

The Corporation of the  
Village of Merrickville-Wolford  
November 24, 2016

A special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford was held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, November 24, 2016, with members of the Ad hoc Committee on Strategic Planning.

Chaired by: Mayor David Nash

Members of Council: Deputy Mayor Anne Barr  
Councillor Stephen A. Ireland  
Councillor Victor Suthren  
Councillor Kim Weedmark

Regrets: Councillor David Snowdon  
Councillor Chuck MacInnis

Staff in Attendance: John Regan, CAO/Clerk  
Frederick Martin, Administrative Assistant

Ad hoc Committee on Strategic Planning: Jane Graham, Anne de Gobeo, Terry Gilhen, Ian Donald, Christina Willoughby, Yves Grandmaitre, Jacques Pelletier, Mark Scullino, and Cheri Kemp-Long.

Facilitators: Paul Blais and Erle Lamothe.

Members of the public: 1.

Press in Attendance: None.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof: None.

**R-287-16** Moved by K. Weedmark, Seconded by V. Suthren  
Be it hereby resolved that: The agenda of the special council meeting of November 24, 2016 be adopted as circulated. Carried.

Mayor Nash called on A. Barr to lead the meeting.

**Meeting Objectives:**

A. Barr thanked the committee members for all the hard work. Explanatory notes were provided to assist in the meeting deliberations. The purpose of the meeting was to work through the documents with the goal of preparing a document for the public town hall meeting of December 1.

A. Barr called on Terry Gilhen to speak to the next agenda item.

**Draft Strategic Plan based on Community Perspectives:**

T. Gilhen listed: the types of information that had been gathered; the meetings; the research; and the analysis. At the end of the day, a strategic plan is a living document.

The "Merrickville-Wolford Community Perspective 2017-2025" detailed primary challenges and strengths. The document also itemized community priorities and strategies identified by workshop participants. J. Regan noted that once Council adopted the strategic plan, staff would then develop and cost an implementation plan and performance measurement.

Participants reviewed and discussed the draft strategic plan.

A. Barr called on P. Blais and E. Lamothe to lead the meeting on the remaining agenda items.

**Secondary Community Priorities & Strategies:**

P. Blais noted that some identified items (infrastructure, efficiency, fiscal responsibilities, etc) are difficult priorities and strategies to put off; such items constantly remain in the

minds of decision makers. Ensued a general discussion where participants reviewed and ranked secondary community priorities and strategies.

The meeting paused for supper at 5:50 p.m.

The meeting restarted at 6:25 p.m.

Clerk's note: V. Suthren excused himself at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor Nash informed the group on recent initiatives undertaken by Council.

**Options for consolidation of priorities:**

Participants reviewed the results of the exercise before the break.

**Discussion of Options for consolidation:**

The meeting recessed, with participants coming together in breakout groups in different rooms from 6:50 to 7:15 p.m. Upon reconvening, each group presented a summary of their discussions.

**Ranking consolidated priorities and strategies:**

Ensued a general discussion on ranking and consolidating priorities and strategies. Working on the verbiage of the vision, residents needed to see themselves in the words of the vision.

**Reviewing the Vision:**

Participants flushed out many ideas on the wording for the vision statement.

**Updating the Draft Strategic Plan:**

It was agreed for the consultant to consolidate the information.

**Preparing for Dec 1 Town Hall Meeting:**

P. Blais and I. Donald will update the document for the public presentation on December 1. The event will start with an introduction from Mayor Nash, followed by a PowerPoint presentation by A. Barr and J. Regan.

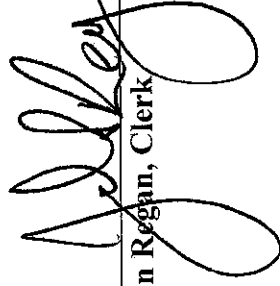
Mayor Nash and A. Barr thanked the participants of tonight's meeting, and were impressed with the community involvement.

**R-288-16** Moved by S. Ireland, Seconded by A. Barr

Be it hereby resolved that: This special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does now adjourn at 8:43 pm until the regular meeting of council on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm, or until the call of the Mayor subject to need.

Carried.

  
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David Nash, Mayor

  
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John Regan, Clerk