



The City of Saint John

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 16, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
8TH FLOOR COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER (Ludlow Room), CITY HALL

Present: Mayor D. Darling
Deputy Mayor McAlary
Councillor J. MacKenzie
Councillor B. Armstrong

Absent: Councillor R. Strowbridge
Councillor D. Hickey

Also

Present: City Manager J. Collin
Commissioner Growth and Community Development J. Hamilton
Deputy Commissioner Building and Inspection Services A. Poffenroth
Deputy Commissioner Growth and Community Development P. Ouellette
Population Growth Manager D. Dobbelsteyn
Technical Service Engineer C. McKiel
Administrative Assistant K. Tibbits

1. Meeting Called To Order

Mayor Darling called the Growth Committee open session meeting to order.

1.1 Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2019

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:
RESOLVED that the minutes of May 14, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.2 Growing in Saint John Presentation – James Crosby, Crosby Molasses Co. Ltd.

The Growing in Saint John series shares success stories in the City and provides an opportunity to profile local businesses, leaders, newcomers, investors, and entrepreneurs. Mr. Ouellette introduced Mr. Crosby, president of Crosby Molasses Co. Ltd.

Mr. Crosby described the history of Crosby Molasses, a small food manufacturer located in Saint John and competing in a global marketplace. In 2013, Crosby Molasses invested approximately \$9M in plant and equipment upgrades and were successful in attracting a large global food manufacturer. Human resources grew from 53 full-time employees to 110. The company is in the process of growing the business into the cannabis space through smokeless forms of cannabis and have purchased land in the industrial park for this purpose. Plans for a facility are close to being finalized. Final licensing by Health Canada cannot occur until the building is complete.

Mr. Crosby invited members of Council for a tour of the facility.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAlary:

RESOLVED that the presentation from Mr. Crosby, Crosby Molasses Co. Ltd. be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.4 Growth Reserve Fund Request – Community Standards Program

Ms. Hamilton commented on the request to allocate \$30K from the Growth Reserve Fund to support and accelerate the Community Standards Program for the remainder of 2019. This program is tied to the City's growth effort and addresses unsightly premises and zoning infractions. The program has been very successful with over 95 cases resolved to date. Additional resources will leverage an additional 40 cases throughout the remainder of 2019.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:

RESOLVED that the Growth Committee recommends that Common Council authorizes the transfer of \$30,000 from the Growth Reserve Fund to support the enhanced Community Standards Program for the remainder of 2019.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.5 Priority Infrastructure Projects (Verbal)

Mayor Darling requested that the Growth Committee and ultimately Council identify the top three catalytic growth projects for the City to signal to provincial and federal funding partners the significance of these projects in bringing tax base growth to the community. These projects have the potential to deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in economic stimulus and significant money in tax revenue.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:

RESOLVED that the City of Saint John's top three infrastructure funding requests to Federal and Provincial Governments with the exception of emergency response related funding, include:

- 1) New school in the central peninsula;
- 2) Development of the Fundy Quay site; and,
- 3) Foster Thurston/Ashburn Lake Road NB Route 1 Interchange Project.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.3 Municipal Accommodation Levy Update

Mr. Collin noted that a Voluntary Accommodation Levy has been in effect for over a decade in the City of Saint John and has been very successful in terms of contributing to tourism. The provincial government has taken that industry leading example and passed legislation enacting a Mandatory Accommodation Levy within the province.

Paulette Hicks, General Manager of Delta Saint John & President of the Hotel Association, reviewed the submitted presentation and commented on the Voluntary Hotel Levy currently in place. The amount of revenue collected since first established has grown significantly. Discover Saint John has leveraged those funds for major growth in the tourism industry. It is a compliment that the Province of New Brunswick is implementing a levy, potentially province wide, based on Saint John's success with the Voluntary Levy.

Mr. Ouellette stated that Saint John will maintain the existing Voluntary Levy until the end of 2019 and intends to introduce a bylaw to be effective in 2020 with respect to the new Municipal Accommodation Levy.

Responding to a question, Ms. Hicks stated that once the municipality enables the legislation it becomes mandatory for the region. Under the Voluntary Accommodation Levy, there is an opt out clause.

Mr. Collin stated that the Volunteer Levy produces approximately \$1M per year in revenues. The Mandatory Levy is expected to provide additional revenue as it will not only include those few outliers not currently contributing, but it is hoped that the Mandatory Accommodation Levy will increase from 3% to 3.5%. It is estimated that an additional \$300K to \$700K per year will be collected.

(Councillor Armstrong withdrew from the meeting)

Adjournment

The open session meeting of the Growth Committee held on July 16, 2019 was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Recording Secretary