

Town of Drumheller

COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

September 7, 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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor P. Ainscough welcomed Staff Sgt. Renee Wells to the Council Meeting. He asked Staff Sgt. R. Wells to introduce himself. Staff Sgt. R. Wells stated that he has 25 years policing experience and has been posted at Gleichen, St. Alberta, Arctic, North West Territories, and Rimbey. In 1996, he was promoted to Cpl. at the LacLaBiche detachment. In 1999, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Peace River to oversee the traffic services unit for Peace River and Valleyview. In 2002, he was transferred to Grimshaw as the detachment commander. In 2004, he applied for and was selected for the position of Staff Sgt. in Drumheller. He explained that many communities in Alberta are experiencing similar policing issues and he looks forward to working with the community. Mayor and Council welcomed Staff Sgt. Wells to the community.

2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Mayor P. Ainscough provided an update on the meeting with Premier Klein held on September 4th. He highlighted the following discussion items: 1) Hwy 9 west upgrading – First Phase Drumheller to Horseshoe Canyon (16 km) - tenders have now closed and the contract will be awarded shortly with work proceeding this fall; 2) Brownfield Remediation – the Premier recognized the need for implementing a program to deal with Brownfield concerns that affect all municipalities; 3) Red Deer River – the Premier supports the establishment of an advisory committee similar to the one in place for the Bow River; 4) Tourist Information Centre – presently the Chamber receives a grant of \$20,000 for TIC operations, however the costs to operate exceed \$60,000 a year; a request was put forward for more grant dollars – Premier stated

that because the TIC is located within close proximity to a main highway increased grant dollars may be available if significant visitation is from out of Province.

2.2 Mayor P. Ainscough provided an update on the AUMA Policing Services Meeting held on September 2nd in Edmonton. It was agreed that AUMA would prepare a model resolution for Council that includes: 1) describes the situation of policing in the province (inequities, high needs communities, shortages of police officers, etc); 2) uses sustainability of municipal governments as a theme; and 3) asks MLAs to support the resolution, and gives them a specific timeline to show their support.

2.3 Mayor P. Ainscough explained that the purpose of an Independent Council Wage Review Task Force would be for the public at large to conduct a review of the remuneration received by elected officials for carrying out their duties. He noted that the guidelines for the Task Force and the Terms of Reference would be discussed in camera this evening.

2.4 Mayor P. Ainscough proclaimed September 12th as Grandparents Day.

### 3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

#### 4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda: 14.1 Councillor K. Bertamini – Drumheller Public Library  
MO2004.166 Sparling, Davidson moved the adoption of the agenda as amended. Cd.

#### 5.0 MINUTES

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

MO2004.167 Pedersen, Bertamini moved the adoption of the minutes as presented. Cd.

#### 5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

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

#### 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 RFD – ATCO Electric – Transmission Line Project (Michichi Creek to Three Hills)

R. Romanetz advised that representatives from ATCO Electric provided clarification on the proposed Transmission Line Project from Michichi Creek Sub-station to Three Hills at Council Committee meeting of August 30th. At that time, concerns were raised relating to the route of the transmission line being located: 1) \_ mile from the airport and 2) along a major tourism corridor into the Valley (SH575 – Carbon Hill) which would not be aesthetically pleasing. R. Romanetz presented a letter to ATCO Electric which summarizes the following: 1) that the proposed corridor for the transmission line be located a minimum of two(2) miles north from the airport; and 2) that ATCO thoroughly investigate alternative alignments other than the proposed alignment out of the Valley on SH575 (Carbon Hill). He further noted that any alignment selection would need EUB approval and they would have to review the costs to the consumers - another route alignment may be significantly more expensive. Councillor Pedersen noted that the existing transmission line and structures leaving the Valley in that location is not intrusive and another line along this same direction may be more acceptable. Council concurred that as a minimum other alignment options should be investigated. R. Romanetz stated that the letter states that Council prefers another alignment and he recommended that Council may wish to consider stronger wording. Council concurred. Mayor P. Ainscough inquired if Council's

concern regarding any new line installations to be underground was included in the letter. R. Romanetz responded that the placement of this line underground may be prohibitively expensive. Councillor Bertamini inquired about including concerns relating to ATCO infrastructure located in the community. R. Romanetz stated that other concerns not relating to the transmission project would be addressed in a separate letter to ATCO Electric. Councillor L. Davidson requested that the letter be copied to EUB.

MO2004.168 Pedersen, Cunningham that Council approve the attached letter to ATCO Electric regarding the proposed 144kV Transmission Line Project from Michichi Creek Sub-station to Three Hills and to include amendments as discussed. Cd.

#### 8.1.2 RFD – No Smoking Petition and Bylaw Question for October 18th Election and the Establishment of a Committee

R. Romanetz stated that Council at their Committee Meeting of August 30th heard comments from the Town's Solicitor that amendments may be made to the Smoking Bylaw which was attached to the petition received on July 20th providing that these changes do not affect the substance of the bylaw. At that time, Council was presented with three options to proceed in accordance with the Municipal Government Act: a) within 30 days after the bylaw receives first reading, Council may pass the bylaw, OR b) fix a date for a plebiscite to be held within 90 days after the bylaw receives first reading, OR c) have the plebiscite on the ballot as part of the October 18th Municipal Election to save the costs of having a separate plebiscite. Council recommended that a Committee be appointed to review the bylaw. A draft of the Smoking Bylaw will be prepared and presented to Council at their Committee Meeting of September 13th for review. A Special Council meeting must be called prior to September 18th to give first reading to the bylaw.

MO2004.169 Sparling, Bertamini that Council appoint Mayor Paul Ainscough, Councillor Larry Davidson and Councillor John Sparling to a Committee for the purpose of preparing a Smoking Bylaw for the Town of Drumheller and further that Council instruct Administration to have the bylaw on the ballot as part of the October 18th Municipal Election. Cd.

#### 8.1.3 RFD – Ward System Question for Vote of Electors

R. Romanetz stated that Council at their Committee Meeting of August 30th reviewed the wording for a public information notice on the "Ward System Versus Electors of Whole Municipality" to be advertised in the Drumheller Mail and the Valley Times which provides background, legislative options and the question to be on the ballot for the October 18th municipal election. He noted that the information notice was amended as recommended by Council at that time.

MO2004.170 Stables, Sparling that Council approve the public information notice for the "Ward System Versus Electors of the Whole Municipality" question to be on the ballot at the October 18th municipal election. Cd.

#### 8.1.4 RFD – Appointment to Drumheller Housing Administration

R. Romanetz presented an application from Ray Page to sit on the Drumheller Housing Administration Board. He explained that Ray Page has recently resigned as Administrator for Drumheller Housing Administration and would now like to serve as a member on the Board. He stated that Ray Page has managed the Drumheller Housing Administration for 33 years and would be a very effective board member in assisting with the transition of administration to the new manager. Councillor K. Bertamini stated that the board is pleased that Mr. Page has agreed to serve in this capacity and concurred that his assistance would be greatly appreciated.

MO2004.171 Bertamini, Davidson that Council approve the appointment of Mr. Ray Page to the Drumheller Housing Administration Board. Cd.

### 8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

#### 8.2.1 RFD – Purchase of One Ton Truck

W. Yeoman presented quotations received for a new one ton truck from three local authorized vehicle dealerships. The low quote was from Western Chev Olds in the amount of \$22,051 (excluding GST). The new unit will replace the eighteen year old one ton welding truck. He stated that additional work must be carried out such as mounting of the existing deck, rear hitch wiring, beacon light and trailer brake controller resulting in an extra costs of \$2500. He further noted that the total cost will be significantly lower than the budgeted amount of \$35,000.

MO2004.172 Stables, Davidson that Council approve the purchase of a new 2005 One Ton Truck from the local authorized GM Dealership Western Chev Olds in the amount of \$22,051 plus GST.

#### Discussion on Motion:

Councillor Davidson asked about the plans for the old truck. W. Yeoman stated that it would be sold. He further questioned if the additional work in the amount of \$2500 would be carried out by Town staff. W. Yeoman stated that it may be a combination of both, Town staff and/ or by contract.

Vote on Motion: Cd.

### 8.3 Director of Corporate Services

#### 8.3.1 RFD – Tax Cancellation – Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 6561CO

M. Minchin presented a letter from Mr. Ernest Berg requesting cancellation to a portion of the 2004 property taxes for Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 6561CO. He explained that the residence was destroyed by fire on December 16th, 2003. He noted that normally the changes to the property would have been reflected on the assessment roll however no demolition permit was taken out. This process triggers an inspection by the assessor. As well, the property owner failed to claim an exemption of the taxes in December, 2003. He stated that granting of such requests may set a precedent for other similar requests – granting a request that should have been dealt with by the Town's Assessment Review Board might encourage others to bypass the Assessment Review Board and go directly to Council. Councillor Stables questioned if the school tax portion would be cancelled as well. M. Minchin explained that school requisition reconciliations are carried out the following year.

MO2004.173 Davidson, Pedersen that Council approve the cancellation of \$226.28 in 2004 property taxes for the property described as Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 6561CO. Cd.

#### 8.3.2 Statement of Financial Position as at July 31, 2004

M. Minchin presented the financial position as at July 31, 2004. He noted that ATCO Electric failed to provide accurate billing on several street lights and the current retailers will work directly with ATCO to resolve this matter. The current retailers have exceeded billing expectations and they respond to our requests on a timely basis. Electricity budgets (even with factoring in the difference) are on target; natural gas budgets on target to date (however consumption depends on temperatures); and all other areas including wages are on target in comparison to last year at this same period.

#### 8.3.3 Quarterly Investment Report

M. Minchin presented the quarterly investment report for Council's review. He presented the following highlights: strong first quarter however second quarter earnings were down (high degree of uncertainty with the Federal election), the Town has seen some investment turnaround in the last 60 days however interest rates are now lower (4%); bond market activity has decreased now that the federal government has an improved fiscal position and they are not needing to borrow. He noted that the graphs show that long term money in both investment portfolios have been moved to short term because of the similar interest rate structures (1-5 years).

#### 8.3.4 Year to Date Capital Plan

M. Minchin presented the year to date Capital Plan to the end of August. He stated that the dollars are not reflective of the work carried out as the wet weather delayed many projects. As

well, there are a number of projects waiting for grant approval - CIP and CFEP, specifically in facilities (10 in total). Councillor L. Davidson asked if the Town has received their fair share of CIP and CFEP dollars in comparison to the community at large. R. Romanetz advised that Minister Stevens, Alberta Gaming recently toured the Town to see where grant dollars have been expensed and the numbers are impressive – major projects have been carried out at the Aquaplex, Arena and Parks. He further noted that a list of grant dollars issued to the Town and community at large over the last five years is available. The Town has received close to the maximum grant for each year (\$125,000) for CFEP projects. The community at large at times has received more dollars than the Town however this varies widely on a given year depending on what community projects receive approval. Councillor L. Davidson explained that the Town and community at large should collectively ask for dollars. R. Romanetz explained that the Mayor and the CAO have met with Hon. Shirley McClellan and she has asked that the Town work with the DRCDT and the community at large in developing a list of project so that she can assess what dollars can be made available for Drumheller as a whole.

Councillor L. Davidson asked if the Town has applied for legacy grant funding. R. Romanetz stated that an announcement has been made that the Province will be setting aside legacy dollars for Centennial celebrations but the announcement did not identify that this funding would be available for major projects applied for by municipalities. He further noted that the Council has not identified a particular project for these grant dollars should they become available. Councillor L. Davidson stated that the timing is right now (Provincial election) to submit our application. R. Romanetz stated that once Council provides direction, Administration will prepare an application.

8.4 Director of Community Services

## 9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

(Quarterly Reports to be presented November 1, 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 Councillor K. Bertamini advised that the Drumheller Public Library will be hosting a Gala on October 2nd at the Stampede Barn. She extended a personal invitation for Council to attend. The tickets cost \$25.00 and the dollars raised will go towards improving the Children Centre in the library. Mr. Bob Ross will MC the event and there will be a silent auction.

15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2004.174 Sparling, Pedersen to go in camera at 6:28 PM.  
Cd.

15.1 Independent Council Wage Review – Terms of Reference

MO2004.175 Cunningham, Pedersen to revert to regular Council meeting at 7:09 PM.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER