



Town of Hanley

Town Forum / Open House

June 16, 2025

Town of Hanley – Town Forum

Overview and Facilitation Protocol

Prepared by: Tim Duhamel, Facilitator,

President, Bloom Centre for Municipal Education

Date: Mondy June 16, 2025

Purpose and Intent of the Town Forum

The Town of Hanley Council has organized this community forum to foster open dialogue, transparency, and shared understanding on key matters of public interest. The forum is intended to provide residents with clear, accurate, and comprehensive information regarding recent decisions made by Council, including matters involving the Agricultural Society, the code of conduct investigation, and the decision to relocate the annual rodeo.

This session is not a formal Council meeting, but rather a structured and professionally facilitated public event designed to build trust, promote respectful engagement, and provide space for residents to share questions and perspectives. It reflects Council's ongoing commitment to responsible governance, collaborative community relationships, and democratic participation.

Format of the Forum

Information Presentation (Approx. 45–60 minutes)

A comprehensive presentation will be delivered to provide background and key details on:

- The code of conduct investigation and its outcomes;
- Council's actions and resolutions in response to the investigation;
- Efforts made to engage with the Agricultural Society, including correspondence, timelines, and legal considerations;
- The rationale and context for relocating the rodeo;
- The Town's broader goals regarding transparency, legal compliance, and community well-being.

This portion of the forum is intended to ensure that the public receives accurate and complete information before the Q&A session begins. Council members will actively participate during this portion, offering remarks and clarifications to provide firsthand perspectives on the decisions made and the challenges faced. These comments will be coordinated through the facilitator to ensure clarity and flow.

Public Question and Answer Period (Approx. 45 minutes)

Following the presentation, residents will be invited to ask questions or share comments.

- The facilitator will moderate this session to ensure all participants are given a fair opportunity to speak.
- Public participants will be asked to raise their hands and will be recognized in turn.
- Each speaker will be limited to two minutes to allow for broad participation.
- Questions will be directed through the facilitator, and responses may be provided by the facilitator or by designated Council members or the Town Administrator, as appropriate.

Roles and Expectations

Facilitator's Role:

- Maintain an orderly, neutral, and respectful environment;
- Present information and manage the flow of the forum;
- Moderate the Q&A session, ensuring respectful engagement;
- Redirect off-topic or inappropriate comments as needed.

Council's Role:

- Attend as active participants and representatives of the community;
- Contribute directly to the presentation portion with comments and clarifications;
- Provide additional remarks when requested by the facilitator;
- Demonstrate accountability, professionalism, and commitment to listening;
- Avoid direct debate or argumentation with residents during the session.

Public Participation:

- Listen respectfully during the presentation portion;
- Participate during the Q&A period by raising hands and waiting to be acknowledged;
- Keep questions or comments focused and respectful;
- Understand that detailed or complex issues may be referred to staff for follow-up outside of the forum.

Rules for Engagement During the Q&A Period

To ensure a constructive and professional discussion:

- One person will speak at a time;
- All questions and comments must go through the facilitator;
- Speakers will be limited to two minutes each;
- No personal attacks or inflammatory language will be permitted;
- Interruptions of speakers, Council, or the facilitator will not be tolerated;
- The facilitator reserves the right to end the Q&A session at the allotted time or redirect dialogue if the discussion becomes disrespectful or unproductive.

Conclusion

This forum represents a meaningful opportunity for Council and the community to share, listen, and move forward. It is a reflection of the Town of Hanley's commitment to responsible leadership, community connection, and open dialogue. Council's active participation in the information-sharing portion and willingness to engage respectfully with public questions is central to this commitment. All participants are expected to engage in the spirit of mutual respect and shared interest in Hanley's continued success.