

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 14, 2019

Subject: Economic Recovery Initiative

Recommendation: **THAT Council adopts the Economic Recovery Initiative as presented, and determines said plan as a priority with the allocation of municipal funds to come from: 1) annual surplus in relation to the Economic Profile & Communications priorities - \$75k; 2) annual surplus/deferred Capital for Adjustments and Introductions of Land Use Adjustments, Policies and Bylaws to encourage growth and recovery - \$150k; 3) direction to Staff to proceed with the development of an Airport Master Plan - \$75k from Capital funds; 4) to authorize staff to move forward with the existing Loan Authorization Bylaw to address the new well for Fire Flow/Protection Works - \$900k; and 5) to authorize staff to develop a Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Plan (SIIP) intending to prioritize infrastructure projects to support community growth and development - \$1 mil, with funds to come from operations, deferred capital & reserves, and further all approved initiatives to be included into the 2019-2023 Financial Plan.**

THAT Council authorizes and supports Staff in seeking opportunities from senior levels of government to apply for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Communities Program, to fund the Eastside Reservoir and new Westside well for Fire Flow/Protection Works.

THAT Council directs staff to present option(s) that freeze or partially freeze 2019 Tax and Utility Revenues during the Financial Plan and Tax Rates budgeting process.

THAT Council directs staff to research the suspension of the Development Cost Charges Bylaw for up to two years and to report back to Council of any probable options to assist in attracting new development.

Background

The Chief Administrative Officer with support of Urban Systems Ltd., made a presentation to Council regarding a detailed Economic Recovery Initiative (details of this initiative in the attached memorandum).

In addition to the above resolutions, there were a couple of other initiatives mentioned in the report to be of note:

1. Should Council consider approving the \$150k for the land use adjustments, policies and bylaws, and after the anticipated Revitalization Contractor has provided recommendations for the downtown core through the Rural Dividend fund program, that Staff would be bringing back suggested recommendations to Council in concert with Revitalization relief and Business Improvement Area projects.
2. To allow Staff to do some minimal groundwork in looking at the people capacities at City Hall and investigating into other opportunities that could integrate economic people resource components and bring back any findings or recommendations to Council.

Benefits or Impacts

General

As the community is attempting to recover from the impact of the 2018 flood, businesses have been greatly devastated and impacted. These initiatives intend to provide support in the capacity of Local Government. Additionally, the development pieces, aforementioned in the memorandum will explore and hopefully provide new housing opportunities for the municipality.

Strategic Impact



Community Engagement

- Revitalization and Business Improvement Area Bylaws would include public input and engagement.



Community Livability

- Yes



Economic Growth

- Yes

Policy/Legislation

Council has the authority to provide economic support through Revitalization and Business Improvement Area Bylaws

Attachments

- 1) Economic Recovery Initiative Memorandum
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Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.