

Town of Drumheller COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 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

- 1.1 Councillor Lisa Hansen-Zacharuk was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for the months of March and April, 2011.

2.0 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARK

- 2.1 Mayor Yemen provided an overview of the meeting with Hon. Jack Hayden - MLA, R. Romanetz and himself held on February 18th as follows:
- Hon. Hayden was supportive of Pat Doyle's housing situation (six houses in Alberta are in a similar situation and the Province will consider the matter globally);
 - Drumheller Housing Administration - Hon. Hayden will confirm with other government officials that the operations will remain as status quo.

- East Coulee Water Line / Golf Course Water Line / East Coulee Wastewater Treatment Plant - applications for funding are in the queue and Hon. Hayden requested that the Town prioritize the projects. He stated that he will speak with the approval authorities to hopefully speed up the process.
- Acquisition of CN line - Hon. Hayden agreed that the purchase would be a positive move and a value to the tourism industry.
- Local Improvements on 9th Street NW - The Town had an understanding that the Health Board would pay their share and they are now declining to pay their share. Hon. Hayden agreed to discuss this matter with the appropriate Minister.
- CFEP and CIP - both programs have been eliminated for municipalities however the program is available to service groups. Discussed two projects that could be coming forward from the Skateboard Park and Humane Society under their own submissions - the Town can support the project through work hours and other initiatives.

Councillor A. Berdahl asked for an update on the Humane Society's building. P. Salvatore advised that he has been in contact with the group to discuss their future operations and grant applications. Some possible locations that include Town owned land and potential building partnerships have been presented to the group. R. Romanetz stated that the Humane Society would enter into a lease agreement for the land and if they should disband their operations, the land would revert back to the Town. He further stated that as partners the Town would provide the land (long term lease) plus labour (including partnership with the Penitentiary Inmate Program) / equipment which may serve as the matching portion of the grant dollars.

- 2.2 Mayor T. Yemen presented a letter from Chris Riege, Group Lead, Community Relations, Encana which states that Encana is pleased to present their second cheque in the amount of \$250,000 for sponsorship of the Badlands Community Facility.
- 2.3 Mayor T. Yemen presented a plaque from Lieutenant-Colonel J.G. Pospolita in recognition of the support provided by the Town Drumheller to the men and women serving in Afghanistan, and to their families, this scroll certifies that the flag of the Town of Drumheller provided to Master Corporal Matt Chinn, a member of the Canadian Forces' Calgary Highlanders, and while on deployment, serving with the Force Protection Company for the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, was flown for the duration of Rotation 8 at Camp Nathan Smith, Kandahar, Afghanistan.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Addition to Agenda: 14.1 In camera: Personnel Matter
MO2011.40 Shoff, Garbutt moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Carried unanimously.

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5.1.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2011
MO2011.41 Berdahl, Stanford moved to adopt the regular Council Meeting minutes of February 14, 2011 as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.2. MINUTES OF MEETING PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.2.1 Municipal Planning Commission Minutes of December 2, 2010
5.2.2 Municipal Planning Commission Minutes of January 20, 2011

5.3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.0 DELEGATIONS

6.1 Badlands Community Gardens Society - Chris Marion
Chris Marion, provided an overview of the proposed Heritage Garden at Munchie Park (Petro Canada Park). The plan as designed by Olds College Landscape Graphics includes native prairie plants, flower meadow, dry creek beds, rock garden, shaded picnic area, dust reduction, smooth wide paths for accessibility, other landscape designs and seating areas. The plan is based on xeriscaping principles and it is hopeful that residents will reciprocate the ideas in their own gardens. The group has applied for grant dollars under the New Horizons Seniors Program with the intention that the youth and seniors will work together on the project. Munchie (the metal dinosaur) will remain in place as is. There will an open house on March 10th from 7 – 9:00 PM at the Civic Centre. Council is invited to the ground breaking ceremony to be held on April 21st with the opening ceremony to be held in September. There are many partners on the project which include but not limited to: Communities in Bloom, Greentree School students, Drumheller Institution, Drumheller Literacy, Olds College and the Town of Drumheller. She requested that the Town provide water for the park - drip irrigation, earth moving equipment, and solar powered light standards.

R. Romanetz stated that the lease can be cancelled on 30 day notice and he will request a longer term. He also cautioned that the property is for sale. He suggested that Petro Canada be contacted and appraised

of the proposed project. C. Marion stated that because of the lease agreement, nothing will be attached to the property and fixtures will be movable.

