

# **Town of Drumheller**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**



**April 19, 2004** 5:30 PM Council Chambers, Town Hall  
703 - 2nd Ave. West, Drumheller, Alberta

#### **PRESENT:**

**MAYOR:**

Paul Ainscough

**COUNCIL:**

Don Cunningham

Larry Davidson

Brent Pedersen

John Sparling

Harry Stables

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ENGINEER:**

Ray Romanetz

**DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:**

Wes Yeoman

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:**

Michael Minchin

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

Diana Meller

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Linda Handy

**ABSENT:** Councillor Karen Ann Bertamini

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Brent Pedersen was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for the months of May and June, 2004.

#### **2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS**

2.1 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Hon. Lorne Taylor, Minister of Environment in response to the Mayors and Reeves Network's concerns regarding the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management planning process and the management of the Red Deer River Basin.

2.2 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Municipal

Affairs in response to the Town's concerns on the 2004 education property tax requisition. He explained that for 2004, the province has reduced its uniform education property tax rate by about 2.3 percent. However, since there has been strong growth in the provincial assessment base, the province will collect 5.7 percent more school property tax revenue this year than last year.

2.3 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Municipal Affairs announcing a grant of \$4,000 for high speed internet access.

2.4 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Mr. Stu Becker, P. Eng., Regional Director, Alberta Transportation regarding the 2004 Streets Improvement Program. Based on the 2003 official population of 7,785, the Town of Drumheller will receive a grant of \$60.00 per capita which equates to \$467,100 for 2004.

2.5 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Mr. Dan Gordon, President, Drumheller Stampede & Agricultural Society thanking the Town of Drumheller for their assistance in providing equipment and labour for the Society's major projects in 2003.

2.6 Mayor P. Ainscough announced that the Town of Brooks will be hosting the Mayors and Reeves Golf Tournament to be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Brooks. He asked the Councillors to indicate their interest.

2.7 Mayor P. Ainscough announced the dates for Bike Week have been moved to July 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. The organizers of the event would appreciate any in kind support from the Town. He further noted that several community groups have expressed their support for Bike Week.

### **3.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Additions to the Agenda: 2.7 Bike Week; 14.1 Councillor D. Cunningham and 14.2 Councillor B. Pedersen

Deletion to the Agenda: 15.5 Tabled to May 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting

**MO2004.96** Davidson, Sparling moved the adoption of the agenda as amended. Cd.

#### **5.0 MINUTES**

5.1.1 ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – April 5, 2004

Councillor L. Davidson stated that he was absent for this meeting. He asked that the record be corrected to reflect this.

**MO2004.97** Cunningham, Stables moved the adoption of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2004 as amended. Cd.

#### **5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION**

#### **5.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

## **6.0 DELEGATIONS**

### **6.1 Linda Lacher – 2004 Drumheller Composite High School Safe Grad**

Nicky Samual, a grad parent and nurse spoke on behalf of the Grad Committee. She shared some of her emergency room experiences involving the deaths of past graduates. She stated that she does not condone under age drinking however she wants a safe party for the graduates. She asked Council for their support in finding a suitable venue for a safe grad party.

Katelyn Crosbie, spokesperson for the 2004 graduates stated that there are three basic reasons for the purpose of a safe grad party: 1) a safe grad party should be held at one location - if there is not a single location for the party there may be 10 – 15 smaller parties held within the hills, basements, etc. and grads will travel from one party to the next, some may disregard the fact that they are intoxicated. 2) a safe grad party will control drinking and drug use, with proper supervision. There will be more control over alcohol poisoning, driving under the influence, possible drug use, and other poor choices. 3) a safe grad party provides protection. She asked Council to make the right decision for the graduates.

#### **Questions / Comments from Council:**

Councillor J. Sparling asked if there will be under aged teenagers consuming alcohol? N. Samual confirmed yes. Councillor Sparling stated that the Town would like to offer a venue for a safe grad party however there is no provision for insurance coverage if there are under aged teenagers consuming alcohol at a Town owned facility. He further stated that last year Council made an unanimous decision that the safe grad party not be held on Town property. He further stated that the Town can not support the safe grad party on the basis that Council would be putting public funds at risk if an incident arose on Town property. Councillor L. Davidson asked why there is an emphasis on drinking at the grad party? He recommended the graduates hold a dry party. K. Crosbie stated that it is not just a matter of legalities but that the Town has an opportunity to protect teenagers because they have been made aware that a party is going to happen – *“this is an opportunity to control us and protect us - choose the lesser of two evils – legalities or a drinking and driving accident.”* Councillor Stables stated that he sympathizes with the graduates’ dilemma however he offered Council’s support in other ways as Council can not support something illegal. N. Samual asked how other communities are handling their safe grad parties? Councillor J. Sparling stated in previous years the event was held at the Stampede Barn, which is Town property, however this is no longer acceptable. Mayor Ainscough stated that on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Mayors and Reeves Network met and one item of discussion was how other communities were handling safe grads. He further stated that the general consensus was that if there were under aged teenagers drinking, the municipalities were not able to offer their facilities. N. Samual stated that the dry grad party suggestion was excellent however there is not enough time to plan the event now – planning for a dry grad party would have to begin in September. N. Samual stated that she understands Council’s position however the Committee wanted Council to be aware of the graduates’ difficulties in finding a venue.

Spokespersons for the Safe Grad Committee, N. Samual and K. Crosbie were thanked for their presentation.

## 6.2 RCMP Quarterly Report

Cpl. Cooper and Cpl. Lavelle presented the quarterly report for the period January to March 31, 2004 in comparison to last year's quarter for the same period. Cpl. Lavelle provided the following statistics for Council's information:

- Crimes against persons (assaults) reported in 2004 - 18 cases with clearance rate of 83% compared to 2003 - 21 cases with clearance rate of 59%;
- Theft of automobiles reported in 2004 - 8 cases with clearance rate of 88% compared to 2003 - 5 with clearance rate of 25%;
- Theft under \$5000 reported in 2004 - 39 cases with clearance rate of 35% compared to 2003 - 55 with clearance rate of 24%;
- Property damage reported in 2004 - 26 cases with clearance rate of 35% compared to 2003 - 39 cases with 18% clearance rate.

Cpl. Cooper stated that the detachment is pleased with the clearance rate on these cases. He further stated that there are other areas where the reported cases have increased and the clearance rates have decreased - they are attempting to improve in these areas. He noted that traffic and municipal bylaw statistics are considerably down. He explained that more man power and investigation time is required for other incidents, such as the murder and riots at the Institution, stolen vehicles and an armed robbery at the Octane. He further noted that the Town can expect an increase for overtime in the amount of 400 plus hours for the last quarter. He explained that the murder at the Institution required that other outside agencies assist with the investigation which resulted in overtime hours. Cpl. Cooper stated that low traffic statistics may be the result of poor weather as well. He further noted that the detachment will be seeking the assistance of the Strathmore Highway Services in the near future.

### Questions/Comments from Council:

Mayor P. Ainscough asked if the detachment experienced any staff shortages during the first quarter? R. Romanetz noted that the Town recently received the first quarter invoice for policing services and it reflects a cost for eight members. Mayor Ainscough further noted that assisting the Institution with court appearances is a requirement for RCMP members within the Province of Alberta only. He noted that this is not the case in other provinces. Cpl. Cooper stated that Council has to get answers for this requirement from the Province. Mayor Ainscough stated that any decrease in traffic fines is a concern as this revenue is required to offset policing costs. He noted that the decline has been consistent for the last two or three years.

Councillor L. Davidson stated that there needs to be more visibility of the members throughout the community. Cpl. Cooper explained that the detachment receives an

average of ten calls per shift for the two members that are on call plus they are required to assist with over the counter concerns. Cpl. Lavelle noted it also appears that the nature of complaints demanded more time over those complaints of the last quarter. As well, there is an average of thirty to forty investigational files to be worked on when the officers are not answering calls. Cpl. Cooper reiterated that the detachment has no control over staffing issues. Councillor H. Stables asked if the Town should be acquiring another officer? Cpl. Cooper stated that hiring of another officer will not eliminate the overtime.

Councillor L. Davidson asked for an update on the vacancy of the Staff Sgt. Cpl. Cooper stated that he has no update other than the selection has been short listed to five. He further advised that Mayor Ainscough will be contacted for the interview process.

Cpls. Cooper and Lavelle were thanked for their presentation.

## **7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS**

#### **8.1 CAO**

##### **8.1.1 RFD – EOG Resources Canada Ltd.**

R. Romanetz advised that EOG Resources Canada Ltd. is requesting leniency to allow for drilling of four directional sweet gas wells from two existing well sites on the Valley floor along Hwy 10 (towards East Coulee). He further noted that the drilling time is proposed to be 3-5 days in duration at each site with project completion in 2-3 weeks. He noted that the Municipal Development Plan indicates that drilling on the Valley floor be strongly discouraged and that any drilling should be at the top of the escarpment. The Municipal Planning Commission has recommended approval however they also note that there are some extenuating circumstances for EOG Resources. The MPC does not wish to set precedent for other drilling activity on the Valley floor therefore they will apply specific conditions to mitigate any concerns. Although the municipality has an opportunity to provide input the final decision rests with the EUB.

**MO2004.98** Pedersen, Stables that Council allow EOG Resources to proceed with their drilling project of four directional sweet gas wells from two existing well sites located at LSD 04, SW ¼ Sec 07 Twp 28 Rge 18-W4M and LSD 06, SW ¼ Sec 14 Twp 28 Rge 19-W4M as recommended by the Municipal Planning Commission and Palliser Regional Municipal Services.

#### **Discussion on Motion:**

Councillor D. Cunningham asked the depth of the drill. R. Romanetz advised the depth of both wells would be less than 5000 ft. Councillor L. Davidson expressed concerns with approving EOG's proposal for drilling. He referenced a grass fire in Rosedale that was close to a wellsite and the serious ramifications which may have resulted if the fire was not controlled. He further noted that the area to be drilled is prime land for potential

development and this may now impact the saleability of the land. R. Romanetz reiterated that if this was a new drilling location, the Municipal Planning Commission would not recommend approval. Councillor H. Stables stated that EOG will not be disturbing any further land than at the existing sites. He further noted a similar situation in Midlandvale several years ago. He explained that the MPC and the residents did not support the proposal; the EUB overruled MPC's decision and granted permission for drilling from an existing site. Councillor L. Davidson noted that an alternative approach would be to drill from the top of escarpment. R. Romanetz advised that this option was discussed however EOG stated that it would be difficult and cost prohibitive.

Vote on Motion:  
Cd.

#### 8.1.2 Information – Joint AUMA / AAMD&C Urban / Rural Cost Sharing Report

R. Romanetz presented the Joint AUMA / AAMD&C Urban / Rural Cost Sharing Report. He advised that the report recommends a number of areas where urban and rural municipalities should work together in the development of cost sharing arrangements. He further noted that presentations on this report will be given at each of the four AUMA regional seminars – the CAO and Mayor will attend on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Red Deer. Following this date, Council will receive a further update.

#### 8.1.3 Information – Notice of Golden Hills School Division Facilities Review Meetings

R. Romanetz presented a notice from Golden Hills School Division which announces a public meeting on the facilities review. Drumheller's meeting will be held April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Drumheller Composite High School.

#### 8.1.4 Information – Landfill Hours

R. Romanetz presented the new schedule of hours for the Drumheller Landfill. He explained that the Landfill Contract was recently retendered and the hourly rate has increased significantly. As well, the requirements under the new approval dictate that whenever waste is brought into the landfill the contractor must be on site to cover the solid waste at the end of the day. He further explained that the Association has been trying to get a relaxation to this requirement for the winter months, however they have not been successful yet. He stated that the Nuisance Management Report was submitted to Alberta Environment and a meeting has been arranged to discuss this report and other requirements. Due to these costly requirements, the Association had no other option but to reduce the hours. He further noted that after consideration at the Association's last meeting, they agreed to extend the landfill hours to 7:00 PM on Wednesdays – the contractor will adjust his hours to accommodate the new schedule. R. Romanetz further advised that the majority of complaints received to date on reduced hours at the landfill concern the closure of Sundays. He further noted that after conducting an extensive survey of landfills across the Province, many landfills have a similar schedule of hours to that of the Town's.

Councillor L. Davidson stated that the Town's Community in Blooms is encouraging the public to clean up their properties and the reduced hours at the landfill may cause a problem for some people. R. Romanetz stated that the Association considered the impact of reduced hours on the public however to go beyond the hours proposed would be logistically difficult and very costly.

In response to a question, R. Romanetz advised that the Association introduced an unsecured load policy at their last meeting – all loads brought to the landfill must be secured, not necessarily tarped. T. Nygaard, DDSWMA Co-ordinator, will publish an advertisement in the newspaper advising the public of this new requirement. There will be an education period for the public before the policy will be fully implemented.

Councillor H. Stables asked that the implementation of a composting program be revisited as this may reduce the bags of grass brought to the landfill. R. Romanetz noted that the Association has received a grant for installing containers for tire recycling and it is hopeful that this program will be expanded to include bins located away from the active face so as to reduce the hours that the contractor needs to be at the landfill. This matter will be discussed with Alberta Environment.

## **8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services**

### **8.3 Director of Corporate Services**

#### **8.3.1 RFD – Extension of Deadline for Payment of Business Taxes**

M. Minchin stated that as part of the annual budget and assessment process the Town sends out a business tax notice. The timeline used in the Business Tax Bylaw places a deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> for both the payment of business taxes as well as the deadline for receiving a discount on the payment of business taxes. He explained that a number of factors have prevented Administration from meeting the timeframes, being the Province has experienced delays in signing off property assessments. The 2004 property assessment roll was only uploaded to the Province this past week. Administration is recommending that Council extend the deadlines to June 30, 2004.

**MO2004.99** Sparling, Davidson that Council extend the deadline for payment of the 2004 Business Taxes from April 30<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Furthermore, that Council extend the deadline for discount on payment of business taxes to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Cd.

## **8.4 Director of Community Services**

## **9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION**

**Quarterly Reports for the period January 1 to March 31, 2004 were presented by:**

9.1 CAO

9.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

- 9.3 Director of Corporate Services
- 9.4 Director of Community Services

## **10.0 PUBLIC HEARING DECISIONS**

## **11.0 DELEGATION DECISIONS**

## **12.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **13.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

## **14.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

14.1 Councillor D. Cunningham advised that he and Councillor H. Stables attended the Not for Profit Organization Workshop sponsored by ATCO Electric in Forestburg on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. He provided statistics on volunteerism and fundraising. Councillors Cunningham and Stables thanked Council for the opportunity to attend.

14.2 Councillor B. Pedersen advised that Mr. Kevin Sorensen, MP for Crowfoot Constituency toured the Sunshine Lodge and he was impressed with the facility. He further noted that the lodge is fully occupied. He stated that construction is progressing on the older section of the lodge with the conversion of the single suites to double. A grand opening will be held in the near future.

**15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2004.100** Cunningham, Pedersen to go in camera at 7:30 PM. Cd.

- 15.1 CUPE Local 4604 Memorandum of Settlement
- 15.2 Drumheller Fire Department – Capital Equipment Request
- 15.3 River Bend Adventures
- 15.4 Hwy 9 and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East Intersection
- 15.5 878947 Alberta Ltd. - Revitalization Corporation

**MO2004.101** Pedersen, Cunningham to revert back to regular Council meeting at 9:00 PM. Cd.

15.1 CUPE Local 4604 Memorandum of Settlement

**MO2004.102** Davidson, Pedersen approve the memorandum of settlement between the Town of Drumheller and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local #4604 (Inside Workers Bargaining Unit) for the 2004 and 2005 calendar years. Cd.

15.2 Drumheller Fire Department – Capital Equipment Request

**MO2004.103** Sparling, Cunningham authorize the amount of \$12,200.00 towards the purchase of thermal imaging camera and accessories for the Drumheller Fire Department. Cd.



There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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MAYOR

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER