

Council Highlights

October 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole

Delegation – Wazin Îchinabi Ti - House of Oneness

Terrie Batycki and Kevin Shier presented Committee of the Whole with an update on Wazin Îchinabi Ti - House of Oneness. They shared their vision, to inspire Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to positively change society so that we can all live together with dignity, respect, peace and prosperity on these lands we share and call home. They also highlighted the following areas:

- start up
- establishing basic operations
- programming & evaluation
- future transition & viability

2023/2024 Provincial Advocacy Priorities and Community Campaign

Kristin Huybrecht, Manager Intergovernmental Relations and Corporate Communications, presented Committee of the Whole with the 2023/2024 Provincial Advocacy Priorities and Community Campaign. Provincial advocacy has consistently been a priority of Cochrane Council and Administration. As this portfolio continues to evolve, Administration is recommending priority areas to guide our advocacy efforts.

While there are shared advocacy priorities with other communities, namely through Alberta Municipalities (AB Munis) and the Alberta Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' Caucus (MCMC), it is also important that Cochrane advocates for its own needs.

The recommended advocacy priorities for 2023 and 2024 include:

- water licensing
- community infrastructure
- roadways

As Cochrane continues to focus on building a complete community, Administration is also recommending that Council supports advocacy efforts provincial responsibilities including:

- healthcare and EMS
- education

Feedback received will be incorporated into the priorities and the community campaign.

Fire Services Plan

Jay Judin, Director of Protective Services, presented Committee of the Whole with the final Fire Services Plan completed by Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI). Work on the Fire Plan was approved and started in Q4, 2022 led by the consultant, Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI), in conjunction with Administration, community input and staff engagement.

This Plan is intended to guide next steps in the growth and adaptation of Cochrane Fire Services in response to the changing demographics within Cochrane.

TSI undertook a comprehensive engagement process, inclusive of public and staff surveys, in-person workshops with Fire Services Staff, and interviews with Fire Services Leadership, Senior Administration and Council. Additionally, TSI undertook extensive research, evaluation and observations of the Service in contrast with existing National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) codes and standards, comparable communities and services, and industry best practices.

The plan includes over 70 recommendations, all of which will be considered and evaluated based upon overall risk, resource requirements and applicability in the Cochrane context.

The Cochrane Fire Services Plan will be brought back to a regular Council meeting for formal endorsement, once feedback has been received. Council endorsement of the plan does not equate to all recommendations being implemented or advanced as contained within the report. This review, and the resulting recommendations, validate where we are at as a Service, which is at a "cross-roads" with the growth we have seen in our community, the changes in built-form and the extension of our community build-out to our borders on all sides.

Council Highlights

October 16, 2023

Committee of the Whole

Bylaw 22/2023 Southbow Landing Land Use Amendment

Joelle Anniccharico, Planner II, presented to Committee of the Whole the proposed land use amendment within the community of Southbow Landing. This land use amendment is intended to facilitate high-density residential development and is in alignment with the Southbow Landing Neighbourhood Plan.

The Southbow Landing land use amendment application proposes to change approximately 27.48 acres of land from Urban Holdings District (U-H) to Residential High-Density District (R-HD).

COLT - Opportunities and Challenges

The COLT transit system, approved as a pilot in October 2019, has experienced both successes and challenges as a public transit service in Cochrane. Currently designed as a dynamic route service, promoted as scalable and responsive, the user demand has exceeded the system's abilities and overall COLT is not meeting community public transit expectations.

Recognizing these challenges, Mitchell Hamm, Director, Community Services, provided an overview of where the system is now and is seeking feedback from Council on their commitment to the provision of public transit in Cochrane, as well as how Council defines success as it relates to a public transit system. This dialogue will help guide the development of recommendations for consideration on the future of the COLT service.

365 Railway Street

At the Regular Council meeting held on Monday, September 11, 2023, the following Notice of Motion was passed under resolution #165/09/23:

"Direct Administration to provide Council with information and options to update the Permitted uses available on 365 Railway Street West, to be aligned with the historical land use of the property, and to accommodate the landowner's past and ongoing commercial and/or industrial activities."

Drew Hyndman, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services, provided Committee of the Whole the background information on the land use districts and uses of the subject property, 365 Railway Street legally known as Block G, Plan 1325. As with all applications for a land use change to the Town's Land Use Bylaw, the property owner must submit an application, specifying their desired uses or district for the subject property. Administration then evaluates and processes the application and prepares a recommendation for Council to consider, including alternatives.