

Town of Drumheller COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2011 at 4:30 PM
Council Chamber, Town Hall
703-2nd Ave. West, Drumheller, Alberta



PRESENT:

MAYOR:

Terry Yemen

COUNCIL:

Andrew Berdahl

Jay Garbutt

Lisa Hansen-Zacharuk

Sharel Shoff

Doug Stanford

Tom Zariski

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ENGINEER:

Ray Romanetz

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:

Allan Kendrick

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:

Michael Roy

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Paul Salvatore

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Linda Handy

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARK

- 2.1 Mayor T. Yemen proclaimed January 16 to 22, 2011 as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Mayor T. Yemen advised that he received a letter from the Alberta Order of Excellence inviting the Town to nominate an Albertan to become a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence. Mayor Yemen asked Council for recommendations of individuals who would be deserving of this honor.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MO2011. 17 Shoff, Hansen-Zacharuk moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5.1.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2011

MO2011.18 Berdahl, Zariski moved to adopt the regular Council meeting minutes of January 4, 2011 as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.2. MINUTES OF MEETING PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

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 - Bylaw 02.11 - Utility Rate Bylaw (first reading)

M. Roy advised that based on information from the January 4, 2011 Committee Meeting, Administration has prepared two bylaws; both are based on meter charges with one using 80% of water consumption for the wastewater calculations and the other using 100% of water consumption during winter and 80% of water consumption during summer. He presented a schedule that compares residential impact based on usage. The scenarios presented are as follows: 2010 Rates based on consumption of 15 m³ per month; Alternative Water 8 & Wastewater 3 and Alternative Water 8 & Wastewater 4 (one with no irrigation and 15 m³ each month and the other with irrigation and 18.75 m³). R. Romanetz asked A. Kendrick the % of flow through all metered users that is returned to the wastewater plant. He stated that 77% of water usage comes back through the plant as wastewater. M. Roy stated that under Alternative WW 4 with no irrigation, residents will pay less in the summer and more in the winter whereas under Alternative WW 4 with irrigation @ 20%, residents who may be watering will be paying the same amount throughout the year.

Councillor A. Berdahl questioned the feasibility of implementing equalized billing. M. Roy stated that this method of payment is feasible (similar to taxes) and on the 12th month, adjustments can be made

either direction. Councillor L. Hansen-Zacharuk asked for a comparison chart for commercial users based on the previous years' billing compared to the new meter sizes. In response to a question from Council, M. Roy clarified that the rate model is structured to raise more revenue on the fixed charged side while decreasing the variable rate as the Town is still raising only the revenue required under any scenario. The meter size will determine the fixed amount. There will be an inflationary increase which includes the actual cost of producing water but also an increase on the depreciation side of the asset as the estimated book value of the water works asset has increased. R. Romanetz explained that the Town now has a state of the art Wastewater Plant which is producing water in accordance with provincial standards and our license approval - last year utility budget \$110,000 and this year the budget is \$220,000. The significant increase in operating costs also reflects inflationary, goods & services and wage increases. There are three additional buildings in the plant to heat, additional clarifiers, the digester is twice the size and the aeration process is run by huge electric motors - all these factors impact the increased cost of operations for power and gas.

In response to a question from Council, R. Romanetz advised that 95% of meters are from single family dwellings. Of the 3300 meters only about 200 will be greater than the 5/8 size. Councillor J. Garbutt stated that the Town does not have a policy on the beautification of lawns and on the contrary, Council should be focusing their discussion on conservation. R. Romanetz confirmed that AUMA has been asked by the Province to develop a conservation policy and a number of meetings have been held on the matter. During the AUMA Convention held this past fall, municipalities were told that they are required to have a conservation policy in place by October, 2011.

Councillor D. Stanford asked if the wastewater plant was built for over capacity and asked if sections of the plant can be isolated. R. Romanetz stated that the plant will meet Drumheller's needs for the next 20 years. He stated that one of the secondary clarifiers was built for redundancy - if one clarifier goes down, the plant will still meet the provincial requirements. The pumps have been designed to run only when sludge circulation is required. The estimated increase in flows is based on an estimated population growth of 1.5% per annum.

MO2011.19 Berdahl, Zariski moved first reading to Bylaw 03.11.

Vote on Motion:

In favour - Stanford, Zariski, Berdahl

Opposed - Shoff, Yemen, Hansen-Zacharuk, Garbutt

Motion defeated.

MO2011.20 Shoff, Hansen-Zacharuk moved first reading to Bylaw

02.11.

Vote on Motion:

In Favour - Shoff, Yemen, Hansen-Zacharuk, Garbutt

Opposed - Stanford, Zariski, Berdahl

Motion carried.

8.1.2 RFD - Appointments to Taxi Commission

MO2011.21 Shoff, Berdahl that Council approve the appointments of Councillors Jay Garbutt and Lisa Hansen-Zacharuk to Taxi Commission for a term to expire at Council's 2011 Organizational Meeting.

In response to a question from Council, R. Romanetz explained that the Taxi Bylaw sets standards and rates relating to the operation of a taxi service. The Commission meets at least twice per year which allows the operators to come in and express their concerns. At the present time there is only one operator and he is finding it difficult to meet the needs of the community. Councillor T. Zariski expressed concern that the taxi service cannot meet the needs of residents in a wheel chair. R. Romanetz stated that there are some recommendations in the Transit Feasibility Study relating to alternatives for handicapped services and if Council wished, the document can be brought forward to a Committee Meeting for discussion. Administration will provide a copy of the report to Council which will be discussed at a Committee meeting after the Taxi Commission has held their meeting.

Vote on Motion:

Carried unanimously.

8.2. Director of Infrastructure Services

8.3. Director of Corporate Services

8.3.1 RFD - Request for Tax Cancellation Plan 565LK Block 4 Lot 1

M. Roy advised that a letter has been received from the Pat and Michelle Doyle requesting a refund of property taxes as a result of the value of their property being depreciated as of February 2010 based on assessment from the 2009 year. Administration did inspect the property and damage was noted to the interior and exterior of property due most likely to undermining in the area. The house was vacated in September, 2010. The February date results from the date the property owners filed a claim with their insurance company.

MO2010.22 Berdahl, Garbutt moved that Council authorize Administration to refund the taxes from February to December 2010 in

the amount of \$2288.83.

Discussion on Motion:

Councillor D. Stanford stated that only the improvement portion of the taxes should be refunded. Councillor S. Shoff stated that the motion should not reflect the portion in schools and seniors requisition as this amount must be recovered from the ratepayers.

Councillors Berdahl and Garbutt agreed to withdraw their motion.

MO2011.23 Hansen-Zacharuk, Garbutt that Council authorize Administration to refund the improvement portion of the taxes in the amount of \$1578.45.

Vote on Motion:

Carried unanimously

8.4. Director of Community Services

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

- 9.1 CAO's Quarterly Report to December 31, 2010
- 9.2 Director of Infrastructure Services' Quarterly Report to December 31, 2010
- 9.3 Director of Corporate Services' Quarterly Report to December 31, 2010
- 9.4 Director of Community Services' Quarterly Report to December 31, 2010

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING DECISIONS

11.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

13.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

14.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS

MO2011.24 Berdahl, Shoff that Council go in camera at 6:20 PM. Carried unanimously.

- 14.1 Labour Matter

MO2011.25 Shoff, Stanford to revert to regular Council Meeting at 7:00 PM. Carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer