

Town of Drumheller

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**February 23, 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

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 Brent Pedersen

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Larry Davidson was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for the months of March and April, 2004

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

2.1 Mayor Ainscough presented a letter from Mayor Ernie Patterson, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association which draws attention to several concerns regarding the 2004 Equalized Assessment. Mayor Patterson states that the 2004 Equalized Assessment increase will impact the education requisitions for municipalities if the Province maintains the mill rate at its current level. He further states in his letter that the capping policy on municipalities with substantial growth will only transfer the burden of increased payments to other municipalities not experiencing the same growth levels.

**MO2004.57** Bertamini, Davidson that a letter be forward to Premier Ralph Klein stating that Council supports the position of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association that the Provincial Education Tax has to be substantially reduced in the upcoming Provincial budget. Cd.

Councillor K. Bertamini asked that the letter be forwarded to Hon. Shirley McClellan, MLA, Deputy Premier and Hon. Pat Nelson, Minister of Finance.

2.2 Mayor Ainscough presented a letter from Randy Bertrand, Manger of Economic Development, Town of Devon , which expresses appreciation to the Town of Drumheller for

hosting their group. They were provided with a tour of downtown core and information on Drumheller's downtown revitalization improvements over the last number of years.

### **3.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Additions to agenda include: **14.3 Councillor K. Bertamini - Affordable Housing; 14.4 Councillor K. Bertamini – Library Update and 15.3 DAB Concerns**

**MO2004.58** Bertamini, Stables moved the adoption of the agenda as amended. Cd.

Councillor J. Sparling asked that the media's recording device be removed from the table as they are in attendance to take notes. Mayor Ainscough asked for a consensus on the matter. Council agreed to remove the recording device from the Council table.

### **5.0 MINUTES**

#### **5.1.1 ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 9, 2004**

Councillor H. Stables noted that under Item 8.1.1 he did not refuse the amendment to MO2004.40 he asked that the name be changed to Councillor J. Sparling. Councillor J. Sparling agreed.

**MO2004.59** Stables, Sparling moved the adoption of the minutes of Regular Council meeting of February 9, 2004 as amended. Cd.

#### **5.1.2 ADOPTION OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 12, 2004**

Mayor P. Ainscough noted that the word "defeated" should be moved after the discussion on **MO2004.55**. Council agreed.

**MO2004.60** Davidson, Sparling moved the adoption of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting as amended. Cd.

## 5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

### 5.2.1 Municipal Planning Commission – January 15, 2004

## 5.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor L. Davidson referred to Item 5.1 of the Municipal Planning Commission minutes and requested an update. R. Romanetz advised that EOG will meet with the Municipal Planning Commission on February 26th to present their proposal for drilling a gas well on the valley floor. The MPC's recommendations will be forwarded to Council for their review.

## 6.0 DELEGATIONS

## 7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

## 8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

### 8.1 CAO

#### 8.1.1 Bylaw 11.04 to amend Bylaw 06.98 "Water Services Bylaw"

R. Romanetz present Bylaw 11.04 which proposes to increase water rates by 3.2% overall. He recommended that Council proceed to all three readings.

**MO2004.61** Davidson, Cunningham moved first reading to Bylaw 11.04. Cd.

**MO2004.62** Cunningham, Stables moved second reading to Bylaw 11.04. Cd.

**MO2004.63** Bertamini, Sparling moved no objection to third readings. Cd.

**MO2004.64** Stables, Davidson for third reading to Bylaw 11.04. Cd.

#### 8.1.2 RFD North Drumheller Dyke C Project

R. Romanetz advised there was not sufficient funding available to complete the entire North Drumheller Dyke C Project in 2002. Alberta Environment in co-operation with Alberta Transportation proposes to start construction of phase two of the Dyke "C" Flood Protection

Project in 2004. The phase two project will be from the Red Deer River Bridge downstream approximately 350 metres and will involve the construction of a berm 1-2 metres high with considerable riprapping to prevent further bank erosion. A portion of the land is owned by Starland County. The completion of Dyke "C" is the final phase to provide flood protection to the properties situated in North Drumheller. The project will be fully funded and managed by the Province of Alberta. At this point, the Town and Starland County has met with representatives from Alberta Transportation and Environment along with their Engineering Consultant, Mack, Slack & Associates. Alberta Transportation would like to start with the regulatory approvals supplication for the project. They are requesting a letter from the Town and the County giving upland landowner consent for the dyke construction. Starland County has already indicated their support for the project. Although the design and scope of the project had been reviewed with the property owners when the project was originally put forward, the Town intends to hold a public information meeting to address any concerns with the dyke project. Following the public information meeting, the Province will move forward with the flood protection improvements. The province intends to complete the work this year subject to their budget approval.

**MO2004.65** Stables, Davidson that Council for the Town of Drumheller gives consent, as the uplands owner of Alberta Transportation's proposed Drumheller Dyke "C" bank protection work to proceed as proposed. Cd.

#### 8.1.3 Wayne Rally

R. Romanetz presented estimated costs from Cpl. D. Cooper to police the Wayne Rally as per Council's request. He noted that the costs for policing the Wayne Rally last year were paid by the Town. He further stated that Council may wish to establish a policy to provide direction on dealing with this event or other events in the future. Council requested a meeting with Cpl. Cooper to review detailed costs from last year. An in camera meeting will be arranged for the next Council Committee meeting.

### 8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

### 8.3 Director of Corporate Services

#### 8.3.1 RFD Assessment Services Contract

M. Minchin advised that the Town's current assessment services contract with Wild Rose Assessment Services expires on March 31, 2004. A Request for Proposal was sent out to private assessment companies in Alberta that were registered as municipal assessors with the Alberta Assessors' Association, posted on the Town's website and posted on the MERX system. Two proposals were received with the lower bid received from Wild Rose Assessment Services in the amount of \$302,000.00 over five years. M. Minchin noted that the annual contract price, although higher than the 2003 budget, is still well below Administration's estimates for 2004.

The average annual cost is \$60,400, although the actual price is on a progressive scale for each year of the contract. He recommended that Council award the five year contract to Wild Rose Assessment Services.

**MO2004.66** Davidson, Sparling that Council award the Town of Drumheller 2004-2009 Property Assessment Services Contract to Wild Rose Assessment Services of Red Deer Alberta for the contract price of \$302,000 excluding GST. Cd.

Clarification on the Motion:

Councillor K. Bertamini asked if there was a small percentage increase each year. M. Minchin confirmed that there is a progressive flat rate increase each year.

Vote on Motion: Cd.

#### 8.3.2 Financial Statements to January 31, 2004

M. Minchin presented the Financial Statements to January 31, 2004 for Council information. He noted that the firm of Gregory, Harriman & Associates has begun the annual audit for 2003.

#### 8.3.3 Procedure for Calling of a Special Council Meeting

M. Minchin provided Council with the procedure for the notice of calling a Special Council Meeting in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Sections 194 - 196 and Policy 2.95 – Policy for Advertising Council and Committee Meetings. He asked Council to provide direction if another method is to be used. Councillor L. Davidson noted the date on the policy and requested that Council review the entire policy as it has not been reviewed since the amalgamation. He recommended that the policy be changed to give the public as much notice as possible of meetings, such as postings at the library, post offices, etc. He further stated that the public is not well informed if notice is only posted at Town Hall. R. Romanetz noted that the policy was developed when the new MGA came into effect in 1995. He further explained that the Town's method of public notification is similar to that of other municipalities. Council agreed to review Policy 2.95 in the near future.

### 8.4 Director of Community Services

#### 8.4.1 RFD Year of the Coal Miner

D. Meller advised that Council had approved an activity plan for Year of the Coal Miner earlier in the new year as submitted by the Steering Committee. A request for proposal was advertised, asking for submissions for a playwright to create a play which depicts the era when *Coal was King in Drumheller*. This was advertised throughout the Province. She explained that through the Alberta Playwright Network, Mr. Clem Martini was retained to provide advice to the Committee for the selection of one of the five submissions. The Committee is recommending that Ms. Katherine Koller, an Edmonton writer, be retained for the project at a cost of \$8,000.00.

**MO2004.67** Sparling, Cunningham that Council approve Katherine Koller as the script writer at a cost of \$8,000. Cd.

## **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**

## **11.0 DELEGATION DECISIONS**

## **12.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **13.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

## **14.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **14.1 Mayor Paul Ainscough – Policing**

Mayor Ainscough advised that he attended a meeting on February 17th in Nisku regarding Provincial policing issues, which was the same day as the presentation of the Provincial Throne Speech. He stated that although Alberta Towns and Cities may get more money for policing and additional municipalities may have their policing costs picked up entirely by the Province

under a more equitable funding arrangement, the amount of funding can not be confirmed until the budget is tabled in the legislature.

Mayor Ainscough presented a draft letter to Hon. Ann McClellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Federal Government regarding policing overtime costs relating to the murder investigation at the Federal Penitentiary and security costs at the Court House for Council's consideration. Council agreed to forward the letter as written, which requests that the Federal Government reimburse the Town of Drumheller for overtime costs incurred.

#### 14.2 Mayor Paul Ainscough – Golden Hills School Division update on shared services

R. Romanetz advised that the Town is waiting for a meeting to be held in short order with both administrations relating to cost sharing opportunities and funding arrangements that are available.

#### 14.3 Councillor K. Bertamini - Affordable Housing

Councillor Bertamini stated that Town Administration is preparing an interim report to form part of a business plan for affordable housing. The report should be completed in 30-60 days and it will be used to submit applications for grant dollars to both the federal and provincial governments. She is hopeful that the end result will be a grant funded project.

#### 14.4 Councillor K. Bertamini – Library

Councillor K. Bertamini stated that as a matter of information for Council, the library has stretched their dollars as far as possible. She explained that the costs of core services have increased significantly and the amount of provincial grant funding has not. She said that the level of funding has not been adjusted since 1993 and has actually seen cutbacks. She noted that this is not specific to the Drumheller Library but all libraries. She further noted that the board passed their interim budget which coincides with the three year business plan. She stated that the board would appreciate assistance from Council by way of lobbying the government for an increase to their grant levels for public libraries. Council agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Finance outlining our concerns.

**MO2004.68** Bertamini, Davidson that Council forward a letter to the Province requesting them to increase their operating funding grant for public libraries. Cd.



Councillor L. Davidson requested the letter be copied other key parties, such as Hon. Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor and Hon. Shirley McClellan, MLA.

**15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2004.69** Stables, Cunningham to go in camera at 6:07 PM . Cd.

15.1 Offer to Purchase – Portion of LSD 4 and 5 SW \_ -1-29-20-W4M

15.2 Water Supply Agreements – Kneehill / Starland

**MO2004.70** Sparling, Cunningham to revert back to regular Council meeting at 6:57 PM . Cd.

15.1 Offer to Purchase – Portion of LSD 4 and 5 SW \_ - 1-29-20-W4M

**MO2004.71** Sparling, Bertamini that Council approve the Offer to Purchase from Loblaw Properties West Inc. for property legally described as a portion of LSD 4 and 5 SW \_ - 1-29-20-W4M. Cd.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM .

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER