

Town of Drumheller

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES



January 24, 2005 5:30 PM Council Chambers, Town Hall
703 - 2nd Ave. West, Drumheller, Alberta

PRESENT:

MAYOR:

Paul Ainscough

COUNCIL:

Karen Bertamini
Don Cunningham
Larry Davidson
Karen MacKinnon
Sharel Shoff
John Sparling

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ENGINEER:

Ray Romanetz

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:

Wes Yeoman

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:

Michael Minchin

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Scott Blevins

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Linda Handy

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Hon. Rob Renner, Minister, Alberta Municipal Affairs announcing the allocation of funding for emergency management training under the Municipal Sponsorship Program.

2.2 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Mr. Greg Fox, Business Development Manager, Guide Sign Industries Ltd. announcing that the Alberta Government has implemented the new Tourism Highway Signing Program to convert all the old brown and white signs to the new, internationally recognized blue and white format. He further advised in his letter that with 2005 being Alberta's Centennial Year, Guide Sign would be

pleased to work with all municipalities, regardless of highway designation, to convert the old signs to the new standards, providing a fresh, new tourist image for whatever Centennial, or home-coming events have been planned.

2.3 Deputy Mayor D. Cunningham provided an update on the Crime Stoppers announcement made on January 14th. He stated that representatives from Crime Stoppers announced that Encana has made a significant donation for start up of Crime Stoppers in the communities of Drumheller and Brooks. He noted that Councillor K. MacKinnon attended the fundraiser in Calgary held on January 22nd. He further explained that Crime Stoppers will provide one more avenue for those who want to report a crime anonymously. The Town will be seeking members from the public at large. He extended appreciation to the media for their excellent coverage on the announcement. Councillor K. Bertamini thanked Encana for their generous contribution.

2.4 Mayor P. Ainscough announced the Council Strategic Workshop will be held on January 31st (start time 4:00 PM) and February 1st (start time 8:30 AM) at the Civic Centre.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to agenda: 14.1 Report from Councillor L. Davidson; and 14.2 Report from Councillor J. Sparling

MO2005.12 Sparling, Cunningham moved the adoption of the agenda as amended.
Cd.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5.1.1 Council Regular Meeting - January 10, 2005

MO2005.13 Shoff, Davidson moved the adoption of the regular Council meeting minutes of January 10, 2005 as presented. Cd.

5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.0 DELEGATIONS

6.1 Staff Sgt. Renee Wells introduced Cpl. J'Nell Perkins. Cpl. Perkins stated that she has 17 years service and has spent some years in reserve policing. She further stated that she looks forward to her employment in Drumheller. Council extended a welcome to Cpl. Perkins. Staff Sgt. Renee advised that he will bring in new officers for introduction to Council periodically.

Staff Sgt presented the RCMP 2005 – 2007 Business Plan. He noted that the Provincial policing priorities include: safe communities in Alberta; aboriginal policing; and serious and violent crime; and Federal policing budget include: terrorism; organized crime; youth; serving Canada's aboriginal community; and international policing. He highlighted the areas that this Business Plan will attempt to address over the next three years:

- **Drugs and Alcohol:** a partnership has been struck with AADAC and a group of concerned citizens. The group intends to develop and implement proactive strategies designed to reduce alcohol and drug use and related problems in the Drumheller area. He reported that the detachment is currently laying charges against a number of students at the high school, which has caused them to look at their habit, and some attend ADDAC for assistance rather than paying the \$115.00 fine. Another initiative is to reduce the marijuana grow operations and to raise awareness about how operations are set up.
- **Traffic Safety:** Another initiative is to reduce the fatal and serious collisions resulting from failure to wear seat belt, intersection related, speed related and alcohol related. Drumheller will work with neighbouring traffic agencies to ensure traffic goals are met;
- **Vandalism:** Another initiative is to reduce vandalism with the implementation of youth programs. Drumheller Community Services Department intends to hire a youth worker providing direction and advice to young people and instilling in youth respect for private property.

7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

8.1 CAO

8.1.1 Bylaw 02.05 being the Water and Sewer Rate Bylaw – 3 readings

R. Romanetz stated that the water and sewer rates were discussed previously during Council's budget meetings. Based on 2004 rates both budgets forecast a deficit. Administration has put forward three options for water rate increases for Council's consideration. As well, Administration is also proposing a new sewer rate structure which includes one residential sewer rate and four commercial rates for the whole community. As Council has not provided clear direction on water rate increases, Bylaw 02.05 has been prepared by incorporating water Alternative #3 and the new sewer rate structure for discussion purposes. Sewer rates are proposed to be blended across the entire community - the increased as proposed will be 5% for communities other than Rosedale and East Coulee who will see a 15.2% decrease. Alternative 3 also includes an allowance to repay principle on the interest free loan borrowed under the Municipal Affairs Energy Program. Regardless of the water rate alternative chosen, Administration requested that the bylaw receive three readings so that it can take effect for the January, 2005 utility billing.

MO2005.14 Sparling, Shoff for first reading to Bylaw 02.05. Cd.

MO2005.15 Sparling, Cunningham for first reading to Bylaw 02.05 Cd.

Clarification on the Motion:

Councillor Davidson stated that he does not support Alternative 3 as it does not provide the Penitentiary to pay their share of the water rate increase. Councillor Bertamini stated that Alternative 2 is preferred as it is consistent with the recommendation of Campbell Ryder. R. Romanetz stated that the Penitentiary pays the lower of either the residential or commercial rate and the existing agreement provides for how the rates are calculated. Councillor MacKinnon asked if the Town would lose revenue with Alternative 3. R. Romanetz explained that this is not the case, the revenue is only collected in a different manner from taxes rather than utilities. He further noted that additional revenue will be received from Kneehill and Starland in 2006 which may be a more appropriate timeframe to transition the \$0.10 per front ft. maintenance charge from the tax to the utility bill. Councillor Bertamini stated that Alternative 2 allows the utility to be self supporting
Vote on Motion: Cd.

MO2005.16 Sparling, Cunningham no objection to third reading. The third reading could not proceed because consent was not unanimous.

8.1.2 RFD – Drumheller Recycling Association 2005 Budget Approval

R. Romanetz presented the 2005 operating budget for the Drumheller Recycling Association. He stated that T. Nygaard, Recycling Co-ordinator has worked hard to balance the budget. He further stated that for the most part, Association depends upon paper sales which fluctuate widely. He noted that the Association operates on a tight budget however they have budgeted a nominal surplus for 2005. He stated that the current recycling levy has not changed since 1992 and they are now facing some capital expenditures. They would like to install a baler to reduce operational costs and they are hopeful of funding from other agencies. The purchase of the baler will deplete reserves. He referred to the report "Proposal for a Recycling Levy Increase" submitted by Drumheller Recycling Association which proposes a \$1.00 levy increase to be phased in over three (3) years, starting at \$0.50 in 2005. R. Romanetz stated that the increase would raise an additional \$17,500.00 for the first year. Councillor Cunningham, Recycling Association Chairman, stated that the increase is minimal and the public should not object.

MO2005.17 Cunningham, Bertamini that Council approve the 2005 budget for the Drumheller Recycling Association as presented.

Clarification on Motion:

Councillor Shoff queried why capital improvements were not included in the budget. R. Romanetz explained that capital improvements are not included in the budget because the Association is hopeful that the baler will receive grant funding from Wildrose Foundation to be cost shared at 50% with the Association. The purchase would not move forward until the

grant is approved and the Association would then use reserves for matching the grant dollars.

Vote on Motion: Cd.

8.1.3 RFD – Drumheller Recycling Association – Recycling Levy Increase

MO2005.18 Cunningham, Sparling that approve a \$1.00 levy increase for the Drumheller Recycling Association to be phased in over three years. Cd.

8.1.4 RFD – Appointments to the Airport Commission

R. Romanetz presented four applications from Donald Ostergard, Richard Code Peter Cardamone and Robert Ross to serve on the Airport Commission.

MO2005.19 Sparling, Shoff that Council approve the appointments of Peter Cardamone, Donald Ostergard, Richard Coe and Robert Ross to the Airport Commission for a further term of three years expiring on the date of the Annual Organizational meeting. Cd.

8.1.5 RFD – Appointments to the Drumheller Housing Administration

R. Romanetz presented two applications from Dorothy Bergos and Don Guidolin to serve on the Drumheller Housing Administration. The members of the Housing Administration have reviewed the applications and recommend approval.

MO2005.20 Bertamini, Cunningham that Council approve the appointment of Dorothy Bergos and Don Guidolin to the Drumheller Housing Administration Board. Cd.

8.1.6 RFD – Appointment to the Drumheller Library Board

R. Romanetz presented an application from Joseph Jensen to serve on the Drumheller Public Library Board. The members of the Library Board have reviewed the application and they recommend approval.

MO2005.21 Shoff, Davidson that Council approve the appointment of Joseph Jensen to the Drumheller Public Library Board. Cd.

8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

8.2.1 Progress Report Dyke C Construction North Drumheller

W. Yeoman advised that the Dyke C Construction and Midlandvale drainage tender closed on January 13th and the low bid was received from Degraf Excavating in the amount of \$1,248,516.00. The instream work must be done by March 31 and substantial completion by April 30th.

8.3 Director of Corporate Services

8.3.1 Investment Report

M. Minchin presented the year end report for capital investment. He noted that there was

a 5-6% return on investments. He noted that interest rates are unstable because of the high Cdn. dollar and low inflation rate. He noted that BMO forecast for 2005 is that the interest rates may increase at the end of the year due to oil and gas activity. No investments are coming due in 2005.

8.3.2 RFD – User Fee Schedules

M. Minchin presented the 2005 user fee structure schedule for Council's consideration. He stated that Council has seen the proposed increases during 2005 operating budget discussion. The increases will affect the compliance certificates, arena, airport, aquaplex and civic centre – it is anticipated that with the increased rates, an additional revenue of \$16,000 will be raised. He noted that proposed safety code rate increases remain outstanding.

MO2005.22 Davidson, Bertamini that Council approve the 2005 Service Fee Schedule as presented. Cd.

8.4 Director of Community Services

8.4.1 RFD (Direction) – 2008 Winter Games

S. Blevins advised that Council at their regular meeting of Nov 15, 2004 reviewed the letter from Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development, asking municipalities to consider whether they would like to submit a bid for the right to host the 2008 Alberta Winter Games. He presented factors for Council to consider on whether the Town of Drumheller should submit a bid to host the games, which included: accommodating needs, food service, travel time between sport venues and requirement for a partner with another municipality as there is a requirement for three rinks to be operating at all times, operating budget implications, volunteer base of 2500-3000, and capital costs. He stated that the government would provide \$360,000 in operating grants and a legacy grant of \$50,000 to be used outside the operation of the games. He stated that a letter of interest and a resolution of support from Council must be submitted by January 31, 2005 and completed bids must be submitted by June 30, 2005. Any deficit would have to be covered by the Town. As well, he presented the host community and games organizing committee responsibilities. He noted that the benefits for hosting such an event would include the economic aspects by attracting numerous spectators and guests to our community, media exposure, partnering with groups and other communities, and the opportunity to create a spirit of accomplishment for the entire community. He presented Council with three alternatives for their consideration: 1) Send a letter and a resolution of support outlining Drumheller's interest in bidding to host the 2008 Alberta Winter Games; 2) Decline the invitation to bid on the 2008 Alberta Winter Games; and 3) Wait for a future Winter Games invitation and partner with either Hanna or Three Hills – this alternative would give us time to start the communication with another community for partnership.

MO2005.23 Bertamini, Davidson that Council delay their letter of interest until a future winter games invitation is received in order for the Town to seek partnership with another

municipality.

Discussion on Motion:

Councillor Shoff asked if the Town had approached other municipalities yet and if there was a requirement to do so. S. Blevins stated that the Town had not contacted other municipalities and he clarified that it is recommended that communities under 10,000 population partner with another community. Councillor Davidson asked how the deficit would be financed. S. Blevins stated that the community is responsible to pay off any deficit. Councillor Davidson suggested that through strategic planning see what resources are available, i.e. private partners that may be available. Mayor Ainscough stated that relationships with neighbouring partners would not have to be in the letter of intent.

Vote on Motion: Cd.

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION
(Quarterly Reports and Annual Reports)

- 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 L. Davidson thanked the Fire Department and Town Staff for their efforts in the Rosedale Natural Gas Explosion.

14.2 Councillor J. Sparling encouraged everyone to purchase their tickets for the play, Coal Valley; The Making of a Miner to be presented February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30 PM.

15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2005.24 Sparling, Shoff to go in camera at 7:15 PM.
Cd.

15.1 Personnel Matter - Out of Scope Employees

MO2005.25 Cunningham, Davidson that Council revert to regular Council meeting at 7:35 PM. .Cd.

15.1 Personnel Matter - Out of Scope Employees

MO2005.26 Bertamini, MacKinnon that Council approve a 3.5% increase in salary to all out of scope employees including the CAO, retroactive to January 1, 2005. Cd.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER