

Town of Drumheller

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES



January 21, 2008

Council Chamber, Town Hall

703 - 2nd Ave. West, Drumheller, Alberta

PRESENT:

MAYOR:

Bryce Nimmo

COUNCIL:

Andrew Berdahl

Karen Bertamini

Blaine McDonald

Don Guidolin

Sharel Shoff

Terry Yemen

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ENGINEER:

Ray Romanetz

ACTING DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:

Steve Huculak

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:

Michael Roy

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Paul Salvatore

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Linda Handy

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Mayor B. Nimmo proclaimed January 27th as Family Literacy Day

1.2 Mayor B. Nimmo proclaimed January 20th to January 26th as National Non-Smoking Week

2.0 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions to the Agenda: 14.1 Councillor S. Shoff – Drumheller Public Library and Communities in Bloom; 14.2 Councillor B. McDonald – RCMP Community Advocacy Committee Update

MO2008.12 Berdahl, 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 7, 2008

MO2008.13 Bertamini, McDonald moved the adoption of the regular Council meeting of January 7, 2008 as presented. Carried.

5.2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.2.1 Municipal Planning Commission – December 13, 2007

5.2.2 Municipal Planning Commission – December 20, 2007

5.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.0 DELEGATIONS

Remuneration Task Force Report

Ray Page and Brent Pedersen, Elected Officials Remuneration Task Force presented their report for Council's consideration. Two other members of the Task Force were not in attendance: Bob Friesen and Doreen Decore. They thanked Council for their completion of the questionnaire which assisted them in reaching their consensus quickly and Administration for preparing the packages.

- Current Travel Expense Policy, and the mandatory and optional health and insurance benefit packages appeared to be highly satisfactory and no change is being recommended.
- Reimbursements for meals with or without receipts need to be clarified for individual members. Council Policy C-06-04 provides clarification.
- Drumheller was compared to a dozen communities in Alberta of similar size and financial situations. The Task Force eliminated municipalities in the highest and lowest pay brackets. From the comparison, Drumheller's elected officials' wages were in the middle range.
- It was agreed that the current method of a monthly payment to Council is preferred.
- In reviewing the current position of Drumheller Council as compared to their peers, it was agreed that an increase in the amount of 3.5% compounded for each of the past three years (2005, 2006, 2007), which represents the negotiated increases received by employees, would be appropriate.

The Task Force recommended the following changes to Policy C-05-07 adopted February 20, 2007:

- The honorarium paid to the Mayor be \$15,534.00 per annum; the general expense allowance paid to the Mayor to be \$7,766 per annum; for a total remuneration of \$23,300.00 per annum.
- The honorarium paid to each Councillor be \$10,333 per annum; the general expense allowance paid to each Councillor to be \$5,167 per annum, per annum, for a total remuneration of \$15,500 per annum.
- The Task Force recommends that COLA or Union negotiated salary increases be applied to Councils amended salary effective January 1, 2008 and each year thereafter.
- The per diem for out of Town meetings be increased from \$150.00 to \$250.00, effective January 1, 2008.

Mayor and Council thanked Ray Page and Brent Pedersen for their presentation and the members for their willingness to serve on the Task Force to review this matter.

7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

8.1 CAO

8.1.1 R. Romanetz introduced Bylaw 03.08 being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw by redesignating Plan 8810626 Block 1 Lot 3 from "A" – Agricultural to "CR" Country Residential. He advised that the applicant, Stephen Commander, wishes to subdivide the land. He further noted that the Municipal Planning Commission has reviewed the application in detail and they recommend approval. He stated that although the new Alberta Environment mapping information showed the parcel of land to be in the floodway, Alberta Environment has yet to provide reasoning for their new data. He further stated that if the property is developed, some areas may require fill. There is no specific timeframe for the development of the property. R. Romanetz recommended that Council proceed to first reading to allow for the public hearing to be held on February 4th.

MO2008.14 Bertamini, Guidolin for first reading to Bylaw 03.08. Carried.

8.1.2 R. Romanetz introduced Bylaw 05.08 being a bylaw to close a portion of unused and undeveloped original road allowance to public travel and acquiring title and then selling an incorporating same with the adjacent lands. He explained that the property is located in Rosedale and is part of a subdivision proposal approved by Council last year. He explained that the intention is to close a portion of the original road allowance, subdivide the old railway bed into four parcels and consolidate these parcels and the closed road allowance with the adjacent lots on the north side of the river. He further noted that the property is isolated and has little or no value to the Town. He advised that the subdivision application is now being circulated and it is timely that both processes be approved together. Following the approvals, the plan will be registered and the property owners will

be provided with ownership. R. Romanetz recommended that Council proceed to first reading to allow for the public hearing to be held on February 4th and forwarded to the Minister for his approval.

MO2008.15 Shoff, McDonald for first reading to Bylaw 05.08. Carried.

8.1.3 R. Romanetz introduced Bylaw 06.08 being a bylaw to close a portion of unused and undeveloped original road allowance to public travel and acquiring title to this land and then selling and incorporating same with the adjacent lands. He explained that the parcel of land is located along Hwy 10 near the Water Treatment Plant. He further explained that this is again a road allowance closure tied into a proposed land exchange as approved by Council last year. He stated that the land exchange will resolve an encroachment problem and the intent is for the land to be developed for commercial purposes. He stated that the subdivision application has moved forward to Palliser for approval. Closure of the road and registration of the plan are required to provide the property owner with ownership. R. Romanetz recommended that Council proceed to first reading to allow for the public hearing to be held on February 4th and forwarded to the Minister for his approval.

MO2008.16 Yemen, Guidolin for first reading to Bylaw 06.08. Carried.

8.1.4 R. Romanetz introduced Bylaw 07.08 being a bylaw to close a portion of unused and undeveloped public lane and a portion of a public street (4th Street SW) to public travel and acquiring title to this land and then selling and incorporating same with the adjacent lands. The parcel of land is located in the Elgin Hill area. He advised that the Elgin Hill Area Structure Plan was approved by Council in 2006 and the plan provides for revised access to the subdivision. He further advised that currently the legal access to the site is limited. He explained that an arrangement for the exchange of land has been entered into with Mr. Goudy and an appraisal has been prepared. Further to this, Mr. Goudy will be asking Council to consider the possibility of some additional land exchanges to be addressed at a future Council meeting. R. Romanetz recommended that Council proceed to first reading to allow for the public hearing to be held on February 4th and forwarded to the Minister for his approval.

MO2008.17 Shoff, Bertamini for first reading to Bylaw 07.08. Carried.

8.2 Acting Director of Infrastructure Services

8.3 Director of Corporate Services

8.3.1 RFD – Interim Financing for Boil Water Costs

M. Roy advised that in 2007, the Town incurred \$485,491.24 in costs relating to the boil water incident. He explained that in order to complete year end, a source of funding needs to be identified and Administration is recommending that the funds be expensed from the operation of the water service and specifically its reserves. He stated that any reimbursed funds from insurance will go back into this account.

MO2008.18 Bertamini Shoff that Council directs Administration to fund the boil water costs

from the Water Reserve and that any insurance proceeds received will be directed back into the Water Reserve.

Clarification on Motion:

Councillor K. Bertamini asked how these costs can be paid if there are insufficient funds. R. Romanetz explained that for the interim the Town intends to borrow from other reserves, such as the Kneehill reserve, where there are sufficient funds (\$1.8 million plus interest). Councillor A. Berdahl asked if there was any direction from the insurance company. R. Romanetz advised he along with the Mayor and M. Roy will arrange a meeting with the adjuster, insurance company and Chief Executive Officer of AUMA to discuss a resolution within a specific timeframe.

Vote on Motion: Carried.

Councillor K. Bertamini asked if all the claims for reimbursement costs have been submitted to the Town. R. Romanetz stated that although he has encouraged Starland, Munson and Morrin to submit their costs, the Town has not received them as of this date and a further reminder may be required.

8.3.2 RFD(Direction) – Request from East Coulee School Museum for tax cancellation for a heritage house

M. Roy advised that the Town has received a request to waive 2007 property taxes for a property legally described as Plan 3815EC Block 5 Lot 34. He stated that the amount of taxes is \$293.84. He further explained that Council Policy 07-04 Accounts Collections and Write Offs states that Council has final approval of any cancellation as well the Municipal Government Act Section 347 does give Council the authority to cancel taxes. Administration is recommending that the request be denied as it may set precedent for other property owners to make similar requests.

MO2008.19 Bertamini, Guidolin that Council request Administration to send a letter to the East Coulee School Museum Board advising them that there will be a Heritage Sites Task Force set up shortly to make recommendations to Council on how to deal with such properties.

Clarification on Motion:

Mayor Bryce Nimmo explained that he had received a request from Gillian Murray to designate a property in East Coulee as a Municipal Historic Resource. He had told her at that time that due to the implications on municipal operations, such as the requirement for the Town to pass a bylaw and research and inspect each property being requested for historical designation, the Town was not in a position to undertake this assignment at this time. He had suggested to Ms. Murray that a heritage group be formed to develop a report and she has accepted the challenge and has come up with a list of names that may be able to sit on a local committee that would provide expertise on heritage buildings. He explained

that Ms. Murray is currently away for the winter and he intends to discuss this matter with her when she returns. Councillor K. Bertamini stated that she did not realize that there would be such a delay and asked if further tax arrear penalties would be incurred on this property. M. Roy stated yes. Councillor S. Shoff asked the timeframe for the committee to bring their recommendations to Council. R. Romanetz recommended that committee provide a report to Council by June 30th and if no report is brought forward, then this matter should be brought to the table again following this date.

Vote on Motion: Carried.

8.4 Director of Community Services

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

- 9.1 CAO
- 9.2 Acting 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 S. Shoff provided an overview of Drumheller Public Library meeting held on January 10th:

- Margaret Neilsen was appointed as the new recording secretary;
- Some funding was received from the Arts / Sparts Program; Elizabeth Davies agreed to coordinate this program;
- Old circulation desk has been removed with the assistance by the Hutterite Colony; and
- PLDI grant application under the Rural Technology Program was denied;

She further presented an update on the Communities in Bloom meeting held on January 17th:

- Discussion held on several projects proposed for the spring/summer for the banners, planters, and dinosaurs.

- First cleanup weekend will be April 19-20 to commemorate Earth Day, April 22nd which will

be promoted through a public relations campaign.

14.2 Councillor B. McDonald provided an overview of the RCMP Community Advocacy Meeting held on January 13th:

- Promoting the philosophy of getting to know your neighbors which may help to deter criminal activity;
- Kim Telford and Fred Makowecki will be hosting a Safe Community Fair in June;
- Discussion held on the formation of a Policing Committee; the members were informed of Council's upcoming information meeting. Part of the discussion included the concern of replicating ourselves and that their purpose is valuable for exchange of information;
- New computerized software system for Citizens on Patrol; one phone call to the system and this information is then fanned out to 200 rural crime watch members within 3-7 minutes;
- Staff Sgt. Art Hopkins explained previously there was limited input by the public into the annual policing plan and he intends to improve on this – the key is to balance resources with the priorities identified.
- CAC members passed their appreciation to Council for their representation on the Committee.

15.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS MO2008.20 Bertamini, Shoff to go in camera at 5:55 PM. Carried.

15.1 Boil Water Incident Overtime Costs

15.2 Village of Delia Invoice for 2001 Elevator Fire

MO2008.21 Shoff, Yemen to revert to regular Council meeting at 8:45 PM. Carried

15.1 Boil Water Incident Overtime Costs

Councillor Karen Ann Bertamini asked for a recorded vote:

MO2008.22 Bertamini, Yemen that Council accept the out of scope revised schedule for overtime associated with the boil water order and direct Administration to pay out the overtime costs according to the revised schedule.

In Favour – Nimmo, McDonald, Bertamini, Shoff, Yemen, Guidolin

Against - Berdahl

Carried.

15.2 Village of Delia Invoice for 2001 Elevator Fire

MO2008.23 Guidolin, Shoff that Council agree to accept 71% (\$8,043.75) of the outstanding balance and to write off the remaining portion of the Village of Delia Invoice for 2001 Elevator Fire in the amount of \$3,206.25. Carried.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER