

Recommendation:

That the Council-2024-01 report, regarding regarding a community engagement event from Mayor Watson, dated October 1, 2024, be received, and that Council support the hosting of a Community Engagement Meeting this Fall in the Town Hall and further that senior municipal staff be requested to attend.

Overview:

In our ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships between the Council, staff, and the community, I propose hosting a Community Engagement Meeting this Fall at the Town Hall. This initiative is part of a broader series of community engagement events scheduled for this year, which include:

Health Care Town Hall Meeting: November 13th at the Douro Community Centre
County Tourism Round Table: October 28th at the Douro Community Centre

The Community Engagement Meeting will offer residents an informal opportunity to connect with Council Members, the new Township CAO and Department Managers on a one-to-one basis. It is designed as a space where community members can ask questions, receive answers, and express concerns. This event will help foster transparency, build trust, and provide an accessible platform for residents to engage with their elected officials and municipal services.

Details of the Proposed Meeting

Date: Possible dates:

Wednesday, November 6

Thursday, November 7

Wednesday, November 13

Thursday, November 14

Location: Town Hall

Time: 2 hours, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (exact timing to be confirmed)

The meeting will be structured as an informal "open house" format, enabling residents to move freely between conversations with Council Members and staff, ensuring a welcoming and accessible environment for all participants.

Conclusion:

The Community Engagement Meeting represents an important opportunity for our community to engage directly with Council and staff. I recommend Council support this initiative as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen communication and build stronger ties with the public.

Financial Impact:

The costs associated with hosting this event will be limited to staff time, the use of the Town Hall facility, and a small budget for refreshments.

Strategic Plan Applicability

This initiative aligns with our strategic objectives of promoting community engagement and enhancing transparency within our governance.

Service Modernization and Innovation
Modernizing, refining and innovating services for residents is essential to effectively meet the needs of our community, enhance our operational efficiency, and ensure we remain adaptable in a rapidly changing world.

Business Attraction, Expansion, and Retention
Business attraction, expansion, and retention is vital for the economic health and sustainability of our Township, such as job creation, tax revenue, investing in innovation, maintaining our quality of life, and supporting community stability.

Infrastructure Renewal
Infrastructure renewal is a critical investment for our Township as it will ensure our adherence to health and safety, economic development, investment attraction, environmental sustainability, quality of life, public confidence, and regional competitiveness.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Engagement Meeting.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 24, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mike Rutter