



**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY & TOWN OF SMOKY LAKE
 JOINT COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**



Minutes of the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council Meeting of Tuesday, **June 8, 2021**, at 5:30 p.m. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to Order by the Smoky Lake County Reeve Craig Lukinuk in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Tuesday, June 8, 2021</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Virtually Present
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Virtually Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Virtually Present
4	Lorne Halisky	Virtually Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Virtually Present
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Virtually Present
Assistant CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Recording Secretary	Patti Priest	Virtually Present
P&D Manager	Jordan Ruegg	Virtually Present
P&D Assist. Manager	Kyle Schole	Virtually Present
CEDO	Michelle Wright	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Hank Holowaychuk – Mayor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Melody Morton – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Dan Kotylak – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Ross Whitelaw – Deputy Mayor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Terry Makowichuk – Councillor	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Adam Kozakiewicz - CAO	Virtually Present
Town of Smoky Lake	Crystal Letwin – Assistant CAO	Absent

One Member of the Media: Smoky Lake Signal, virtually present.
 8 Members of the Public were in virtual attendance.

2. AGENDA:

J248-21: Halisky

That the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 8, 2021, be adopted, as presented.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Kotylak.

Carried Unanimously.

3. MINUTES:

J249-21: Cherniwchan

That the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 5, 2021, be adopted, as presented.

Town of Smoky Lake: motion moved by Makowichuk.

Carried Unanimously.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING:

Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan

1.0 Opening

The Virtual Public Hearing was **called to order at 5:33 p.m.** by the Smoky Lake County Reeve, Craig Lukinuk in the presence of all Town and County Council members, Town and County Chief Administrative Officers, County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, County Planning and Development Manager & Assistant, Community Economic Development Officer, Recording Secretary and **8 members of the public.**

Confirmation was provided by the Chief Administrative Officers of Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake that the Public Hearing was advertised, and notice was provided in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The purpose of the hearing was summarized as follows:

The purpose of this hearing is to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation, for the purposes of creating a regional tourism corporation to execute the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan (Smoky Lake County Bylaw No. 1390-20 & Town of Smoky Lake Bylaw No. 026-2020).

Over the last year and some months, we have been working in partnership with our consultant Vision, the Experience Specialists (Vision XS) to develop this Strategy, which aims to leverage the Victoria District for cultural and heritage tourism, growing the Smoky Lake region's visitor economy, thereby contributing to creating jobs, stabilizing population and service levels, etc.

In June of this year, the Town and County Councils jointly adopted parallel bylaws, approved the general concept of this Strategy, and which also gave direction to begin working towards implementation.

Today, the Proposed Business Plan which is before the Councils represents the next step of that process.

Eight (8) additional Members of the Public virtually joined the meeting, during the time between 5:28 p.m. and 5:50 p.m.

2.0 Staff Presentation

Smoky Lake County Planning and Development Manager, Jordan Ruegg, provided the following BACKGROUND information:

- **June 26, 2020 Joint Virtual Public Hearing & Joint Town/County Council Meeting**

Both Town and County Councils:

- **Convened** a Joint Virtual Public Hearing for the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy (Town Bylaw 006-2020 and County Bylaw 1372-20), at which presentations and representations were made by delegations and residents, as well as a reading into the record of written submissions.
- **Accepted** the 'What We Heard Report,' summarizing the public participation and feedback received per the Public Participation Plan.
- **Adopted** the Strategy via County Bylaw 1372-20 and Town Bylaw 006-2020
- **Established a Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Implementation Working Group Ad hoc Committee to prepare a Business Plan** in accordance with legislation, to be brought forward to a future Meeting of Joint Town/County Councils for consideration.

- **September 16, 2020 Joint Town/County Councils Meeting @ National Hall**

- Joint Town/County Councils were presented with the proposed Business Plan, with minor changes having been made at that time.
- Joint Town/County Councils then agreed **in principle** for each respective municipality to invest Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00), for a combined total of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000.00), as majority shareholders of a municipally owned Joint Venture Tourism Corporation.

- **September 16, 2020 Joint Town/County Councils Meeting**

- Convening alongside the Metis Crossing Board, the proposed Business Plan was further discussed among the three parties.
- Joint Town/County Councils then adopted a motion to seek public participation in accordance with each municipality's respective Public Participation Policies: County's Policy Statement No. 01-51-01 and Town's Policy Statement No. A18, in order to provide the Public with sufficient access to information, allowing them to be informed, and provide opportunities to participate, be involved, and provide input into the decision-making process in respect to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan.

- **November 26, 2020 Joint Virtual Public Hearing & Joint Town/County Council Meeting**

- Five months to the day since adopting the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy itself, another Joint Virtual Public Hearing was held to address the proposed Business Plan.

- **December 16, 2020 Joint Town/County Councils Meeting**
 - **Smoky Lake County Motion SLC252-20:**
 - *“That Smoky Lake County Council give **Bylaw No. 1390-20: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining the goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting municipal sustainability, be given FIRST READING.”*
 - *“Moved by Councillor Halisky that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1390-20: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting municipal sustainability, be given SECOND READING.”*
 - *“Moved by Councillor Cherniwchan that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1390-20: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting municipal sustainability, be given PERMISSION for THIRD AND FINAL READING.”*
 - *“Moved by Councillor Gawalko that Smoky Lake County **Bylaw No. 1390-20: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting Municipal sustainability, be given THIRD AND FINAL READING.”*
 - **Town of Smoky Lake Motion TSL253-20:**
 - *“That the Town of Smoky Lake Council give **Bylaw No. 026-2020: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting Municipal sustainability, be given FIRST READING.”*

- *“Moved by Councillor Makowichuk that the Town of Smoky Lake **Bylaw No. 026-2020: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting Municipal sustainability, be given SECOND READING.”*
- *“Moved by Councillor Morton that the Town of Smoky Lake **Bylaw No. 026-2020: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting Municipal sustainability, be given PERMISSION for THIRD AND FINAL READING.”*
- *“Moved by Mayor Holowaychuk that the Town of Smoky Lake **Bylaw No. 026-2020: Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan**, for the purpose of adopting the said plan dated December 16, 2020, outlining goals of adding to the visitor economy, increasing the visitor audience from Metis Crossing and other attractions, diversifying the Region’s economy, and supporting Municipal sustainability, be given THIRD AND FINAL READING.”*
- **Joint Smoky Lake County & Town of Smoky Lake Motion J254-20:**
 - *“That the Smoky Lake County and Town of Smoky Lake Joint Councils approve for each respective administration to proceed to prepare the necessary documents associated with establishing a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC), to be brought forward to the Joint Town and County Councils.*

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000

- Section 230(1)** When this or another enactment requires council to hold a public hearing on a proposed bylaw or resolution, the public hearing must be held, unless another enactment specifies otherwise,
- (a) before second reading of the bylaw, or
 - (b) before council votes on the resolution.
- (2)** If a public hearing is held on a proposed bylaw or resolution, council must conduct the hearing during a regular or special council meeting.

- (3) A council by bylaw establish procedures for public hearings.
- (4) In the public hearing, council
 - (a) must hear any person, group of persons, or person representing them, who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw or resolution and who has complied with the procedures outline by the council, and
 - (b) may hear any other person who wishes to make representations and whom the council agrees to hear.
- (5) After considering the representations made to it about a proposed bylaw or resolution at a public hearing and after considering any other matter it considers appropriate, council may
 - (a) pass the bylaw or resolution,
 - (b) make any amendment to the bylaw or resolution it considers necessary and proceed to pass it without further advertisement or hearing, or
 - (c) defeat the bylaw or resolution.
- (6) The minutes of the council meeting during which a public hearing is held must record the public hearing to the extent directed by council.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISING

Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000

- Section 606(1)** The requirements of this section apply when this or another enactment requires a bylaw, resolution, meeting, public hearing or something else to be advertised by a municipality, unless this or another enactment specifies otherwise.
- (2) Notice of the bylaw, resolution, meeting, public hearing or other thing must be
 - (a) published at least once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper or other publication circulating in the area to which the proposed bylaw, resolution or other thing relates, or in which the meeting or hearing it to be held, or
 - (b) mailed or delivered to every residence in the area to which the proposed bylaw, resolution or other thing relates, or in which the meeting or hearing is to be held.
 - (3) A notice of a proposed bylaw must be advertised under subsection (2) before second reading.

- (4) A notice of a proposed resolution must be advertised under subsection (2) before it is voted on by council.
- (5) A notice of a meeting, public hearing or other thing must be advertised under subsection (2) at least 5 days before the meeting, public hearing or thing occurs.
- (6) A notice must contain
 - (a) a statement of the general purpose of the proposed bylaw, resolution, meeting, public hearing or other thing,
 - (b) the address where a copy of the proposed bylaw, resolution or other thing, and any document relating to it or to the meeting or public hearing may be inspected,
 - (c) in the case of a bylaw or resolution, an outline of the procedure to be followed by anyone wishing to file a petition in respect of it, and
 - (d) in the case of a meeting or public hearing, the date, time and place where it will be held.
- (7) A certificate of a designated officer certifying that something has been advertised in accordance with this section is proof, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, of the matters set out in the certificate.
- (8) The certificate is admissible in evidence without proof of the appointment or signature of the person who signed the certificate.

Point of Clarification - The Tourism Corporation may be publicly traded but not the MCC.

3.0 Public Presentations Via Written Submissions

There were no Public Presentations Via Written Submissions received.

4.0 Public Presentations at the Public Hearing

The Reeve called upon those Members of the Public who indicated they wished to speak, and when called upon, to state their name, title and whether they were in support or opposed to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan.

Don Klym, Smoky Lake County Resident, **in favour** verbally provided information including but not limited to the following points:

- Didn't hear of any development until the notice of this hearing and learned about two open houses after they happened.

- Suggest sending a direct letter to all ratepayers stating the implications and plan and tax implications.
- The financial are still not clear in respect to the rate of return on investment.
- If Metis crossing has committed \$600,000 then how is the money going to flow? The risk management seems a little weak.
- Marketing strategy analysis needed - there'll be competition for the tourism industry in Alberta.
- Our offerings may be unique, but this could be overstated a little bit.
- The MCC is largely a figurative entity at first glance but it is more, it's not well defined.
- Relationship to the tourism company – will the tourism board report to the MCC?
- What is the authority over the MCC?
- 4-5 board members that are shareholders - so then recruiting them will be challenging.
- Need to define the community advisory committee.
- Still in favour of the overall strategy.

Lorne Taylor, Smoky Lake Signal, requested clarification on the following:

- Clarify the Métis Nation of Alberta's contribution of funding.

Juanita Marois, Executive Director of Métis Crossing, **in favour** verbally provided information including but not limited to the following points:

- Tourism is an important part in Alberta's strategy.
- We have been successful, and the strategy undertaken is important in the path forward.

Points Clarification:

- ✓ The \$600,000 funding from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) does not go into the MCC – it will go into the tourism corporation.
- ✓ Staff of the MCC will be collect the opportunities and get the information to the tourism corporation.
- ✓ The heavy lifting goes to the tourism corporation.
- ✓ Rate of return will flow back through the MCC form the tourism corporation and there will be interest paid and dividends in shares.
- ✓ Allowing board members to purchase shares is a process to get skin in the game – what the amount will be and how many shares are to be determined.
- ✓ There will be code of conducts and articles and regimes in regard to Council sitting on the board and conflict of interest, so that conflicts do not exists.
- ✓ The open houses were advertised in the local newspapers, social media, websites and through posters at municipal offices as well as included in the Town's utility bills.
- ✓ MCC will be set up through a resolution of Council - and then provide notice the Minister of Municipal Affairs and then the tourism corporation will be set up through corporate registries.
- ✓ The MCC will be a minority shareholder.

- ✓ A community advisory committee will be to advise where to invest in community investments and the community fund will be funding the fund. The MCC has nothing to do with the Community Advisory Committee.
- ✓ There are Community lenders out there already like Community Futures and Western Diversification which may be utilized.
- ✓ The funds sit until someone asks for them kind of like a construction loan on a building project.
- ✓ The tourism corporation will invest in equity of the company it would be much like the Dragon's Den.

5.0 Questions and Answers

There were no further questions.

6.0 Closing Remarks

There being no further presentations, the Reeve thanked all the presenters for their comments and noted that the Town and County Councils will take all comments and feedback into consideration. The Reeve then declared the Joint Virtual Public Hearing regarding the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Business Plan, closed at 6:52 p.m.

4. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan – What we Heard Report

TSL250-21: Makowichuk That the Town of Smoky Lake Council accept the 'What we Heard' Report, dated June 2021, in respect to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan, for information.

Carried.

Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan – What we Heard Report

SLC251-21: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council accept the 'What we Heard' Report, dated June 2021, in respect to the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy's Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) Business Plan, for information.

Carried.

Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) - Resolution to Establish

TSL252-21: Makowichuk That the Town of Smoky Lake Council adopt the following resolution to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation, as a joint venture with the Smoky Lake County, for the purposes of creating a regional tourism corporation to execute the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan, in respect to Town of Smoky Lake Bylaw No. 026-2020 and forward to the Minister of Municipal Affairs as notification that a resolution has been adopted by the Town

of Smoky Lake and Smoky Lake County, and that administration work in conjunction with the administration of the Smoky Lake County to engage legal counsel to prepare the necessary documents to affect said Municipally Controlled Corporation:

A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake for the purpose of establishing a Municipally Controlled Corporation in accordance with Section 75.1 of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26, RSA 2000, and pursuant to Section 2 of the Municipally Controlled Corporation Regulation, AR 112/2018.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake has adopted Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #012-12, which promotes and encourages a wide range of tourism and heritage initiatives;

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake has adopted the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Bylaw #006-2020, a Bylaw which provides an approach to building and developing future tourism development within the Smoky Lake Region;

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake has adopted the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan Bylaw #026-2020, a Bylaw which provides further direction for implementing the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake wishes to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation as a joint venture with Smoky Lake County, for the purposes of creating a regional tourism corporation for the purposes of executing the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake does hereby provide notice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs of its intention to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation.

Carried.

Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) - Resolution to Establish

SLC253-21: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council adopt the following resolution to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation, as a joint venture with the Town of Smoky Lake, for the purposes of creating a regional tourism corporation to execute the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan, in respect to Smoky Lake County Bylaw No. 1390-20 and forward to the Minister of Municipal Affairs as notification that a resolution has been adopted by Smoky Lake County and the Town of Smoky Lake, and that administration work in conjunction with the administration of the Town of Smoky Lake to engage legal counsel to prepare the necessary documents to affect said Municipally Controlled Corporation:

A Resolution of the Council of Smoky Lake County for the purpose of establishing a Municipally Controlled Corporation in accordance with Section 75.1 of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26, RSA 2000, and pursuant to Section 2 of the Municipally Controlled Corporation Regulation, AR 112/2018.

WHEREAS, the Council of Smoky Lake County has adopted Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1249-12, which promotes and encourages a wide range of tourism and heritage initiatives;

WHEREAS, the Council of Smoky Lake County has adopted the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Bylaw No. 1372-20, a Bylaw which provides an approach to building and developing future tourism development within the Smoky Lake Region;

WHEREAS, the Council of Smoky Lake County has adopted the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan Bylaw No. 1390-20, a Bylaw which provides further direction for implementing the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of Smoky Lake County wishes to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation as a joint venture with the Town of Smoky Lake, for the purposes of creating a regional tourism corporation for the purposes of executing the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy Business Plan;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of Smoky Lake County does hereby provide notice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs of its intention to establish a Municipally Controlled Corporation.

Recorded Vote - requested by Councillor Dan Gawalko

In Favour

Johnny Cherniwchan

Lorne Halisky

Craig Lukinuk

Opposed

Randy Orichowski

Dan Gawalko

Carried.

NEXT MEETING:

The next **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council meeting will be scheduled at the call of the Chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT

J254-20: Lukinuk

That the **Smoky Lake County** and **Town of Smoky Lake** Joint Council meeting of June 8, 2021, be adjourned, time 7:04 p.m.