RURAL COMMUNITY