

Subject: 2024 Ward Boundary Review, Council Composition Update and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor Public Consultation Sessions

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0031 – 2024 Ward Boundary Review, Council Composition Update, and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor Public Consultation Sessions, for information.

Background:

As part of the 2023 Operating Budget, Council approved project no. PLN 04-23, "Ward Boundary and Council Composition Update and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor". In July 2023, Andrew Sancton Consulting was selected to spearhead the project.

The culmination of Phase 2 is marked by the inclusion of the Preliminary Report in the agenda package for February 7, 2024.

Analysis:

Phase 3 will encompass stakeholder interviews and public consultation, aiming to gather input to create a Final Report tailored specifically to the governance requirements of the Town of Pelham.

Two public consultation sessions are scheduled for this purpose:

Session no. 1: Monday, February 12th from 6-8 pm at Pelham Fire Station #2

Session no. 2: Tuesday, February 27th from 6-8 pm at the Meridian Community Centre (Accursi Room)

During these sessions, alternative ward boundary maps and governance models will be available for public review and input, with consultants present on-site to provide information and answer questions. Additionally, informal interviews will be held with members of Council and the Senior Leadership Team, aiming to gather insight into the alternatives outlined in the Preliminary Report.

Financial Considerations:

None. Two public consultation sessions were included in the RFP.

Alternatives Reviewed:

None.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Community Development and Growth

Public consultation during a ward boundary review, council composition update, and Deputy Mayor selection review fosters inclusive decision-making. The outcomes of the studies could significantly impact the community, and this engagement process facilitates shared perspectives. The input gathered assists the consultants in understanding community dynamics and identifying communities of interest, which lay the groundwork for recommendation(s) contained in the Final Report.

Stakeholder engagement with members of Council and the Senior Leadership Team ensures that recommendations are forward-thinking, considering future community development, and ensuring that the governance structure aligns with both current and future community needs.

Generally speaking, public consultation is a valuable tool in municipal governance, promoting inclusivity, diversity, and transparent decision-making. Further, it is important that residents feel that Pelham's electoral system can produce responsive local government. This is a rare opportunity to have say into how the political system functions. All residents of Pelham are encouraged to attend and provide input.

Consultation:

The Chief Administrative Officer, Town Clerk, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, and Consultants.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

None.

Prepared and Recommended by:

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