

Town of Drumheller

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES



February 6, 2006 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

2.0 MAYOR AINSCOUGH'S OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Mayor Paul Ainscough presented a letter from the Canadian Badlands Municipal Steering Committee which will be forwarded to municipalities encouraging them to support the formation of the Canadian Badlands Ltd. He further explained that the formation of an organization was discussed with the Mayors and Reeves throughout the region at their fall meetings. The Canadian Badlands has been identified as offering great potential to become a major tourism icon destination and the organization will link communities together and the consumer will hear a consistent message. The letter requires the signatures of the Mayors who have been involved with the Canadian Badlands concept

from its inception. It was noted that the letter requests a 10 cents per capita membership fee from municipalities.

MO2006.37 Sparling, Davidson that Council approve the per capita levy of 10 cents for the Town of Drumheller's membership to Canadian Badlands Ltd.

Discussion on Motion:

Councillor L. Davidson stated that he could not support the Memorandum of Association of Canadian Badlands Ltd. nor the Articles of Association in draft form. R. Romanetz clarified that the motion and supporting documents are being presented for information. He further noted that at this point it is only the group's intention for the Mayors to sign the letter which will be forwarded to municipalities encouraging membership to the organization. Mayor P. Ainscough is looking for authorization to sign the letter.

Councillor Bertamini asked to table the vote on the motion. Council disagreed.

AMENDED MO2006.37 Sparling, Davidson that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the letter encouraging municipalities to support the formation of the Canadian Badlands Ltd. Carried.

2.2 Mayor P. Ainscough presented his letter to Dr. Lyle Oberg which states that the Town of Drumheller disagrees with Alberta Transportation's proposal for the Gordon Taylor Bridge to widened only one sidewalk to 2.3 metres and remove the other sidewalk.

2.3 **MO2006.38** Shoff, Bertamini to change the Council Meeting to February 21st due to the Statutory Holiday on February 20th. Carried.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to agenda: 14.3 Councillor Cunningham – CAC Meeting Report; 14.4 Councillor Bertamini – AUMA Report

MO2006.39 Davidson, Shoff 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 - January 23, 2006

MO2006.40 Cunningham, Shoff moved the adoption of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 23, 2006 as presented. Carried.

5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.0 DELEGATIONS

6.1 Ossie Sheddy and Bryce Nimmo Presentation on Alberta 2010 Winter Games

O. Sheddy advised that letters were sent to various government departments, surrounding municipalities, businesses and service clubs asking for their support, providing facilities and volunteers. He noted that the response has been encouraging to pursue the submission of an application to bid on the 2010 Winter Games. He stated that other work must be carried out such as inventorying the venues. Drumheller will not be able to host the games without the assistance of the surrounding municipalities. He referred to the North Peace Region 2004 Winter Games Final Report as a source of reference guide. The results of their final report showed that 2271 participants, 2750 volunteers and 3429 spectators spent an estimated \$960,041 during the four days of their games. O. Sheddy stated that they have talked to a number of individuals who would be willing to assist with the games. From the research to date, both O. Sheddy and B. Nimmo stated that they feel confident that the Town and surrounding municipalities would be able to handle the duties involved on a volunteer aspect. He further noted that grant dollars will be available from the Province to host the games. A Provincial Winter Games Co-ordinator will move to Drumheller approximately nine months before the event to provide advice to the organizers and consultation with Provincial Sports' Associations.

Questions and Comments from Council:

Councillor L. Davidson stated that the Town is hoping to generate revenue for the Community Facility and he would not want community support to go to the Winter Games instead. O. Sheddy stated that donations can come in many forms and he did not see that the Winter Games would be in competition with the proposed Community Facility. In response to a question from Council, B. Nimmo stated that once the Town approves the submission of a bid proposal, the Town would receive a more detailed package outlining requirements. Councillor L. Davidson stated that any shortfall from hosting the games, must be picked up by the tax base. Councillor K. Bertamini noted that from the North Peace Region Final Report, they experienced problems in the areas of budget, volunteerism and burnout. O. Sheddy stated that they would consult with knowledgeable people who have prepared budgetary documents to ensure the event is feasible. He further noted that if the weather does not cooperate, there are alternatives such as cross skiing along the river. He stated that there are currently ten arenas in the surrounding area that could host hockey and figure skating events.

MO2006.41 Bertamini, Davidson that Council support in principle the bid for the 2010 Winter Games. Carried.

Mayor Ainscough thanked O. Sheddy and B. Nimmo for their efforts to date and for their presentation on the 2010 Winter Games.

7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

8.1 CAO

8.1.1 R. Romanetz presented Bylaw 25.05 being a bylaw to close a portion of roadway along 7th Avenue East (adjacent to Bohemia Group development) for second and third readings. He advised that Bylaw 25.05 received first reading at Council's meeting of November 28th, 2005 followed by a Public Hearing held on December 12th and then forwarded to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation for his approval. He stated that the Minister agreed to the closure.

Councillor K. Bertamini left the meeting at 5:20 PM.

MO2006.42 Davidson, Sparling for second reading to Bylaw 25.05. Carried.

MO2006.43 Davidson, Sparling for third reading to Bylaw 25.05. Carried.

Councillor K. Bertamini returned to the meeting at 5:23 PM.

8.1.2 R. Romanetz presented Bylaw 02.06 being a bylaw for the purpose of borrowing to finance the Drumheller Water Treatment Plant Filter and Pre-treatment Systems Upgrade for second and third readings. He noted that Bylaw 02.06 received first reading at Council's meeting of January 9th and the bylaw was advertised for two consecutive weeks with no opposition being received.

MO2006.44 Shoff, Bertamini for second reading to Bylaw 02.06. Carried.

MO2006.45 Bertamini, Sparling for third reading to Bylaw 02.06. Carried.

8.1.3 RFD – Request from Karen Nelson (for Roy Snider)

R. Romanetz advised that Karen Nelson is requesting the termination of the Life Tenancy Agreement dated December 28, 2000 between the Town of Drumheller, Desmond Roy Snider and herself as of December 31, 2005. In her letter, she further notes that the property was substantially damaged by the June flood waters and the family has no intention of carrying out the repairs. Administration is recommending that the agreement be terminated and that the house be demolished at the Town's cost as the house is located in the flood plain and is no longer habitable. Documentation will be prepared for execution by the named trustee for Roy Snider and the Town of Drumheller.

MO2006.46 Bertamini, Cunningham that the Life Tenancy Agreement dated December 28, 2000 between the Town of Drumheller, Desmond Roy Snider and Karen Nelson be terminated as of December 31, 2005 and the house be demolished at the Town's cost. Carried.

8.1.4 RFD – 2006 Lobbying Priorities

R. Romanetz presented the 2006 lobbying priorities for Council's consideration. He

advised that the meeting schedule was not firm and any recommendation for other strategies for lobbying would be welcomed.

MO2006.47 Cunningham, Shoff that Council approve the 2006 lobbying priorities as presented in the memorandum dated January 30, 2006 from the CAO. Carried.

8.2 Director of Infrastructure Services

8.3 Director of Corporate Services

8.3.1 RFD - 2005 Property Tax Cancellation Requests

Plan 0113494 Block 1 Lot 6ER – Snider

Further to R. Romanetz's previous report, M. Minchin advised that the Town received a request from Albert Michalko representing Mr. Desmond Snider for the cancellation of a portion of the 2005 property taxes for Mr. Snider's residence located at 2212 Newcastle Mr. Snider's request is based on the loss of use of the property as a result of heavy flood damage to the property in June, 2005. The cancellation of taxes amounts to \$163.45 (from June 20, 2005 to December 31, 2005). Administration is recommending that Council approve this request.

MO2006.48 Sparling, Shoff that Council approve the cancellation of \$163.45 of the 2005 property taxes for property described as Plan 0113494, Block 1, Portion of 6ER and licensed to Mr. Desmond Snider. Carried.

Plan 8168FS Block 5 Lots 1-3 –Bitner

M. Minchin advised that the Town received a letter from Craig Bitner from 333 – 2nd Avenue West, Lehigh requesting a further cancellation of taxes for their property for the 2005 tax year. As residents of Lehigh, the Bitner's property was severely damaged by the flood and Council cancelled taxes for six months of the year after the flood. Mr. Bitner is requesting a cancellation for the remaining portion of the year. Such a request was already denied as part of the original request considered in December. The Town's assessor will be inspecting flood related areas of Drumheller over the next few weeks, especially Lehigh. Any properties where flood damage has caused significant impairment to the value of the property could be reflected in the assessment value for 2006 and impact the 2006 property taxes for that property. Based on these conclusions, Administration is recommending that the request as presented be denied.

MO2006.49 Shoff, Cunningham that Council deny the request for cancellation of the remaining 2005 taxes for Plan 8168FS, Block 5, Lots 1-3.

Councillor L. Davidson stated that in this case Council should consider the significant damages that this family has suffered and that they have had to maintain a separate residence since June, 2005. R. Romanetz stated that there are other residents requesting

tax cancellations based on hardships.

Vote on Motion: Carried.

Plan 4653BC, Block 7, Lots 13-18 - CIBC

M. Minchin advised that the Town received correspondence from Bennett Jones LLP, dated January 12, 2006 requesting cancellation of the outstanding taxes for Lots 13-18, Block 7, Plan 4653BC purchased by the Town in September of 2005. The Town purchased this land from CIBC Mortgage who was disposing this land as part of a mortgage foreclosure. The taxes outstanding are \$1663.96. CIBC argues that since the property was purchased by the Town at a price advantageous to the Town, the Town should waive any further obligation of CIBC. He further stated that typically with land transactions, obligation for taxes begins at the date of closing. In this case, the sale agreement date was September 27, 2005 and the tax obligation for the Town would have been approximately \$115. Therefore, Administration is recommending that Council waive \$115 of the \$1663.96 outstanding.

MO2006.50 MacKinnon, Cunningham that Council waive \$115 of CIBC's obligation of the outstanding taxes on land described as Lots 13 to 18, Block 7, Plan 4653BC and now owned by the Town of Drumheller. Carried.

8.4 Director of Community Services

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

(Presentation of 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 provided an update of Palliser Regional Municipal Services' meeting: they intend to publish a brochure, upgrade their website, adopt a new policy manual for staff, implement new salary grids, currently negotiating with several

municipalities for services, and a meeting is scheduled next week to do the six month appraisal of the new Director.

14.2 Councillor L. Davidson provided an update of Community Futures Western Diversification's meeting – a new manager, Wayne Hove, has been hired from Millarville, they are continuing to implement the transition plan, currently investigating a new office location, researching the feasibility of accessing up to \$30,000 provincial grant dollars for community initiatives.

14.3 Councillor D. Cunningham provided an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee held on January 19th - issues discussed included the cocaine symposiums to be held on February 9th, 16th and 23rd, Court security officers will assume their duties on April 1st; plans are in place for a Community Partnership Fair, Victim Services will be offering a "Safe and Sound Training Course"; there are currently 75 international students at DCHS representing 14 different countries; and Crime Stoppers is recommending that the Town install lighting behind the Aquaplex and Cenotaph.

14.4 Councillor K. Bertamini explained that she will provide Council with a copy of AUMA's Community Infrastructure Committee meetings and operational plans in their slots.

15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2006.52 Bertamini, Shoff to go in camera at 6:10 PM. Carried.

15.1 West Bankview Subdivision Proposal

15.2 Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Task Force

15.3 Land Sales

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER