

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Mayor Dick Richards

Councillors A. Campbell, D. Bachman, W. Brown & K. Sernecky

CAO R. Stoutenberg

Assistant CAO G. Switenky

Director of Parks & Leisure Services L. Penner

Director of Operational Services M. Robbins

GIS Coordinator G. Scott

Executive Director, Stettler Regional Board of Trade, A. Brown

Press (2)

Public (11)

Absent:

Councillors 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 14:03:01

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 February 18, 2014

Motion 14:03:02

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 18, 2014 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Business Arising from the February 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes

None

4. **Citizen's Forum:**

(a) No one was present at the Citizen's Forum

5. **Delegations:**

(a) 7:00 P.M. – Darrin Bosomworth, Artemis Computers & Andrew Brysiuk, County of Stettler Director of Technology Services re: Local Internet Services

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

(b) 7:25 P.M. – Peter Simons, Former Town Council Presentation

(c) 7:30 P.M. – Leona Thorogood, Former Town Council Presentation and Discussion re: Stettler Health Services

6. **Administration:**

(a) Memo re: SRC Updates – Grand Opening

Mayor Richards welcomed Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner to the meeting.

Director of Parks & Leisure Services L. Penner advised that John Hull Architecture has secured April 4th for completion of the SRC facility renovations and addition from Shunda Construction.

With the hope of having the Library opening before the majority of the public see the new building at the Trade Show, we have requested a ceremony date from Western Economic Diversification. Because of MP Sorenson's availability April 5th has been chosen. This event will complete the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) for the Town of Stettler in partnership with the County of Stettler. This \$250,000 grant was awarded to pave the parking lot and help renovate the existing Library.

Tentative Agenda:

Jazz Guys
MP Sorenson
Town of Stettler
County of Stettler
Library Board
Ribbon Cutting
Tours and Refreshments

There has been discussion on the value of opening the Library separate from the rest of the SRC to ensure proper recognition to the Partnerships that were involved with each venue. It would be difficult to get MP Sorenson to come to two events.

Administration is recommending that Council give direction to staff whether to proceed with a Library opening separate from the grand re-opening or as one SRC opening.

Discussion ensued regarding the multi-agency financial partnership involved with the Library/Parking Lot component (\$1,075,800) versus the Town paying for 100% of the remainder of the Seniors'/Foyer upgrades at the SRC (\$1,322,000).

Mayor Richards concluded following roundtable discussion that Council was in mutual agreement that the Town proceed with a Library opening separate from the grand re-opening of the SRC.

Motion 14:03:03

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council approve proceeding with a Library opening separate from the grand re-opening of the SRC.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Memo re: Seniors Centre Rates

Director of Parks & Leisure Services L. Penner advised that during the design process, representation from all of the groups that may use the seniors centre were engaged.

This representative (Overseer) group becoming very familiar with the progression of the project and was ultimately called upon to assist in the determination of how they would like to financially and logistically cooperate in the operations of the new centre.

The Overseers Group consists of, but is not limited to, the Heartland Bells, Stettler Stitchers, Heartland Quilters Guild, Alberta 55 plus, Billiard Club, The Dance Group, The Bridge Club, The Drop in Centre and the Walking Group.

This representative, but informal Seniors Centre Overseers Group will meet on a regular basis as needed to discuss and evaluate the needs of the Seniors Centre.

Chronologically the Overseers Group held a series of three meetings as follows:

December 5th 2013

The Parks and Leisure Services presented a possible lease budget of \$30,000.00 using three options:

1. Pay as you go (Drop in fee) with additional non seniors' rental revenue
2. A full lease
3. Membership of \$300.00

January 9th 2014

A large number of seniors from the Drop In Centre showed up at this meeting fearing many of the rumors of costs too high for them to afford. All of the group agreed in continuing the drop in fee and convinced each other that the \$1.00 drop in cost from ten years ago should go up to \$2.00. The group discussed methods of increasing the volume of users, as well as non-senior rentals, for additional revenue. The group agreed to have the Parks and Leisure Service Department collect the drop in fee and schedule the facility.

January 23rd 2014

The Overseers Group put together some budget numbers for 2014 and 2015 with the expectation of reviewing the fee if necessary to provide proper lease rental in 2016 if numbers did not increase substantially.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of the support, cooperation and enthusiasm provided by the Seniors Centre Overseers Group.

Motion 14:03:04

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler Council approve Policy X-1(d) Stettler Recreation Centre Rental Rates with amendments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(c) Memo re: Sports Park Washroom Facility

Director of Parks & Leisure Services L. Penner advised that the Stettler Kinsmen Club has approved (at their February Meeting) that funds donated by their club for the new Sports Park be used to purchase 2 washroom facilities from Surface Flow Controls.

Although these funds were donated by the Kinsmen Club to the Town of Stettler the Town must still follow Policy V11-4 Purchasing of Goods and Services.

One quote was received for the washroom facility on an invitational basis due to the following factors:

- The timing for the need of procurement. Supply/install by May 2014.
- This item is subject to an authorized dealer district.
- High quality, low repair and maintenance costs. Vandal resistant.
- To match previous purchased washroom facility located in WSP.
- Surface Flow Controls was the low bidder in a previous acquisition.

Similar washroom/toilet facilities are typically located on highway pullouts throughout Alberta and British Columbia, and are considered virtually vandal proof. The washrooms are engineer approved, wheelchair accessible, have flush toilets, lighting, sinks and taps. Total quoted cost for 2 washrooms is \$32,017.90.

Additional Requirements:

*Installation to be completed in house with assistance from local contractors.

*Town to prepare site and grade and supply all backfill material and tamping.

*Crane required for assembly.

*Plumbing and electrical

*Shipping provided by Kinsmen member

Approximate Cost: \$3,000

Motion 14:03:05

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council approve the purchase and installation of two washroom facilities for the new Sports Park at a substantive total cost of \$35,017.90 utilizing funds donated by the Kinsmen Club.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Administration was requested to send a letter of thanks to the local Kinsmen Club in appreciation for their valued donation and community support.

Mayor Richards thanked L. Penner for his informative presentations.

(d) Memo re: Disposal of Municipal Reserve at 4110-48 Avenue

CAO R. Stoutenberg advised that on January 21, 2014 Town Council reviewed the potential for the disposal of the municipal reserve (MR) parcel located at 4110 – 48 Avenue of 0.88 acres. The property is currently registered as municipal reserve and prior to any disposal this designation would need to be removed in accordance with the requirements of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*.

Upon ultimate removal of this MR designation the Town of Stettler may sell or lease the property and in accordance with the *MGA*, however the proceeds would need to be used for another park related development.

On February 7, 2014 Administration met with the adjacent/abutting property owner Norm Lyster to discuss the original NE Industrial Area Structure Plan, future and existing industrial development in the area and the original purpose for this MR Parcel.

The Town's opinion is that this MR parcel is no longer serving as a buffer and that development has taken place all around the Lyster property.

Further discussion ensued regarding the use of this public land, and that this parcel is no longer serving the Community. Town Council reviewed a few satellite maps of the immediate area for context purposes.

It was noted that by selling this underutilized parcel an additional serviced parcel would be created for commercial development. The fair market value sale proceeds would allow the Town to apply these funds to a park development that would benefit the community as a whole.

CAO R. Stoutenberg explained the process as follows:

1. In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act – 606(2) and 606(4)*, prior to the sale of park land, the Town of Stettler must advertise a notice of the proposed resolution for the disposal of park land for 2 consecutive weeks and/or mail or deliver to every residence in the area to which the resolution relates.
2. If a supporting resolution (as per 1 above) is made by Council the land will require a removal of designation as municipal reserve. In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act – 675*, after considering any representations made by the public, Council shall direct a designated officer to notify the Registrar that the provisions have been complied with and request the removal of municipal reserve designation.
3. A Rezoning Bylaw will be required which following 1st reading will be advertised for 2 weeks and requires a Public Hearing prior to 2nd and 3rd reading.

Discussion ensued regarding the ability to mitigate some of the perceived impacts to the adjacent property owner through the use of a direct control zoning, and the evolution of the broader area to commercial/industrial uses.

Motion 14:03:06

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the Town of Stettler Council proceed with the process for the disposal of park land located at 4110 – 48th Avenue, together with the removal of municipal reserve and rezoning to the industrial district. And further that the Town of Stettler plan to sell the related new industrial parcel for market value, applying sale proceeds to the parks reserve.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(e) CAO Report

CAO R. Stoutenberg provided departmental highlights of the monthly organizational report to Council.

Motion 14:03:07

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler accept the CAO Report for the month of February.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

- (f) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$501,966.04

Motion 14:03:08

Moved by Councillor Campbell that Accounts Payable in the amounts of \$24,431.16, \$87.68 (VOID) & \$477,622.56 for the period ending February 28, 2014 for a total amount of \$501,966.04 having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

7. Council:

Mayor and Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Richards

- Feb 21 - Town Office.
 - Wm. E. Hay with Today's Sweet Cakery delivering cupcakes to students who performed some random acts of kindness around the community.
- Feb 28 - Regional Fire Authority Meeting.
 - Town Office.
- Mar 3 - Telus/Shaw Conference Call at the Town Office.

(b) Councillor Bachman

- Feb 25 - MPC Meeting.
 - Assisted Library with setup.
 - Ag. Society Meeting.
- Feb 27 - Parkland Regional Library Meeting in Lacombe.
 - Stettler Library Board Meeting.

(c) Councillor Brown

- Feb 25 - MPC Meeting.
- Feb 26-28 - Rural Physician Action Plan Conference.

(d) Councillor Campbell

- Feb 20 - Rodeo Meeting.
- Feb 24 - Red Deer River Users Group Meeting in Red Deer.
- Feb 25 - MPC Meeting.
- Feb 28 - Red Deer River Watershed Alliance Meeting in Pine Lake.

(e) Councillor Fischer

- No report – absent from meeting.

(f) Councillor Nolls

- No report – absent from meeting.

(g) Councillor Sernecky

- Feb 26-28 - Rural Physician Action Plan Conference.

5. Delegations: (a) 7:00 P.M. – Darrin Bosomworth, Artemis Computers & Andrew Brysiuk, County of Stettler Director of Technology Services re: Local Internet Services

Darrin Bosomworth, Artemis Computers & Andrew Brysiuk, County of Stettler Director of Technology together with a delegation of approximately 11 local business people entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed D. Bosomworth, A. Brysiuk & other supporting members of the delegation to the meeting.

D. Bosomworth distributed a copy of a presentation entitled "Our Internet Deficit" and proceeded to provide Council with an overview of the problems which were summarized as "Geographic" (too costly for providers to expand for new customer locations/growth) and "Capacity" (poor performance for existing customers within currently served areas).

He further highlighted the emergent economic consequences within the business community as well as the less consequential frustrations within the residential community.

A. Brysiuk explained that "Pipe in the Ground" is likely not an economically feasible investment solution for Shaw/Telus to address future development growth in certain areas of the Town or in the County. He noted that the Town and County are exploring the possibility of acquiring a tower for their internal needs; which could possibly be a solution for a new Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) to enter the Stettler market at a more attractive investment risk level.

Discussion ensued regarding a wireless solution that may be the only alternative to serve the municipal corporate needs of the County (disaster and communication) as well as for commercial and residential expansion in and around Stettler.

It was noted that wireless is likely more costly to users on a monthly service/performance delivery basis than a comparable Telus/Shaw package. Therefore the risk to a new WISP's entering the Stettler market is that should Telus or Shaw decide to extend their pipe, they could offer their service plans to WISP customers at lower rates and would eventually kill the WISP's return on investment business case and ultimately their viability.

A number of local business owners in attendance provided verbal and written testimonials regarding the unacceptable level of internet service in various parts of the Town.

Discussion continued regarding some of the recent political and administrative discussions with major local internet service providers that have been somewhat encouraging. Plans relating to system improvements are being implemented by both Shaw & Telus to address some performance and capacity limitations within the currently served areas of Stettler.

Mayor Richards informed the delegation that both Shaw & Telus are certainly aware of their performance limitations in Stettler and have now been made aware of the unacceptable economic impacts being experienced in Stettler at this time. He assured the delegation that meetings with key representatives from both major companies are being planned in the very near future to discuss and demand immediate and term solutions to Stettler's internet deficit.

Discussion concluded regarding the potential opportunity and risks associated with a smaller WISP competing against the major internet suppliers however, WISP's may be the only solution to the costly geographic limitations.

Mayor Richards thanked D. Bosomworth, A. Brysiuk & members of the delegation for their informative and comprehensive presentation.

Delegation members departed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Richards temporarily recessed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Richards reconvened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

(b) 7:25 P.M. – Peter Simons, Former Town Council Presentation

Peter Simons entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed former Town Councillor, Peter Simons to the meeting.

Mayor Richards sincerely thanked Peter Simons for his past service on Town Council and presented him with a gift of appreciation from the Town of Stettler.

Mayor Richards explained further that the framed picture was a pictorial collage representing many of the projects that Peter was associated with throughout his term of office.

The meeting was momentarily recessed to allow pictures to be taken.

P. Simons departed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

(c) 7:30 P.M. – Leona Thorogood, Former Town Council Presentation and Discussion re: Stettler Health Services

Leona Thorogood entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed former Town Councillor, Leona Thorogood to the meeting.

Mayor Richards sincerely thanked Leona Thorogood for her past service on Town Council and presented her with a gift of appreciation from the Town of Stettler.

Mayor Richards explained further that the framed picture was a pictorial collage representing many of the projects that Leona was associated with throughout her term of office.

Further in accordance with the Town's recognition policy, Mayor Richards also provided an additional gift to Leona Thorogood based on her multiple terms of office.

The meeting was momentarily recessed to allow pictures to be taken.

Discussion re: Stettler Health Services

L. Thorogood provided Council with a chronological overview of recent challenges and accomplishments since February 2012.

She informed Council that the facility deficiencies that resulted in the letter being sent to Minister Horne in March 2013 have now mostly been resolved.

There however, continues to be frustrating challenges in the collaboration process with AHS senior staff regarding the development of a supported/approved healthcare enhancement plan for Stettler. Such a plan is vital because it would identify facility and equipment upgrades necessary to support realistic health service enhancement opportunities for our hospital and health unit.

Discussion ensued regarding Physician Recruitment and Retention initiatives and the level of support/reluctance for additional physicians within our two local clinics.

It was noted that although there is an approved need for more physicians in Stettler, there are challenges associated with the medical clinics. The opinions and concerns have to be jointly discussed with our local physicians on an ongoing and productive basis to ensure communication lines are accurate, and there is a clear understanding of the issues, concerns and commitments.

L. Thorogood concluded her open session presentation in the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

It was mutually agreed that Council deal with the remaining regular agenda items prior to proceeding into an In-Camera Session with L. Thorogood.

- 8. Minutes: (a) None
- 9. Public Hearing: (a) None
- 10. Bylaws: (a) 2049-14 re: Cat Bylaw

Mayor Richards explained that Bylaw 2049-14 is a bylaw to regulate and control, license and impound cats in the Town of Stettler.

CAO R. Stoutenberg explained that the Dog and Cat Bylaws proposed changes were discussed at the February 11, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting. At that time the Committee made recommendations for a few minor changes. Administration made the recommended changes and brought both the Dog and Cat Bylaw's to Town Council on February 18, 2014. Discussion took place and some additional questions were raised regarding the proposed changes.

Administration requested that Town Council bring forward any questions or concerns and Administration would provide all applicable information for clarification. At this time, only one item has been noted:

Cat Stalks or Kills a Bird:

In 2013 the Town of Stettler received 5 complaints from 3 different complainants regarding a cat stalking or killing a bird on private property. These instances are a result of cats entering the property of a bird watcher and attacking birds that are at feeders provided by the land owner.

The Existing Cat Bylaw 1943-07

Offences and Responsibility of Owner – Part 3:

2. The Owner of a Cat is guilty of an offence if such Cat:

(f) stalks or kills birds on public or private property;

Penalty Amounts as shown in Schedule "A"

1st Offence \$100.00, 2nd Offence \$200.00, and 3rd Offence \$300.00

Proposed New Cat Bylaw 2049-14

Offence Section

4 (1) The Owner of a Cat is guilty of an offence if:

(m) such Cat stalks or kills any bird on any property;

Penalty Amounts as shown in Schedule "A"

1st Offence \$100.00, 2nd Offence \$250.00, and 3rd Offence \$500.00

The wording and number sequence changes were recommended by N. Bergstrom with Chapman Riebeek LLP and the subsequent penalties are on par with our overall increases and with other enacted bylaws within the province.

Recommendation:

1. That Town of Stettler Council proceeds with 2nd and 3rd reading of Cat Bylaw 2049-14.
2. That Town of Stettler Council proceeds with 2nd and 3rd reading of Dog Bylaw 2050-14.

Alternative:

1. That Town of Stettler Council proceeds with 2nd and 3rd reading of Cat Bylaw 2049-14 with the amendment of removing 4 (1) (m) such cat stalks or kills any bird on any property;
2. That Town of Stettler Council proceeds with 2nd and 3rd reading of Dog Bylaw 2050-14.

Motion 14:03:09

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler Council amend Cat Bylaw 2049-14 following first reading to remove section 4 (1) (m) along with the associated penalties on Schedule A relating to a cat stalking or killing any bird on any property.

MOTION CARRIED (3-2)

Opposed: Mayor Richards &
Councillor Bachman

Motion 14:03:10

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the Town of Stettler Council give second reading to Bylaw 2049-14 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion 14:03:11

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council give third and final reading to Bylaw 2049-14 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) 2050-14 re: Dog Bylaw

Mayor Richards explained that Bylaw 2049-14 is a bylaw to regulate and control, license and impound dogs in the Town of Stettler.

Motion 14:03:12

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council give second reading to Bylaw 2050-14 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion 14:03:13

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Town of Stettler Council give third and final reading to Bylaw 2050-14 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

11. **Correspondence:**

(a) Federation of Canadian Municipalities – New Building Canada Plan

(b) Royal Canadian Legion re: Remembrance Day Service

It was mutually agreed that the Town support the Legion's request for use of the Community Hall to host the 2014 Remembrance Day Service at no cost to the Legion. This venue would accommodate a larger number of people desiring to attend this service.

(c) Heart and Stroke Foundation re: National AED Program Application

(d) Canadian Antiques Roadshow

(e) MGA Review Consultations – March 12-14, 2014 in Red Deer

Motion 14:03:14

Moved by Councillor Bachman that correspondence items 11(a) to 11(e) inclusive be accepted for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

12. **Items Added:**

(a) None

13. **In-Camera Session:**

(a) Stettler Health Services

Motion 14:03:15

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Town of Stettler Council proceed into an In-Camera Session with the CAO, Assistant CAO and L. Thorogood present to discuss the In-Camera item.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 8:01 p.m.

Motion 14:03:16

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor Richards thanked L. Thorogood for her valuable presentation.

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 14:03:17

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO