

Town of Drumheller

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES



June 27, 2005 4:30 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

Councillor Sharel Shoff was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for the months of July and August, 2005

On behalf of Council, Mayor P. Ainscough thanked Town Administration, Emergency Response Teams, Neighboring Municipalities, Utility Companies, Health Authority and the numerous volunteers for all the assistance and efforts during Drumheller's flood.

2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Mayor P. Ainscough presented a letter from Hon. Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance in response to the Mayors and Reeves Network concerns

regarding Brownfield Sites in Alberta. In her letter, Hon. McClellan advises that Alberta Environment has jurisdiction over environmental matters, including contaminated sites and that Alberta Municipal Affairs has jurisdiction over brownfield site redevelopment. She requested the Mayors and Reeves Network to direct their concerns to the appropriate departments.

2.2 Mayor P. Ainscough acknowledged the Provincial government's attendance during Drumheller's flood - Hon. Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Environment and Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs. He also advised that he along with Mayor / Reeves from flooded communities attended a meeting in High River with the Prime Minister Paul Martin, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, Premier Ralph Klein, and Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister responsible for Disaster Services to discuss cost recovery.

2.3 Motion required to cancel two regular Council Meetings during the summer months. It is recommended that the Council Meetings of July 25th and August 22nd be cancelled.

MO2005.140 Bertamini, Shoff that the regular Council meetings of July 25th and August 22nd be cancelled. Carried.

Mayor Ainscough stated that Council Committee meetings will be held "if needed" throughout the summer months.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda: 14.1 Councillor L. Davidson – Delia Event; Councillor K. Bertamini – Thank You; and 15.2 Bylaw Enforcement

MO2005.141 Cunningham, Sparling moved the adoption of the agenda as amended. Carried.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5.1.1 Council Regular Meeting - June 13, 2005

MO2005.142 Shoff, Bertamini moved the adoption of the regular Council meeting minutes of June 13, 2005 as presented. Carried.

5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.2.1 Municipal Planning Commission – June 2, 2005

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 Status Report on the Flood

R. Romanetz provided an overview on the status of the flood clean up. He advised that the Local State of Emergency has been extended to allow the Town to enter private property to remove the temporary dykes – the Province is in full agreement. He further noted that once this work is finalized, the Town will proceed with cleanup and repairs on private property impacted by the emergency forces only - UMA Consulting will be assessing road damages. All expenses incurred during the flood will be tabulated and submitted to the Province. Administration prepared a briefing report which summarized actions taken prior to, during and following the flood - this information was presented to the Prime Minister Paul Martin and Premier Ralph Klein at the meeting held on June 24th in High River. He explained that discussions are ongoing with Alberta Environment concerning dyke elevations in Midlandvale and Newcastle – portions of the existing dyke system appears to have inconsistent elevations – Alberta Environment will conduct engineering work shortly to confirm elevations and structural integrity. If required, corrective work will be carried out in 2006. Administration will request that the Province review the affected flood areas, such as Rosedale, Lehigh and East Coulee and assess the requirement for further dyking – Council may have to lobby the Province for funding. He also explained that the Province now recommend that any developer who constructs at or below the 1:100 will assume the responsibility for flooding costs with no assistance from the Province.

Councillor L. Davidson asked if the Province would approve the Rosedale / Cambria waterline grant application in light of the results of the flood with some wells caved in and well water now contaminated. He further noted that the timing is appropriate to get the water line through the Valley. R. Romanetz advised that over the course of last week, the Mayor and he discussed this matter with Hon. S. McClellan and she is extremely supportive and has recognized the need for the waterline to be in place. Mayor P. Ainscough will ask Hon. Shirley McClellan to bring this matter to the forefront.

R. Romanetz stated that in terms of the how the Town determined the need and locations for temporary dyking, Administration referred to drawings dated 15 years back which provided guidance on where the temporary dykes should be constructed. He noted that the original count of damage to houses was 25-35 however Administration reviewed the video footage and have now identified 85-100 affected houses. He stated that the Provincial Claims Office will be opened at the Civic Centre from June 28th – 30th. R. Romanetz stated that solid waste containers will be placed at East Coulee, Lehigh, and Nacmine for damaged material. As well, there will be amnesty arrangements at the landfill for properties affected by the flood.

An EOC debriefing will be held next week – there will be one representative from each group in attendance.

S. Blevins advised that financial assistance may be available for flood victims through the Drumheller Health Centre (individuals may make donations at the Alberta Treasury Branch and Red Cross) – details will be advertised shortly. Assistance update - Samaritan Purse has left the community - they responded to 15 houses; local provincial social service agency responded to one client; Ministerial Association still offering counselling service; and Hi-Way 9 still offering free storage space. The Red Cross and Salvation Army will be in attendance at the Claims Office should their service be required.

W. Yeoman advised the Town still has equipment assistance from the neighboring municipalities however Wheatland is not able to stay beyond June 28th. Starland County's has offered equipment and manpower for a few more days as well as private contractors. Priority will be removal of the temporary dykes on roadways, sidewalks and along the existing dyke system. Caution is being taken to ensure the work is carried out in accordance with Fisheries and Oceans and Alberta Environment standards. It is both their positions that although the river is highly turbid, they do not want any material going into the river.

M. Minchin advised that there are two flood recovery programs: Disaster Recovery Program which covers some of the municipalities' costs and the Provincial Claims Program for individual / business flood losses. He explained that the Claims Office will be open from June 28th to June 30th at the Civic Centre – this would be strictly for costs not insurable – overland flooding. He noted that the Website contains information as to what costs are recoverable. He further noted that he expects there will be a considerable waiting period before the Town will see any cost reimbursements.

R. Romanetz advised that the Town's position on water conservation is that residents not use water for unnecessary purposes. He explained that although the Town remains in good shape with the current water consumption, an alternative plan is in place to blend the cells with raw water storage for circulation through the plant, if required. With the current turbidity levels of the water, more chemical must be used. If the weather remains rainy, the water consumption is lower. The Town will be monitoring the situation and if required, Council will be requested to issue a water rationing order.

Mayor P. Ainscough advised that he attended a meeting in High River along with other elected officials whose communities were impacted by flooding. He noted that of all the communities represented, Town of Drumheller was the only municipality to present a written brief. He further stated that there did not seem to be any reluctance from government leaders for financial assistance however there were no timelines given as to when financial assistance can be expected. R. Romanetz stated that there appears to be some confusion surrounding whether the 40% funding rate applies to only Drumheller

equipment or that of adjacent municipalities as well.

In response to a question, R. Romanetz advised that Dickson Dam Officials work with River Forecasting to find a balance between flow augmentation and flood protection. He recommended that Dickson Dam Officials be invited to a public meeting so that their operations can be explained in detail to Council and the public. A meeting will be arranged in the near future.

8.1.2 Starland Water Agreement Update

R. Romanetz advised that Starland has accepted the position from the Town of Drumheller and the agreement should be signed off in short order.

8.1.3 RFD – Appointment to the Drumheller Housing Administration

R. Romanetz advised that the Town has received one application from Shelley McSween to serve on the Drumheller Housing Administration Board.

MO2005.143 Bertamini, Shoff that Council approve the appointment of Shelley McSween to the Drumheller Housing Administration Board. Carried.

8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

8.2.1 Gordon Taylor Bridge Sidewalk and Railing Upgrade

W. Yeoman advised that due to the high costs of the bids received for the upgrade, Alberta Transportation must modify the scope of the project. He presented Alberta Transportation's options for Council's consideration. Alberta Transportation recommends an upgrade that would provide a clear sidewalk width that is approximately equal to the existing sidewalk width. Pedestrian safety would be improved by adding the bridge rail barrier between the sidewalks and traffic. They also recommend that a custom steel bridge rail be considered that would resist vehicular impact loads but would not cause a safety hazard to cyclists and would add minimal dead load to the structure. W. Yeoman noted that the proposed changes would bring the project into budget at \$700,000. He referred to Council's original preference in 2004 that the clear sidewalk width of 2.0 metres be constructed. Alberta Transportation is now proposing the sidewalk be 1 foot narrower to keep the project within budget however they also provided the option to mount the outside railing on the outside vertical face which would gain an additional 200mm of sidewalk. This would bring the total width of the sidewalk to 1.8 metres. R. Romanetz advised that the Province is agreeable to the upgrade at a higher standard however the Town would be expected to cover additional costs of the upgrade.

MO2005.144 Sparling, Bertamini that Council recommend Option 1C (concrete barrier) with the outside railing on the outside vertical face. Carried.

8.3 Director of Corporate Services

8.3.1 Extension of Deadline for Assessment Complaints

M. Minchin advised that the deadline for assessment complaints was June 24th, however

due to the disruption of Town business during the flood, this deadline has been extended to June 30th.

8.4 Director of Community Services

8.4.1 July 1st Events

S. Blevins advised that the July 1st activities will proceed as planned. He noted that Infrastructure Services has allocated staff to assist on this date. R. Romanetz advised that the Town will flush the streets before the parade to bring the streets up to acceptable clean state. He further noted that the town has acquired addition street sweeping assistance from the Town of Hanna and a private contractor. R. Romanetz advised that the Spray Park Fountain will be shut down until July 1st and probably be closed down again following this event until the Town is assured that water consumption is not a problem.

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION (Quarterly Reports due August, 2005)

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 stated that the Dalum Fire Department and their community were hosting their 100 year celebration and he represented Council at this event.

14.2 Councillor K. Bertamini presented a Thank You advertisement for publication in the Drumheller Mail thanking the entire community for their volunteer efforts during Drumheller's flood. S. Blevins advised that Administration will place an advertisement outlining the Town's services and thanking everyone for their efforts.

MO2005.145 Bertamini, MacKinnon for the Town to place a big "Thank You" advertisement in the Drumheller Mail. Defeated.

15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2005.146 Cunningham, Shoff for Council to go in camera at 5:32 PM. Carried.

15.1 Land Matters

MO2005.147 Sparling, Shoff to revert to regular Council meeting at 6:10 PM. Carried.

15.1 Land Matter

MO2005.148 Sparling, Shoff that Council approve the proposal from Kylo Planning & Development Ltd. as outlined in the letter dated June 10, 2005. Carried

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER