

Town of Drumheller

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**February 9, 2004** 5:30 PM Council Chambers, Town Hall

703 - 2nd Ave. West , Drumheller , Alberta

**PRESENT:**

**MAYOR:**

Paul Ainscough

**COUNCIL:**

Karen Bertamini

Don Cunningham

Larry Davidson

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:

Corinne Macdonald

**ABSENT:** COUNCIL:

Brent Pedersen

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 P.M.**

**2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS**

**2.1 The Kidney Foundation – March Drive Annual Residential Door to Door Campaign**

Mayor P. Ainscough proclaimed the month of March as Kidney Health Month. The Kidney Foundation will be conducting its Annual March Drive from March 1 to 16, 2004 .

**2.2 Marigold Library System – Mayor P. Ainscough proclaimed February 22 – 28, 2004 as Freedom to Read Week.**

**2.3 Alberta Transportation – Community Airport Program**

Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Alberta Transportation, regarding the Community Airport Program grant in the amount of \$313,002.91, which represents the final payment for the Pavement Overlay and Major Crack Repairs project.

**2.4 March 18, 2004 Big Country Victim Services Week**

Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Big Country Victim Services advising that they will be celebrating their tenth anniversary on March 18, 2004 . Mayor P. Ainscough proclaimed the week of March 18, 2004 as Big Country Victim Services Week.

## 2.5 Homestead Antique Museum

Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter advising that the Homestead Antique Museum is applying for a grant from Museum Alberta to carry out a Family History Project. The project is to create a simple record with a short story attached about as many of the families in Drumheller as possible. The Homestead Antique Museum is looking for a letter of support.

## 2.6 Alberta Transportation – Highway 9 Major Maintenance Project in Drumheller

Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Alberta Transportation advising of funding in the amount of \$255,582.22, which represents full payment for the Highway 9 Major Maintenance project. This payment includes reimbursement of the 3% GST for services related to this project.

## 2.7 Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 17th

Mayor P. Ainscough advised that a number of Councillors will be unable to attend the February 17, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting. He recommended that due to a lack of quorum the meeting will be cancelled.

## 3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

3.1 Proposed Amendment to Land Use Bylaw No. 36-98 – The purpose is to consider an application to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 36-98 Schedule A, the Land Use District Map by redesignating Lots B, C, D & E, Block 1, Plan 7611000 from “C-1” – Local Commercial District to “SCR” – Suburb Community Residential District.

Mayor Ainscough asked if there were any written submission. Recording Secretary, C. Macdonald advised there were no submissions.

Mayor Ainscough asked if anyone was present to speak in favour or against the proposal. There were no speakers.

Mayor Ainscough closed the Public Hearing at 4:45 PM .

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

Additions to Agenda: 2.7 February 17, 2004 Committee of the Whole Meeting; 8.1.5 to be considered under 10.1 Bylaw 01-04 Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 36.98; 14.3 Citizens on Patrol; 14.4 Homestead Antique Museum and 15.1 Offer to Purchase

**MO2004.38** Davidson, Sparling moved the adoption of the agenda as amended. Cd.

#### **5.0 MINUTES**

##### **5.1.1 ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 26, 2004**

**MO2004.39** Stables, Cunningham moved the adoption of the minutes of Regular Council meeting of January 26, 2004. Cd.

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

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

#### **6.0 DELEGATIONS**

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

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

##### **8.1 CAO**

##### **8.1.1 Bylaw 07-04 Water & Sewer Rate Bylaw**

R. Romanetz provided information on the Water & Sewer Rate Bylaw. He advised that Administration is recommending that water rates increase by 3.1%, which would create a surplus of \$21,000; sewer rates would increase 3.5% across the board creating a surplus of \$5,000. The

water base rate would increase from \$24.70 to \$25.50 per month and the cost for the overage would increase to \$5.00 per 1000 gallons.

Council was provided with a \$0.75 per month flat rate increase alternative for residential sewer customers.

R. Romanetz also advised that Campbell Ryder is completing a Rate Review Study, which will recommend changes to the current water and sewer rates. This report will be presented to Council for their consideration in 30 – 60 days.

M. Minchin noted that the East Coulee and Rosedale Plants continue to operate at a deficit. It was noted that there are discrepancies in the commercial rates with some customers in one service area paying more than similar customers in the other service areas. Once the Rosedale force main is constructed and tied into the Drumheller Plant and operates as one system then the sewer rates would be harmonized.

Councillor J. Sparling asked for clarification on what Administration is proposing. R. Romanetz advised that the proposal presents an increase of 3.1% for water and that two options are presented for sewer rates - one being a uniformed 3.5% across the board or alternatively a \$0.75 per month increase for residential sewer users.

**MO2004.40** Sparling, Stables that Council approve in principle the 2004 water & sewer rates as presented by Administration.

Discussion on Motion:

Councillor L. Davidson advised that he would like to see the Study from Campbell Ryder before approving these rates.

Councillor K. Bertamini noted that it is frustrating that the Rate Review Study has not been presented to Council. She inquired as to whether the difference in rates was related to the fact that the Town has customers serviced by three separately licensed and independent sewer treatment plants. R. Romanetz advised that this rate structure was approved by the previous Council for the three separate plants. R. Romanetz noted that the Rate Review Study may recommend a rate structure that is totally different than what is currently in place.

Councillor L. Davidson noted that a flat rate increase was implemented last year across the board.

Councillor D. Cunningham indicated that he would support a flat rate increase.

Councillor K. Bertamini noted that the difference between the two proposals is about a \$1.50 per year per residential sewer connection.

Councillor L. Davidson requested a friendly amendment to **MO2004.40** to approve in principle the water & sewer rates at a flat rate increase of \$0.75 per month for all residential customers.

Amendment to Motion refused by Councillor J. Sparling.

M. Minchin noted that Administration wanted direction on this matter from Council prior to the introduction of the Bylaw.

Councillor K. Bertamini advised that she is in favour of the motion to increase water by 3.1% and sewer by 3.5% across the board.

Councillor L. Davidson asked for a recorded vote.

Vote on Motion **MO2004.40**

4 – in favour Stables, Sparling, Bertamini, Ainscough.

2 - against Davidson, Cunningham.

Cd.

**MO2004.41** Bertamini, Sparling moved first reading to Bylaw 07-04. Cd.

**MO2004.42** Stables, Sparling moved second reading to Bylaw 07-04. Cd.

**MO2004.43** Bertamini, Stables moved no objections to third reading to Bylaw 07-04.

Motion defeated as Motion must be unanimous to proceed to third reading.

#### 8.1.2 Bylaw 08-04 Amendment to 04-04 Borrowing Bylaw

R. Romanetz advised that at the last Council meeting three readings were given to Borrowing Bylaw 04-04, the Town has since been advised that information received was inaccurate and should include equal annual installments over a period of five (5) years rather than four (4). M. Minchin advised that the Alberta Capital Finance Authority is actually borrowing the money to lend to us; they need to match the money they are borrowing and are using a five (5) year term for their instalments.

**MO2004.44** Bertamini, Davidson moved first reading to Bylaw 08-04. Cd.

**MO2004.45** Stables, Cunningham moved second reading to Bylaw 08-04. Cd.

**MO2004.46** Bertamini, Sparling moved no objections to third reading to Bylaw 08-04. Cd

**MO2004.47** Davidson, Stables moved third reading to Bylaw 08-04. Cd.

#### 8.1.3 2004 Interim Budget

R. Romanetz reported that although Council has authorized the CAO to pay all proper charges against the municipality it is more accountable to have an Interim Budget approved by Council. He advised that the final Operating and Capital Budgets should be presented to Council for their consideration in early March.

**MO2004.48** Sparling, Bertamini that Council adopt the Town of Drumheller's 2004 Interim Operating Budget as presented. Cd.

Councillor L. Davidson noted that we can expect approximately \$160,000 from the proposed Federal GST refund, about a split of 50/50 between capital and operating. R. Romanetz advised that Council would have the opportunity to change the budget prior to final adoption.

#### 8.1.4 Downtown Revitalization – Muni 2004

R. Romanetz and D. Meller met with members from the Downtown Revitalization Committee and Urban Systems. Urban Systems are professionals specializing in redeveloping downtown areas. R. Romanetz suggested that the \$120,000 Muni 2004 grant approved by the Province would be used to complete a master plan, identify priorities and implement the recommended improvements. It was agreed that a Steering Committee be established to review the reports from the Consultants and also to provide public input.

Recommendations identified in the Downtown Redevelopment Area Structure Plan were reviewed and included providing linkage from Centennial Park to the downtown area and signage to direct individuals to the downtown area. A major recommendation which is very preliminary is to develop a Town plaza which could include a gazebo and washrooms to service any special events in the downtown. The Town may partner with DRCDT to look at options for redeveloping older buildings and installing streetscape improvements, such as, islands, crosswalks, and benches.

Discussion followed on who should sit on the Steering Committee. It was agreed that representation be from the public-at-large, the business community, and 2 or 3 members from the Municipal Planning Commission. Community information meetings will be held to obtain public input.

R. Romanetz advised that the Consultants will present a preliminary report by the end of February. The Steering Committee will need to meet three to four times and should complete their responsibilities by mid-June to ensure that any capital improvements that are recommended can be incorporated into the Town's Street Improvement Program.

## **8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services**

## **8.3 Director of Corporate Services**

### **8.3.1 Investments Review for 2003**

M. Minchin presented the Investments Review for 2003 for information purposes. He noted that there are changes to some of the investments in the portfolio; returns on bonds are at 3% - 4% and not 7% - 8% yield that was achieved over the past few years.

### **8.3.2 RFD Appointments to the Assessment Review Board**

M. Minchin presented a RFD for an extension to the term of the 2003 Town of Drumheller Assessment Review Board. The current term of the Board members expired on December 31,



2003 . He has contacted the current Board members to inquire if they would be willing to hear the 2003 Supplementary Assessment Appeal. The previous members were all willing to sit on the Board.

**MO2004.49** Sparling, Bertamini that Council appoint Mayor Paul Ainscough, Councillor Larry Davidson, Councillor Harry Stables and members at large Mr. Mike Bell and Mr. Trevor Gough to the Town of Drumheller's Assessment Review Board for purposes of hearing the Town's 2003 Supplementary Assessment Appeals. Cd.

### 8.3.3 GST Rebate for Municipalities

M. Minchin reported that changes to the GST rebate are a significant move on the part of the Federal Government. The Town will receive 100% of the GST rebates versus 57.14% on expenses related to exempt services. The bulk of services provided by the Town are GST exempt; such as roads and infrastructure services, water and sewer services, permits, parks, etc. The Town currently receives GST rebates on pool and arena admissions, cemetery services, airport fuel, etc. Under the proposed Federal change, the Town's GST rebate would increase by \$160,000; \$81,000 would be related to capital expenditures and \$79,000 related to operating expenses. The 2004 Operating and Capital Budgets does not include this additional funding as the changes to the Excise Tax has not been implemented by the Federal Government as yet.

## 8.4 Director of Community Services

## 9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

(Quarterly Reports due April, 2004)

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

10.1 Bylaw 01-04 Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 36.98

**MO2004.50** Stables, Cunningham moved second reading to Bylaw 01-04. Cd.

**MO2004.51** Cunningham, Sparling moved third reading to Bylaw 01-04. Cd.

## **11.0 DELEGATION DECISIONS**

## **12.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **13.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

## **14.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

14.1 Mayor P. Ainscough – Town of Lac La Biche – R.C.M.P. Equitable Police Funding Formula and General Discussion Relating to Police Services in Drumheller

Mayor P. Ainscough asked for Council authorization to support the options outlined in the letter from Lac La Biche regarding an Equitable Police Funding Formula.

Councillor K. Bertamini noted that AUMA have put considerable effort into recommendations relating to the provision of police services and suggests that the Town continue to work with AUMA.

Councillor L. Davidson reported that the Solicitor General has not taken action on a number of reports for some time. He agrees with working through the AUMA but wonders whether they will act on a timely basis.

Councillor D. Cunningham noted that the Town does not necessarily share the same concerns as Three Hills and Lac La Biche, but the issue of police cost is a concern because of the Federal Penitentiary being located in Drumheller.

R. Romanetz advised that we need some financial assistance and need to get the Provincial Government on side.

Councillor L. Davidson suggested that we should invite our MLA to a Council meeting to discuss our concerns. Councillor K. Bertamini stated that the policing issue should be on the next Mayors and Reeves meeting agenda.

Mayor P. Ainscough noted that he will be attending the meeting in Nisku on February 17th and wanted direction from Council beforehand.

Mayor P. Ainscough asked for comments regarding the provision of Police Services within Drumheller. He asked if Council wanted the Mayor and the CAO to meet with K-Division to voice our concerns about local policing issues. Councillor H. Stables suggested that the meeting is a must, as the meeting in Nisku is trying to get more funding from Province rather than dealing with local issues.

R. Romanetz suggested that Council provide the Mayor with a list of their issues to be included in the meeting with the RCMP K-Division.

#### 14.2 Councillor L. Davidson - Red Deer River Weir

Councillor L. Davidson advised that he was asked about a weir on the Red Deer River and thanked Administration for the report. He noted that some times there is only a small trickle of water in the river and the dam is used for their Provincial recreational purposes. He noted some issues in the Report - one being the sediment load.

Councillor J. Sparling advised that the costs involved would have been prohibitive even in the 1980's when the report was prepared.

R. Romanetz advised that Alberta Environment has been asked for input regarding the construction of a weir. The siltation pattern would change very quickly causing significant problems at our river intake. The most significant issue is that the Province has spent millions of dollars to construct the dyke program. The weir would increase the level of the 1 to 100 flood plain. Approval would have to be received from Navigational Canada and Fisheries & Oceans along with an Environmental Impact Study that could cost in excess of \$.5M. Engineers from Environment are prepared to address this proposal in detail if requested. Alberta Environment noted that because of current government policy, it is their view that the construction of a weir on the Red Deer River would not be a high priority.

Councillor H. Stables advised that he agrees with getting more recreation for our area. However, getting water into Fish Lake is more feasible and we should be putting our efforts into this area.

R. Romanetz noted that due to the flat gradient and very significant silt load, the Red Deer River is not conducive to the construction of a weir.

#### 14.3 Citizens on Patrol

Councillor H. Stables presented a report on the current Drumheller Citizens on Patrol group. It was formed four years ago and there are twenty-four active members. They usually carry out patrols on the weekends and provide patrols for special events. In 2003 they conducted ninety-four patrols, travelled some 7,600 kms, and volunteers contributed approximately 975 hours. On behalf of the Citizens on Patrol Members he passed on his appreciation to Council and Administration for their support.

Councillor D. Cunningham asked if the group was active in the former M.D. Councillor H. Stables advised that he personally does not go to East Coulee on regular basis however he has gone to Wayne and Rosedale and if his attendance is required. Other members will patrol East Coulee when required.

Mayor P. Ainscough asked Councillor Stables to extend Council's appreciation to members of the group.

#### 14.4 Homestead Museum

**MO2004.52** Bertamini, Davidson moved that a letter of support be sent for the Homestead Museum's project. Cd.

**15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS – MO2004.53** - Stables, Cunningham to go in camera at 7:24 P.M.

#### 15.1 Offer to Purchase

**MO2004.54** Cunningham, Stables to revert back to regular Council meeting at 7:30 P.M.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

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MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER