



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, November 27, 2020

“For Immediate Release”

Statement from The City of Humboldt on UPGRADED VIDEO CONFERENCE EQUIPMENT

Humboldt, SK – Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Humboldt implemented a “hybrid” method to conduct Council Meetings to ensure the number of attendees followed Provincial guidelines. This consisted of Administration attending via online video conferencing and Council Members physically attending in-person in Council Chambers at City Hall. Additionally, the City began live-streaming and recording the meetings so that media and the public were able to watch.

The initial video conferencing equipment the City had consisted of a low-end webcam located at the back of Council Chambers. It served the purpose, however there were issues with video and audio quality.

When it became apparent that the pandemic and group restrictions imposed by the Province would be long-term, Ann Paton, Principal Corporate Affairs of BHP reached out to the City of Humboldt and offered to include the City in an initiative to assist municipalities in the region with upgrading their conference equipment. The City graciously accepted the offer and began working with Evolution AV, an audio-video supplier, to design and install a state-of-the-art video conference system for Council Chambers in Humboldt City Hall. The equipment was installed in time for the City Council Swearing-In Ceremony held on November 23, 2020.



Some of the benefits of the system include providing the public a much-improved audio and video feed for viewing City Council Meetings online. Additionally, delegates and Administration can attend virtually and make their presentations with exceptional two-way visual and audio communications with Council. In turn, Council will be able to better hear and see virtual presentations, view agendas and other materials with ease at each of their desks. The Council meetings will continue to be live-streamed and recorded for anyone wishing to watch on-line, while now experiencing a much-improved quality of video.

The City of Humboldt would like to extend its deepest gratitude to BHP for their generosity. We encourage the public to watch future Council Meetings to stay informed about the projects that Administration is currently working on and proposing to Council, and the decisions that Council will make, and why. To view the meetings, go to <https://humboldt.ca/city-council-meetings/>.

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