

Council Highlights

December 5, 2017

Special council meeting to review plans for public works depot

A special council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12th to review all aspects of the proposed new centralized public works depot. Members of the public will be able to attend the meeting but will not be able to ask questions or comment. Public comments may be sent to Clerk Kari Stevenson before 12 noon on December 8, 2018.

All four councillors voted in favor of holding a special meeting against the wishes of Mayor Bev Mathews. The decision was made following a presentation on the depot design Tyler Peters of Greenview Environmental Management.

The design Mr. Peters presented was for a 21,500 sq. ft. energy efficient building with four maintenance bays and 10 vehicle storage bays, as well as administrative and meeting space that would cost an estimated \$4.65 million.

The timelines he proposed were for a complete detailed design by early January 2018, construction beginning in April 2018, and the building completed by early 2019.

Councillor Dick Persson said that this is a significant project, and put forward a motion for a special council meeting to review all the information about the proposal, including the location of the depot. Councillor Peter Raymond seconded the motion.

CAO Lois O'Neill-Jackson said that the municipality has already invested a lot of money and that she is concerned that holding a special meeting will mean significant cost and time delays.

Mayor Mathews said she would not support another meeting and that she thinks it is a waste of time.

Councillor Raymond said the meeting is to review the work done to date, and he suggested the meeting be held as soon as possible so that the tender for the project can proceed according to the schedule Mr. Peters had laid out.

Councillor Terry Lamshead said that this project is the single most significant investment council has made and said it deserves to be reviewed.

Deputy Mayor Ron Windover said he wants to make sure that this is done properly and said he has heard from a lot of people that they are concerned it is not being built in the right location.

All four councillors voted in favour of holding the meeting which will begin at 9 a.m. in the council chambers.

Gallery on the Lake request for funding denied

Council unanimously agreed that they could not support a request from Gallery on the Lake business owner Esther Ingles for \$100,000 to pay for façade improvements, a permanent exhibit and artisan alley, to hire staff to help implement and acquire funding and for marketing.

Ms. Ingles told council the gallery is considered a destination location and a top attraction in this area.

Councillor Raymond told Ms. Ingles that municipalities do not provide funds to for-profit businesses, and suggested she look into grants and sponsors that are currently available from other sources.

Mayor Mathews told her that she agrees the Gallery is an asset to the area, but that Councillor Raymond's comments are correct—municipalities cannot fund private businesses.

Councillor Persson suggested that the Gallery owners approach Community Futures in Peterborough who will give them free advice and could direct them to sources of government grants and loans.

Ms. Ingles said she found it appalling that the municipal council would not consider any part of her request.