

To: Mayor and Council **Date:** December 20, 2021
From: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Coffee with Council Sessions

Recommendation(s)

This report is provided for information only, no action by Council is required.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the “Coffee with Council” sessions (Sessions) and confirm that the concept meets Council’s expectations.

Background

Council has made it clear that it is very interested in maximizing the opportunities for the public’s input. At its December 6, 2021 meeting, Council resolved to hold Sessions starting in 2021. This report outlines a plan for the Sessions and seeks to confirm Council’s expectations are met.

Discussion and Analysis

The Sessions would be held monthly at small local coffee shops, including but not limited to Grab-a-Java, The Penny, the Energy Wisdom and Tea Lounge, English Tarts and Amazi with advance permission from the owners. Sessions would vary in time based on opening hours of each coffee shop with some being held on weekday evenings and some on Saturday mornings or afternoons.

Staff are suggesting that 3 Councillors attend each Session with the schedule below based on alphabetical order of Council. It is important to ensure that less than 4 Councillors attend each session to avoid the chance that a legal Council meeting is convened. Councillors can swap Sessions as needed.

Month	Attending Councillors		Month	Attending Councillors
January	Crawford, Davies, Gill		June	Davies, Gill, Hamilton
February	Hamilton, Herar, Horn		July	Herar, Horn, Plecas
March	Plecas, Crawford, Davies		August	Crawford, Davies, Gill
April	Gill, Hamilton, Herar		September	Hamilton, Herar, Horn
May	Horn, Plecas, Crawford			

Staff recommend that Councillors attending each Session report out on the Session during the “Council Committee Reports” section of the agenda immediately following the Session. Attending Councillors can speak with the CAO after each session to determine whether a follow-up item has significant enough staffing or financial requirements that a Council resolution is required before actioning.

Council Goals/Objectives

This report addresses Council's strategic focus area of having an engaged community.

Financial Implications

Should Council want, funds can be taken from the Council Contingency account to cover the costs of beverages consumed by members of the public attending the Sessions to speak with Council.

Communication

Staff will begin to arrange the sessions with individual coffee shop owners and advertise in the newspaper, website and on social media.

Summary and Conclusion

Council resolved to hold Coffee with Council Sessions. This report sets out a concept of how these Sessions would unfold in terms of timing, Council attendance and location. Direction from Council is requested should the proposed concept not meet with Council's expectations.

Report Prepared by: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by: Jennifer Russell, Corporate Officer

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer