

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Mayor Dick Richards

Councillors A. Campbell, D. Bachman, K. Sernecky & W. Brown
(arrived at 6:45 pm)

CAO G. Switenky
Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz

Press (2)

Absent: Councillor M. Fischer & S. Nolls

Call to Order: Mayor D. Richards called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Motion 15:07:16 Moved by Councillor Bachman to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. **Confirmation of Minutes:**

(a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held July 7, 2015

Motion 15:07:17 Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on July 7, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Business Arising from the July 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

None

4. **Citizen's Forum:** (a) No one was present at the Citizen's Forum

5. **Delegations:** (a) 6:45 P.M. – Joan Kerbes & Juergen Ross re: Spayed and Neuter Program for Cats & Dogs

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

6. **Administration:** (a) Memo re: Tax Sale Public Auction Date

CAO G. Switenky advised that the following shows the timeline that has to be followed in order for the Town of Stettler to hold the Tax Public Auction for the remaining properties in the tax recovery process:

Date	Action
March 28/14	Prepared Tax Arrears List and sent notification to owners
July 21/15	Council to set Reserve Bid and sale conditions
Aug 12/15	Send ad to Alberta Gazette (send in 10 working days before ad)
Aug 31/15	Advertise Public Auction in the Alberta Gazette
Sept 1/15	Send copy of ad to registered property owners and all parties having an interest in the property

Oct 7/15	Advertise Public Auction in the Stettler Independent
Oct 20/15	Public Auction at the Town Office at 1:00 p.m.

- Section 418 of the MGA states that the Public Auction must be held between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.
- Under Section 419 of the MGA Council must set a reserve bid that is as close as reasonably possible to the market value of the parcel and any conditions that apply to the sale.
- The tax recovery process can be stopped by payment of all tax arrears prior to the sale.
- The Town may apply for ownership of the property if it is not sold at the public auction.
- After the Town takes title to the property the property owner can regain title to the property if all taxes are paid before the Town sells the property.
- The following property will go to the Public Auction on October 20, 2015 unless all tax arrears are paid prior to the sale:

Lot/Block/Plan	Civic Address	Land	Improv.	Total
3/37/5299HW	6017-51 Avenue	68,660	115,710	184,370

Motion 15:07:18

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council set the 2015 Tax Public Auction date as October 20, 2015 and approve using the 2015 assessment values as the reserve bids for all 2015 tax sale properties and that the terms for the sale be cash or certified cheque.

MOTION CARRIED
 Unanimous

(b) Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, July 22 – Communities In Bloom Judges
- Tuesday, August 4 – Council Meeting
- Tuesday, August 18 – Council Meeting
- Tuesday, September 1 – Council Meeting
- Tuesday, September 8 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Wednesday, September 9 – Joint Town/County Council re: Regional Drainage/Storm Master Plan – 7pm at the County Office
- Tuesday, September 15 – Council Meeting
- Wednesday, September 16 – Public Open House re: Regional Drainage Storm Master Plan 5-7pm at the County Office

(c) Taxes Receivable as of June 30, 2015

Motion 15:07:19

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Taxes Receivable as of June 30, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
 Unanimous

(d) Bank Reconciliation as of June 30, 2015

Motion 15:07:20

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Bank Statement as of June 30, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(e) Statement of Revenue & Expenses as of June 30, 2015

Motion 15:07:21

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Statement of Revenue & Expenses as of June 30, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(g) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$418,663.81

Motion 15:07:22

Moved by Councillor Bachman that Accounts Payable in the amounts of \$193,009.61, \$225,204.20 & \$450.00 for the period ending July 17, 2015 for a total amount of \$418,663.81 having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Councillor W. Brown arrived at the meeting.

5. Delegations:

(a) 6:45 P.M. – Joan Kerbes & Juergen Ross re: Spayed and Neuter Program for Cats & Dogs

Joan Kerbes & Juergen Ross entered the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed J. Kerbes & J. Ross to the meeting.

J. Kerbes, a resident of the County of Stettler, advised that they have been meeting with County Council and Villages Councils within the County about the need for a spay/neuter program to control the overpopulation of cats. Joan reported that the County of Stettler is willing to work with the Town & Villages, as they feel they shouldn't be expected to pay for a problem that also comes from other regions.

J. Kerbes explained that this is a Regional Community issue and encouraged the Town of Stettler, the County of Stettler No. 6 and the Villages within the County to work together on possible solutions to decrease cat overpopulation. The overpopulation of cats keeps getting worse each year and spaying & neutering is the only solution.

Highlights of J. Kerbes's presentation include:

- Female cats can have up to 3 litters in a year with an average of 5 kittens each.
- Some vets charge over \$200 to spay a female, and over \$100 to neuter a male.
- When rescues first began, it was because animals were being euthanized due to the overcrowding in shelters. And now both shelters and rescues find it

difficult to re-home cats, and those considered not adoptable are euthanized.

- In Alberta alone, there are now over 100 Animal Rescues & Shelters, and all dealing with the same problem, too many cats and not enough homes.
- Both local rescues are also having a difficult time adopting out cats, as last year the Animal Haven Rescue could only adopt out 25 & the Donalda Animal Rescue adopted out only 4.
- Cat bylaws have not been successful and those who let their cats roam or reproduce are not likely to license them.
- When cat bylaws are implemented; the number of complaints increase and the intake of cats into shelters increase drastically. Virtually every feral cat that enters a shelter is euthanized there.
- In a 4 year period Alberta Animal Services, (Animal Control and Bylaw Enforcement Contract for the Town of Stettler) picked up 246 cats from the Town of Stettler, and of the 246, only 10 were returned home, 56 adopted, and a 180 were unaccounted for.
- People in Town refuse to call Alberta Animal Services, because they know the chances of the cat being euthanized is high.
- 180 or 73% of the cats picked up from Stettler were euthanized, which is why a spay & neuter program is essential.
- As the Town's Bylaw (2049-14) restricts ownership to 3 cats, the owner is subject to fines of up to \$500 if one of these cats has a litter putting them over the limit. To avoid being fined, the owner will try to get rid of the cats and if homes can't be found and shelters are at full capacity, they could end up being abandoned or killed because of the bylaw.
- Over the past 4 years the Town of Stettler has spent an average of \$42,000/year (dogs and cats) on Animal Control Costs, every year these costs keep going up, costing ratepayers more and doing little to reduce the number of strays.
- The Town also collected over \$21,000 (\$21,570) from Dog & Cat Licensing fees. As most municipalities use these funds towards Spay & Neuter Subsidy Programs, this might be something the Town could consider.
- Rescues and Shelters can't do it alone, and need the help of the County, Town and Villages. The cat population keeps getting worse and costing ratepayers more.

J. Kerbes concluded her presentation by emphasizing some examples of spay/neuter programs in other municipalities specifically the Town of Taber and the City of Lethbridge.

The Town of Taber implements a "Trap Neuter - Release" Program. When unlicensed cats have been trapped, they will be assessed and will be spayed or neutered if appropriate. The cat will then be adopted or released back in the general area where it was trapped. It was noted the cost of the program is approximately \$12,000/yr.

The City of Lethbridge implements a community subsidized spay/neuter program for low income individuals and families. Applications are received and reviewed by a not-

for-profit group. The not-for-profit group coordinates the subsidized spay/neuter program with local participating veterinarians. It was noted the cost of the program is approximately \$40,000.

Subsidized license fee program. As an incentive to license cats, licenses can be purchased on a one-time basis for each individual cat.

Mayor Richards thanked J. Kerbes for the research she has provided and for her very informative presentation. Each Councillor was asked for questions or comments.

General discussion took place regarding the costs associated with a spay and neuter program and the use of license fees versus tax dollars to pay for such programs. The use of license fees to pay for a spay and neuter program would directly affect responsible pet owners paying for irresponsible pet owners. However, funding spay/neuter programs through general taxes collected would be asking all residents to cover the costs of unlicensed pet owners.

General discussion took place with regards to the benefits of communicating the importance of spay or neutering cats through the "Town Works" Magazine. It was agreed that was something Council would consider in future publications.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion by indicating the overpopulation of cats is a Regional Community issue and suggested the item be placed on the agenda of the next Joint Town/County Council Meeting on September 9, 2015.

Mayor Richards thanked J. Kerbes and J. Ross again for their very informative, very passionate presentation.

Delegation Members departed the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

7. Council:

Mayor and Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Richards

- July 10 - Town Office cheques.
- July 17 - Town Office cheques and agenda approval.

(b) Councillor Bachman

- June 18 - Municipal Planning Commission Meeting.
- June 22 - Farmer's Appreciation Night.
- June 30 - Signed FCSS cheques.
- July 16 - Special Ag. Society Meeting re: Roof Repairs.

(c) Councillor Brown

- July 9 - Met with concerned citizen re: empty lot.
- July 20 - Ambulance Board Policy Meeting.

(d) Councillor Campbell

- July 8 - Pheasant Meeting.
- July 16 - Red Deer River Municipal Users Group Meeting.

(e) Councillor Fischer

- No report – absent from meeting.

(f) Councillor Nolls

- No report – absent from meeting.

(g) Councillor Sernecky

- July 15 - Gymnastics Meeting.
- July 20 - Ambulance Association Meeting re: Policy Review.
- July 16 - Resident concerns with cigarette butts at West Stettler Park.
 - Ambulance cheque signing.
- July 18 - Stettler Shoot-Out.

8. Minutes:

(a) Heartland Beautification Committee Meeting of July 2, 2015

General discussion took place regarding the placement of the Carl Stettler Memorial Monument located at the Downtown Park on mainstreet. It was noted that the Monument was moved from its previous location adjacent to Highway 56 and 50th Avenue to its new Downtown Park location at no cost to the Town of Stettler.

It was reported that the Heartland Beautification Committee is considering options of where the Monument should be located within the Downtown Park. The Committee would like to present the options to Town Council for final approval at a future meeting.

Motion 15:07:23

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler Council accept the minutes, item 8(a) as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

9. Public Hearing:

(a) None

10. Bylaws:

(a) 2067-15 – Request for Decision and First Reading

Mayor Richards explained that Bylaw 2067-15 is to amend Land Use Bylaw 2060-15 as follows:

That Part 10: Land Use Districts Section 8702 industrial District be amended by adding as a discretionary use, "All those uses listed as either permitted or discretionary uses with the C1 and C2 Land Use Districts".

CAO G. Switenky reviewed the Request for Decision.

Key Issues:

1. The Industrial District was developed to accommodate industrial land uses.
2. Through the years, some commercial activities have been allowed within the Industrial District, notably Caterer and Restaurant, which were added as discretionary uses and approved by Council.
3. A number of municipalities in Alberta have allowed commercial uses within industrial land use districts; this is done through including those uses listed within

commercial districts as discretionary uses within industrial districts.

4. If approved by Council, any use that is not listed as either a listed permitted or discretionary use within the Industrial District, however is listed as a use within either the C1 or C2 District, will be considered a discretionary use.
5. Applications will be reviewed by the Municipal Planning Commission; whose decision is subject to advertising and appeal pursuant to Section 685 of the Municipal Government Act.

Bylaw 2067-15 will be advertised for 2 weeks (August 5 & August 12, 2015) for a Public Hearing to be held on August 18, 2015.

Motion 15:07:24

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council give first reading to Bylaw 2067-15 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

11. **Correspondence:** (a) AltaGas Utilities re: Implement Automated Meter Readings

Motion 15:07:25

Moved by Councillor Bachman that correspondence item 11(a) be accepted for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

12. **Items Added:** (a) None

13. **In-Camera Session:** (a) Legal - Agreement

Motion 15:07:26

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council proceed into an In-Camera Session with the CAO and Assistant CAO present to discuss the In-Camera items.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 7:25 p.m.

Motion 15:07:27

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler Council return to the regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 7:40 p.m.

Motion 15:07:28

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council accept the presentation from Joan Kerbes and Juergen Ross regarding a Spay and Neuter Program for cats to help address the overpopulation of cats for information, and further that a Spay and Neuter Program to help address the overpopulation of cats be added to the agenda of the September 9, 2015 Joint Town/County Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 15:07:29

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

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous at 7:42 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO