

Welland's growth discussed at roundtable

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Developers, investors and real estate agents heard about Welland's growth and economic activity, as well as programs and incentives that support development, during a roundtable meeting Thursday at city hall.

The meeting, similar to one held in April 2016, was hosted by Mayor Frank Campion and senior city staff, including Dan Degazio, director of economic development, and CAO Gary Long.

In a release, the city said the mayor and staff heard issues and concerns brought forward by the development community and discussed current real estate trends and building activity in Welland and Niagara.

"We value our working relationships with investors and developers and appreciate having their feedback as well as the confidence they've shown by contributing to the growth and long-term prosperity of Welland," said Campion in the release.

"We're very encouraged by the development activity and business investment to date, and we look forward to making positive announcements this fall," the mayor said.

Degazio said the city is experiencing strong residential growth and is anticipating the trend to continue based on building permit applications and development proposals in the queue.

"In a highly competitive global economy, we've also been able to secure close to one million square feet of new industrial development over the past 18 months," Degazio said.

The release said the city's development team, chaired by Degazio, who works closely with Campion, is focused on having a coordinated and results approach to development approvals and managing current projects.

The team comprises city staff from economic development, planning, building, fire services, engineering, finance and administration.

"Our staff are committed to a culture of service excellence and continuous improvement," said Long. "Through stakeholder engagement and dialogue, we can ensure that our programs and incentives, our planning and building standards, and our service levels, are aligned with the expectations and requirements of the development community."