

Town of Drumheller COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2015 at 4:30 PM
Council Chamber, Town Hall
224 Centre Street, Drumheller, AB, T0J 0Y4



PRESENT:

DEPUTY MAYOR:
Jay Garbutt

COUNCIL:

Lisa Hansen-Zacharuk
Patrick Kolafa
Sharel Shoff

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ENGINEER:

Ray Romanetz

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:

Barb Miller

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Paul Salvatore

DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

Greg Peters

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Linda Handy

ABSENT:

MAYOR Terry Yemen

COUNCILLOR Tom Zariski

COUNCILLOR Tara McMillan

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES:

Allan Kendrick

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARK

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING

4.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MO2015.100 Hansen-Zacharuk, Shoff 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 June 1, 2015

MO2015.101 Shoff, Kolafa moved to adopt the regular Council Meeting minutes of June 1, 2015 as presented. Carried unanimously.

5.2. MINUTES OF MEETING PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

5.2.1 Municipal Planning Commission - May 7, 2015

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 Water Fluoridation Report

In response to a Councillor's concern regarding water fluoridation, R. Romanetz provided an overview of the Town's fluoridation treatment process in accordance with Bylaw 26.66 adopted on October 24, 1966. He explained that fluoridation became part of our treatment process since this date and is part of the Town's operating approval. He stated that although operating standards have been updated to change or improve the quality of water over the years, Alberta Environment's requirement is that fluoride is not to exceed one part per one million parts of water on a daily basis. In discussions with Keith Lee – Alberta Health Services on the process, he has provided information that is attached to the agenda. Keith Lee, through Alberta Health's authority, recommends fluoride be added to the water as it does not have any proven risks to the residents. Keith Lee or a provincial representative is willing to speak to the matter in more detail should Council wish their attendance at a future meeting. R. Romanetz advised that the water is tested on a daily basis by the Town and our daily test results closely matches the provincial testing results. He further explained that because the fluoridation was introduced by a plebiscite followed by a bylaw, the same process would have to be followed in order to have fluoridation removed from the water treatment process. He further advised that Council is aware with discussions in Alberta that some municipalities have moved away from fluoridation however our health authority supports this practice and recommends that it be left in place.

Councillor L. Hansen-Zacharuk advised that the topic was a matter of discussion on social media and she asked for an update for the residents' information. She asked what the natural fluoride levels are in the river. R. Romanetz advised that naturally the river fluoride levels vary however on average the levels are between .2 to .5 ppm with the lower levels in winter. He further explained that the Town's operating approval specifies that fluoride levels at any time are not to exceed 1 ppm (.8 ppm averaged over a 30 day period).

Councillor J. Garbutt stated that currently the literature does not back up any adverse effect and until our local health authority provides confirmed reasons not to do this practice, the Town will not take any action. He further noted that the cost of a plebiscite is between \$20,000 - \$45,000.

8.1.2 RFD Alta Gas Franchise

R. Romanetz advised that he and B. Miller met with AltaGas representatives to review the minor changes to the existing 10 year franchise agreement which expires in 2015. AltaGas has proposed a new franchise agreement for the continuation of the service for Council's consideration and adoption. He further explained that the franchise agreement proposed uses the new agreement template that was recently negotiated by AUC (Alberta Utilities Commission) and the natural gas and power distribution providers. He recommended that the term of the agreement be for 10 years. The AUC has approved the negotiated franchise template.

In response to a question from Council, R. Romanetz advised that 10 years is reasonable and is the norm with other municipalities. He further stated that the agreement has not changed materially from what was in place and allows for more flexibility. Councillor S. Shoff asked if the municipality could get natural gas cheaper. R. Romanetz advised that the price of natural gas is set through the retailer and AltaGas provides the distribution as regulated by the AUC.

R. Romanetz asked B. Miller to speak to setting of the franchise fee. B. Miller explained that once per year, Council has the option to change the franchise fee however AUC has capped franchise fees at 35%. The Town is at 27% right now. She clarified that Council can change the fee however it must be advertised for two consecutive weeks to allow for an objection period. A change must be submitted to AltaGas and they would forward the change to AUC who in turn, authorizes the change for franchise fees. She stated that by keeping the fee at the current level the Town is maintaining the rate for Drumheller residents. Councillor J. Garbutt asked if franchise fees are passed on to the consumer. B. Miller stated yes.

MO2015.102 Shoff, Hansen-Zacharuk moved the approval of that the proposed franchise agreement and that the franchise fee remain at 27% and a 10 year term. Carried unanimously.

8.1.3 Bylaw 10.15 Alta Gas Franchise - First Reading

R. Romanetz advised that following first reading, Alta Gas will place notice in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks. The Town will also advertise the notice on our Town website.

MO2015.103 Shoff, Kolafa moved first reading of Bylaw 10.15. Carried unanimously.

8.2. DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

8.3. DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

8.3.1 RFD - Sandstone Manor Tax Cancellation

B. Miller advised that the Drumheller Housing Administration has historically requested that the municipal portion of the property taxes be cancelled for the property occupied by the Sandstone Manor. She further advised that this cancellation of the municipal portion of the property tax is reflected in the Sandstone Manor budget, already reviewed by Council. The Municipal Government Act Section 347(1)(b) provides that Council may cancel or refund part of a tax. The Town is still required to remit the requisitions for the Education and District Seniors Foundation.

MO2015.104 Hansen-Zacharuk, Kolafa moved that Council approve the cancellation of the 2015 municipal portion of the taxes plus the requisition for the District Seniors Foundation for a combined total approximating \$9,000 for the Sandstone Manor Roll Number 04029906. Carried unanimously.

8.4. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

8.4.1 Canada's 150th Birthday Celebration - Federal Grant Application

P. Salvatore advised that Canada's 150th Birthday Fund aims to build or upgrade community / recreation facilities. He further advised that based on Council's request to do a short survey of a project selection under Canada's 150th Birthday Celebration Grant application and based on 336 votes received, 70% of residents were in favor of the Aquaplex Retrofitting Project. The remaining two projects, Walking Trail Upgrades scored 26% while the Hoodoo Development scored 4%.

The Aquaplex Retrofitting Project will add zero depth entry to the pools, increasing the facility's efficiency and heightening the general level of services at the Drumheller Aquaplex. The estimated total project cost is \$1.2M contingent upon receipt of funding and matching funding source with Western Diversification.

In response to a question from Council, R. Romanetz advised that if the Town is successful on this application, these dollars will be in addition to the Town's commitment of \$600,000 and MSI dollars which is for a bare minimum upgrade. The additional dollars would allow for the project retrofit as outlined above as well as the previously approved capital project for redoing the deck, liner, changing the drainage, new tiling and installation of anti-slip material. He further advised that the upgrades improve safety to a building that was constructed in 1975.

MO2015.105 Hansen-Zacharuk, Kolafa moved that Council supports the Town of Drumheller's grant application under Canada's 150th Birthday Fund for the Aquaplex Retrofitting Project. Carried unanimously.

8.5. DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

9.0 PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING DECISIONS

11.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

13.0 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

13.1 Councillor P. Kolafa - FCM Conference

Councillor P. Kolafa provided an overview of his attendance at the FCM Conference in Edmonton from June 5 – 8. He stated that it was an informative experience with several keynote speakers - Hon. Joe Oliver – Minister of Finance, Justin Trudeau – Leader Liberal Party, Tom Muclair – Leader of the NDP, and Elizabeth May – Leader of the Green Party. Highlights included a presentation on the Disaster Mitigation Program and National Flood Insurance Program (advised that accurate flood mapping must be in place), a session on finding new money without increasing taxes and user fees, a session on sponsorships / naming rights and offering sponsors what they want, and a session on putting local strategy into action (lobbying – asking how does your advocacy affect the people). As well, a tour of NAIT - the future of Edmonton's alternative energy (key point - without subsidy, alternative energy wins every time); another tour included the Mercer Warehouse – championing entrepreneurial spirit (building community projects with an idea to rent retail areas for a short time). He stated that he would forward any Emails of interest to Council and Administration.

14.0 IN-CAMERA MATTERS

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Deputy Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer