

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**June 6, 2013 –1:00 PM
Council Chamber, Court House, Stratford**

Members Present:

Councillor Robert Wilhelm, Chairman, Councillor Jim Aitcheson, Councillor Walter McKenzie, Councillor Bob McMillan, Councillor Mert Schneider, Councillor Bill French, Julie Behrns, Councillor Ian Forrest, Councillor Rhonda Ehgoetz

Staff Present:

Bill Arthur, Chief Administrative Officer, Kristin Sainsbury, Economic Development Coordinator, and Pauline Walkom, Recorder/Administrative Support Clerk

ABSENT: Warden Vince Judge

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robert Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. and verified quorum was present.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Julie Behrns

Seconded by: Councillor Walter McKenzie

THAT the Agenda for June 6, 2013 be approved as amended;

Add May 6, 2013 North Perth minutes under Section 7.3;

Carried

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST and general nature thereof
No Disclosures stated.

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Jim Aitcheson

Seconded by: Councillor Rhonda Ehgoetz

THAT the minutes of the April 4, 2013 Economic Development Committee meeting minutes be approved;

Carried

5. DELEGATIONS - NONE

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6. REPORTS

6.1 Economic Development General Report

Kristin Sainsbury reviewed General report which included:

6.1.1 Economic Development 2013 Work Plan Status Update

6.1.3 Labour Market Strategy Update

6.1.4 County Website Enhancements

6.1.5 Social Media Sites

6.1.6 Other Activities

Four inquires for new businesses to start up have been received recently.

An update on the Newcomer strategy was discussed. The committee is working on calling another meeting to determine how to continue moving forward with this project.

Moved by Councillor Julie Behrns

Seconded by Councillor Jim Aitcheson

THAT the staff report prepared by Kristin Sainsbury, dated May 29, 2013 regarding Economic Development activities and update, be received;

Carried

6.2 Abattoir study.

The Abattoir study is included with the agenda. Five Abattoirs were contacted for the study.

It was requested that "Farm Associations and Livestock groups" be added to recommendation.

Motion by Councillor Julie Behrns

Seconded by Councillor Mert Schneider

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THAT report, as amended and prepared by Kristin Sainsbury, dated May 28th, 2013 regarding the University of Guelph study entitled Opportunities and Challenges in local Livestock Processing and Slaughtering in Perth County be received; and

THAT staff be directed to share the final report entitled Opportunities and Challenges in local Livestock Processing and Slaughtering in Perth County with Gary Schellenberger, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Minister of Rural Affairs and Randy Pettapiece MPP; and

THAT staff be directed to provide the final report to Ministry of Agriculture for consideration as part of the review of Meat regulations and prepare a written submission for consideration based on the consultation through the BR+E and Abattoir study; and

THAT staff be directed to establish a task force of farm and meat processing representatives from businesses serving Perth County, Farm Associations and Livestock Groups to meet twice per year to monitor the issues with food processing and to work on improving the sector locally; and

THAT staff be directed to connect with groups such as Sustain Ontario's Meat working group, and other Counties working on addressing this issue to stay up to date on changes that may be impacting the sector and to work toward bringing abattoirs together from across the province in an effort to identify collective solutions.

Carried

7. Correspondence

7.1 Municipality of West Perth – April 10, 2013 – Economic Development Committee Minutes

7.2 Municipality of Perth South – April 9, 2013

7.3 Municipality of North Perth – May 6, 2013

Moved by Councillor Walter McKenzie

Seconded by Councillor Ian Forrest

THAT Items 7.1 to 7.4 be received and that Item 7.3 be excluded;

Carried

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Motion by Councillor Julie Behrns
Seconded by Councillor Ian Forrest
THAT Item 7.3 (Randy Pettapiece, MPP email) is for information;

Carried

8. Other Business

8.1 Upcoming Meetings: SWEA Convention June 13-14, 2013

Councillor Forrest requested an update on the SWEA projects. Councillor Wilhelm will report back after the SWEA Convention, at the next meeting.

8.2 Article Tips and Strategies – for information.

8.3 Stratford Accelerator Centre, Wellington Street Stratford has offered Kristin Sainsbury use of extra space at centre at no charge. The space would be used when current office space is unavailable.

9. CLOSED MEETING – NO CLOSED MEETING

10. REPORTING OUT FROM CLOSED MEETING – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2013 at 1:00 PM (or following Council)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Walter McKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Mert Schneider
THAT the meeting adjourn at 1:25 pm;

Carried

Councillor Robert Wilhelm, Chair

Pauline Walkom, Administrative Support
Clerk/Recorder