Councillor D. Stanford cautioned that the design should allow for the contractor to run test holes. C. Marion stated that the test holes are around the peripheral of the property and their plans take this into account. In response to a question from Council, C. Marion stated that the total project cost is \$75,000 with a breakdown of revenue as follows: \$25,000 of volunteer labour; two grant applications in the amount of \$10,000 each with the remaining dollars as donations.

Council commended Chris for her efforts.

- 6.2 Badlands Ambulance Services Society - EMS Coordinator Bruce Coad
B. Coad, Coordinator for EMS Ambulance, provided an overview of the Badlands Society operations. He stated that the service went to advance life support a few years ago which provides an enhanced service with a paramedic who can do advance procedures that go beyond the basic life support. Badlands Ambulance is fortunate to be operating with a first vehicle at 24 hours / 7 days and a second vehicle about 30% of that time. He stated that the Province is handling governance and funding of EMS. They are doing direct delivery in about 75% of the province. The rural areas have remained in a contract position with Alberta Health Services. He explained that at the request of the province due to overwhelming renewals, Badlands Ambulance Services Society has agreed to a letter of intent for a one year extension (April 1 to March 31, 2012) and to negotiate a five year contract (2012-2017) with a possible further two year extension. Although it is expected that the Society operates at the previous year budget, the Province is expecting that the change order process will be used where costs are increased. He explained that there is a lot of work to put together a budget for the five year contract. He explained that some budget considerations will be given to the Province's 123 new standardized protocols that every EMT is required to learn – new protocols (best practices) will be implemented in December. They will also need to forecast transfers for the next five years. He explained that all factor needs to be considered on whether there is going to be a greater demand on the service, i.e. expansion to the Institution. He stated that he is open to dialogue where increases are proposed, i.e. oil and gas industry. He stated that he appreciates the support of the Town of Drumheller as they have provided the tools to meet the two minutes response time frame – Drumheller's response time is one of the highest in the province.

Council thanked Bruce for his presentation.

- 6.3 Hope Health - Jon Ohlhauser, President / Jordan Webber, Community

Futures

J. Ohlhauser stated that the Hope Health initiative is an opportunity to stimulate Drumheller's economy and to become a provincially recognized centre for unique specialization in health care in the rural area. He stated that the initiative is a partnership with Community Futures Big Country and has the support of the Economic Development Task Force. Their intentions is to start with the college first but their plans include a research and clinic component as well. There is a need for a college in Drumheller that offers a unique program in the post secondary education marketplace. First year of classes is anticipated for the fall of 2012 with an enrollment projection of 38. Tuition will be based on the models of their partnering schools – Bow Valley College, Red Deer College and Olds College. Their first year program will offer courses for licensed practical nurse, physical therapy assistant and Business Administration. Five year enrollment projections are targeted at 1000 students with 200 of those students out of Drumheller. Hope College has recently been approved to submit a proposal to the Rural Alberta Development Fund for a grant to help cover the start-up costs associated with the first three years of operations in the amount of \$1.1M. Business model focuses on the first three years of operations (which is the target for success). Initial funding will go towards marketing and the need to promote the college with the grads in April. They need to identify that the local community supports the initiative with a matching component of \$300,000 in addition to in-kind support - \$100,000 from the community each of the three years. They are looking for pledges only – they only need the matching dollars if the grant is approved. The Business Model is structured so that 1/3 of the pledges is for student scholarships. He explained that they will be accepting charitable donations however it may take six months to set up. He stated that currently they have four pledges at the \$30,000 level and they are targeting major corporations doing business in the community at that level. The fundraising plan is being presented in the community. He stated that the Town has donated \$5,000 last year and asking for this same commitment for the next three years – for a total \$15,000.

In response to a question from Council, Hope College intends to operate from the former St. Anthony School site and looking at the residential component (dormitory) to be located at the old hospital site.

Council thanked Jon and Jordan for their presentation.

7.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.0 REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

8.1. CAO

8.1.1 RFD - Approval of 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets

R. Romanetz advised that the previous Council, on March 2, 2009 adopted the 2009-2011 operating budget. Since that time changes have been made to the 2011 budget and the revisions need to be approved by Council. The capital budget is approved annually. He explained that the passing of the bylaw will allow staff to prepare the mill rate bylaw and hire consultants for the capital projects.

M. Roy provided an overview of the changes to the operational budget due to the new reporting requirements for depreciation. The bottom-line shows a deficit of \$3.9M. The expense related to the amortization does not have to be funded as per provincial regulations as it is a non cash item.

MO2011.42 Berdahl, Zariski moved to approve the Town of Drumheller's 2011 Operating Budget as amended and the 2011 Capital budget as presented.

Discussion held on Motion:

Councillor S. Shoff stated that she will not vote in favour of the motion as she is not comfortable with some amounts on the capital side. In response to her concerns, M. Roy noted that the 10 year multi plan will require a complete review and is not part of the motion.

Councillor J. Garbutt asked for clarification on sub section 9701. M. Roy explained that the amount is a transfer to reserves - \$1.2M from operating which includes \$900,000 debenture savings from amalgamation was retained and transferred to the reserves for capital projects. A contingency amount of \$75,000 minimum and any extra surplus is transferred to the reserves for capital projects or whatever other projects Council determines.

Vote on Motion:

6 – in favour – Stanford, Zariski, Yemen, Hansen-Zacharuk, Berdahl, Garbutt

1 – opposed Shoff

Motion carried.

MO2011.43 Garbutt, Stanford that the Town of Drumheller pledge \$5,000 each year for the next three years to Hope College. Carried unanimously.

In response to a question from Council, R. Romanetz explained that the dollars will be expensed from the Economic Development Budget.

8.1.2 RFD - Appointment of Alternate Representative to Marigold Regional Library Board

R. Romanetz advised that the Town of Drumheller has received a

request from the Drumheller Public Library Board to appoint Louise Henrickson as the alternate representative to the Marigold Regional Library System.

MO2011.44 Hansen-Zacharuk, Garbutt that Council approve the appointment of Louise Henrickson as the Alternate Representative to the Marigold Regional Library System. Carried unanimously.

8.1.3 Comments on Provincial Budget 2011

R. Romanetz presented comments on AUMA's questions regarding the Provincial budget 2011 as follows:

- MSI was increased by \$10M but the bulk goes to the larger centers (Drumheller's numbers will be close to what was received in 2010).

- a slight increase of 3% to the education property tax - impact to the residents.

- Province intends to do a comprehensive review of the MGA over a two to five year period which may include a restructuring of the property assessment system in Alberta.

- there is no change to the funding formula for Municipal Policing Assistance Grants.

- Schedule on various grants – there is an increase in budgets specific to Edmonton, Calgary or Fort McMurray with little increase for other smaller communities.

- Water and Wastewater Program – it appears the bulk will go towards funding infrastructure in Fort McMurray. Councillor Berdahl asked the status on the Drumheller projects. R. Romanetz stated that Hon. Jack Hayden will speak to the approving authorities on our behalf. He further explained that urgency for the East Coulee Wastewater Plant that if it fails the Town will be in non compliance with our operating approval.

- Councillor Zariski requested Administration to explore the Town's options under the Green Transit Incentive Program.

- Councillor Zariski noted that the dollars for the seniors and affordable housing capital programs is cut by 46.9% and he stated that this was not acceptable.

8.1.4 RFD - Elected Officials Remuneration Task Force

R. Romanetz advised that at their meeting of February 14th, Council appointed five (5) Drumheller residents to review Council's remuneration and report back to Council. Since that time, Stan Baird has resigned due to the commitments required to serve in this capacity. It is recommended that the runner up applicant, Edward Laplante, be appointed for one term.

MO2011.45 Hansen-Zacharuk, Stanford that Council approve the appointment of Ed Laplante to the Elected Official Remuneration Review Task Force for one term.

Councillors Garbutt and Berdahl stated that a secret ballot vote should

have applied to all the remaining candidates.

Vote on Motion:

5 in favor – Stanford, Zariski, Yemen, Shoff, Hansen-Zacharuk

2 against – Garbutt, Berdahl.

Motion carried.

8.2. Director of Infrastructure Services

8.3. Director of Corporate Services

8.4. Director of Community Services

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING DECISIONS

11.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

13.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

14.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS

MO2011.46 Hansen-Zacharuk, Stanford to move in camera at 6:30 PM. Carried unanimously.

14.1 Personnel Matter

MO2011.47 Garbutt, Berdahl to revert to regular Council meeting at 7:00 PM. Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer