

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2006 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Mayor J. Hunter

Councillors A. Campbell, R. Peeples & L. Thorogood

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg

Director of Finance & Administration G. Switenky

Press (1)

Absent:

Councillors S. Hurley, D. Richards & G. Majeran

Call to Order:

Mayor J. Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1/2. **Agenda Additions/Approval:**

Motion 06:01:01

Moved by Councillor Campbell to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

3. **Confirmation of Minutes:**

(a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 20, 2005

Motion 06:01:02

Moved by Councillor Peeples that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 20, 2005 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

(b) Business Arising from the December 20, 2005 Minutes

(i) None

4. **Citizen's Forum:**

(a) Jack Chapman

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

5. **Delegations:**

(a) None

6. **Administration:**

(a) Memo re: Council Remuneration

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg advised that earlier in 2005 it was decided by Council to review remuneration rates for Elected Officials later in the year.

A series of recently compiled informal surveys (prepared by other municipalities) were presented for comparative purposes.

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg explained that the current system of a flat monthly fee is easy to administrate and encourages a more efficient meeting schedule than what would develop under a per-meeting rate. Direction is needed by Council to either change the rates, confirm the rates or gather additional data.

Round table discussion ensued regarding individual Council members' opinions of the remuneration and reimbursement rates included in the existing policy, as well as the appropriateness of comparative rates reflected in the surveys.

It was stated that given the nature of this consideration, and for fairness purposes respecting the three Members of Council absent from this meeting, this item would be more appropriately dealt with at a subsequent meeting.

Mayor Hunter concluded and with the mutual consent of Council Members present agreed to discuss Council remuneration and reimbursement rates, however to develop only a recommendation for further consideration and ratification at a subsequent Town Council Meeting.

Round table discussion ensued on an item by item basis.

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Hunter temporarily suspended discussion on Council remuneration and reimbursement to proceed to Citizens Forum as per the Meeting Agenda.

4. **Citizen's Forum:** (a) Jack Chapman

Jack Chapman entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hunter welcomed J. Chapman to the Council Meeting.

J. Chapman informed Members of Council that a significant amount of local area veterans had offered their lives while voluntarily serving in the armed forces to protect our Country and our democracy in times of war and conflict. The cenotaph recognizes and acknowledges those who died in the war(s), however there remains very little acknowledgement of those veterans who returned to the area and live here today.

In an effort to honor all veterans, past present and future, J. Chapman requested Council consider dedicating 50th Avenue to be Veterans' Avenue or Our Veterans' Avenue. The entire length of road from the intersection at 57th Street on the west side (near Memorial Park and the High School) to the UFA store on the east side (Railroad R.O.W. at 42nd Street) could be dedicated to permanently express the community's appreciation for all veterans.

Mayor Hunter informed J. Chapman that Council would consider his request at a subsequent meeting upon staff being given the opportunity to review existing Town bylaws and policies.

Mayor Hunter thanked J. Chapman for proposing this option to Town Council.

J. Chapman left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Hunter resumed round table discussion on Council remuneration and reimbursement.

Motion 06:01:03

Moved by Councillor Thorogood that the Town of Stettler Council recommend for consideration at the January 17th, 2006 Town Council Meeting the following amendments to Town Policy II-3(b) respecting Council Remuneration and Reimbursement rates:

1. That Town Policy II-3(b) will continue to follow the existing format, including a lump sum Annual Remuneration for the Mayor and Councillors with additional Per Diems paid for extra-ordinary purposes only.
2. That private vehicle reimbursement while traveling Out-of-Town on Town business will be increased from \$0.40 per km to the maximum rate approved by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) from time to time, currently at \$0.50 per km on the first 5,000 kms driven and \$0.44 on the remainder.
3. That reimbursement for accommodation other than hotel/motel will be increased from \$30 to \$50 per day in lieu of reimbursement of receipts.
4. That reimbursement of meals will be increased from up to \$40 per day to up to \$60 per day.
5. That Per Diem rates for extra-ordinary meetings will be increased as follows:

For attendance requiring up to 4 hours the rate will increase from \$75 to \$100 and for a full day meeting the rate will increase from \$150 to \$200.

6. That annual remuneration for 2006 will increase as follows:

Mayor to increase by 10% from \$12,600 to \$13,860.

Councillors will continue to receive 2/3rd of the Mayor's Annual Remuneration; calculated to increase from \$8,400 to \$9,240.

7. That subsequent to 2006, Annual Remuneration for the Mayor and Councillors will be automatically adjusted by an equivalent percentage to that negotiated by the Town's CUPE workers through a collective bargaining process/agreement.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Memo re: Parking Petition

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg reviewed the informal parking petition received December 5, 2005. The document does not meet the requirements of the *Municipal Government Act* to be considered valid, however local resident taxpayers appear to be somewhat unified in being irritated with the continuous lack of parking on their street.

The County of Stettler Housing Authority (Paragon Place) has purchased a lot across the lane from the east side of their property. The lot will provide a minimum of 12 new parking stalls. The staff will no longer be allowed to park on the street. The east side of 55 Street will now be available for visitor parking and will reduce the concerns from the residents.

The County of Stettler Housing Authority is requesting that the Town of Stettler assist with the preparation of the lot.

Discussion ensued regarding signage options.

Motion 06:01:04

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council approve the following recommendations:

1. Advise petitioners of the recent developments.
2. To assist the County of Stettler Housing Authority in preparing the nearby institution's lot to a gravel standard.
3. Work with Paragon Place, other nearby institutions and local residents to maximize public parking opportunities along both sides of 55 Street.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(c) Memo re: Appointment of Committee Members – Lifetime/Recognition Awards

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg advised that nominations under the above-noted policies are anticipated to be received in early 2006.

Both recognition policies outline that applications will be adjudicated by an Awards Committee assigned by Town Council; comprised of 3 to 5 members, one of which must be a Member of Council. Community involvement, sports and culture are the areas that will be evaluated. Assigned/appointed members should be knowledgeable in one or more of these categories.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to recruit names of interested citizens willing to be assigned/appointed to the Awards Committee, the appropriate size for the Awards Committee and the appointment term (on an application basis or annually).

Mayor Hunter concluded that this item will be returned to a subsequent Council Meeting for consideration of assigning/appointing individuals to an Awards Committee.

(d) Town Manager's Report

Motion 06:01:05

Moved by Councillor Peebles that the Town Manager's Report for the month of December be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(e) Update re: Leisure Centre

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg informed Council that the crew was mainly shut down over Christmas.

(f) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$722,644.49

Motion 06:01:06

Moved by Councillor Thorogood that Accounts Payable for the period ending December 29, 2005 in the amount of \$722,644.49 having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

7. **Council:**

Mayor and Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Hunter

-Dec 23 - Town office long service awards.

(b) Councillor Campbell

-No meetings to report.

(c) Councillor Hurley

-No report – absent from meeting.

(d) Councillor Majeran

-No report – absent from meeting.

(e) Councillor Peebles

-No meetings to report.

(f) Councillor Richards

-No report – absent from meeting.

(g) Councillor Thorogood

-No meetings to report.

Mayor Hunter recessed the regular meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Mayor Hunter reconvened the regular meeting at 7:57 p.m.

8. **Minutes:**

(a) Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting of November 24, 2005

(b) Trail of the Buffalo Tourism Association Meeting of December 14, 2005

(c) Stettler & District Ambulance Association Meeting of December 19, 2005

It was noted that the proposed 2006 Operating and Capital budgets for Ambulance Services will significantly impact the Town's 2006 Operating Budget.

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Motion: 06:01:07

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Minutes, items 8(a) to 8(c) inclusive be accepted for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

9. **Public Hearings:** (a) None

10. **Bylaws:** (a) Bylaw 1924-06 re: Business Tax Rate

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg informed Council that this bylaw is to establish a 2006 business tax rate collectable from professionals who cannot be legally licensed by the Town. A corresponding Business License bylaw is currently in effect and does not require an amendment. Both bylaws collect the same fee of \$125 per year.

Motion: 06:01:08

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council give first reading to Bylaw 1924-06.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion: 06:01:09

Moved by Councillor Peebles that the Town of Stettler Council give second reading to Bylaw 1924-06.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion: 06:01:10

Moved by Councillor Thorogood that the Town of Stettler Council give permission for third and final reading to Bylaw 1924-06.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion: 06:01:11

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council give third and final reading to Bylaw 1924-06.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

11. **Correspondence:** (a) None

12. **Additions:** (a) None

13. **In-Camera Session:** (a) There was no In-Camera Session at this meeting.

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 06:01:12

Moved by Councillor Campbell that this regular meeting of the Town of Stettler Council be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

Director of Finance & Administration