

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Mayor Dick Richards

Councillors A. Campbell, D. Bachman, W. Brown, M. Fischer,
S. Nolls & K. Sernecky

CAO G. Switenky
Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz

Press (2)

Absent: None

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

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

Motion 14:09:01 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 August 19, 2014

Motion 14:09:02 Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on August 19, 2014 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Business Arising from the August 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes – to be dealt with later in the meeting

5. **Delegations:**

(a) 6:30 P.M. – Dacia Gramlick Track & Field Certificate of Recognition

Mayor Richards welcomed Dacia Gramlick to the meeting.

Mayor Richards congratulated Dacia Gramlick on winning the gold medal in the Girls High Jump Intermediate event at the Alberta Outdoor Track and Field Provincials held in Sherwood Park from July 12-13, 2014 and winning the gold medal in the Heptathlon at the Alberta Summer Games held in Airdrie from July 25-27, 2014. The Heptathlon consists of seven track and field events including 100m hurdles, the 200 and 800 metre springs, high and long jumps, shot put and javelin.

Ms. Gramlick also competed in the heptathlon at the National Competition which was held from August 13-19, 2014 in Langley, BC where she finished in 5th place.

Ms. Gramlick will be starting Grade 12 in September.

Mayor Richards presented Dacia Gramlick with a certificate recognizing her achievements and success.

Mayor Richards temporarily recessed the meeting at 6:35 p.m. to allow Council members to individually congratulate Ms. Gramlick.

Ms. Gramlick departed the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor Richards reconvened the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes Con't:**

(b) Business Arising from the August 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes - Composting Location – 65 Street in Grandview

CAO G. Switenky advised that following the August 19, 2014 Council Meeting, Council had the opportunity to look at the composting site located in the alley at 41 Ave. & 65 St. CAO G. Switenky reported that the current location is a mature site with two (2) bins and well used site by the residents. Council agreed that Administration look at a compost bin option which are equipped with lids as a pilot project for this site.

It was noted that the cost of two (2) – beige - 4 yard flat top bins with lids was \$1622.00.

CAO G. Switenky summarized the composting related issues received by the Town since 2001. It was noted that the majority of concerns received were with regards to the bins overflowing. Currently the bins are emptied twice a week. CAO G. Switenky also highlighted a potential community partnership with the High School to have the composting bins painted with a community mural. After some discussion it was agreed that this was just not the right time for this type of partnership.

Council discussion took place regarding other possible options at this composting location including the cost of privately owned contractor bins which would be replaced with clean bins each time a bin is emptied, and the relocation of the composting bins.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion by highlighting the benefits and convenience of the residential composting program and directed Administration to investigate the cost of privately owned composting bins located at this site.

Council agreed that the Town of Stettler replace the two (2) composting bins located at the Meadowland/Grandview site (41 Ave. & 65 St. in alley) with two (2) new beige composting bins with lids for a total budget cost of \$1622.00 with funding to come from the Composting – Supplies Account in the 2014 Operating Budget.

4. **Citizen's Forum:**

(a) None

6. **Administration:**

(a) Memo re: Apollo Lodge Tax Refund Request

CAO G. Switenky highlighted the letter received dated August 15, 2014 from Donald Anderson, Secretary Apollo Lodge No. 27 requesting their customary refund of the Municipal portion of their property taxes. In previous years the practice of Town Council has been to refund/rebate the municipal portion of the property taxes for the Apollo Lodge. The reason for this refund is that part of the Apollo Lodge is used and/or accessible by the general community in a similar manner to other tax exempt halls. In accordance with Section 347 – 1(b) of the Municipal Government Act, Council must consider it "equitable" to rebate or refund municipal taxes.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion by indicating that the Town of Stettler as been refunding a portion of property taxes to the Apollo Lodge since 1982.

Motion 14:09:03

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Town of Stettler approves a refund of 2014 Municipal Property taxes for the Apollo Lodge #27, Tax Roll 119900009 – in the amount of \$1048.00 as allowed as per Section 347 of the Municipal Government Act

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Memo re: Municipal Government Act Review

CAO G. Switenky reported that Alberta Municipal Affairs is in the process of reviewing the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to address evolving circumstances and priorities in Alberta communities and to ensure the MGA continues to remain current and meet its objective. Over the past year the MGA review has included various avenues for engaging public and stakeholder comments:

- regional engagements held in person around the province;
- a website and extensive online workbook;
- a questionnaire distributed to municipal Councillors in Fall 2013;
- inviting written submissions from individuals, municipalities, and other organizations.

As part of the regional engagement process, Alberta Municipal Affairs hosted eleven (11) regional workshops from February to April 2014 in various locations around the province including; Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Vermillion, Lethbridge, Edson, Red Deer, Brooks, Grande Prairie, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Peace River. Nearly 1500 people participated in these workshops.

General discussion took place regarding specific major Policy issues and options identified during the regional sessions namely: Regional Collaboration, the Education Property Tax, Regional Funding and splitting the non-residential property assessment class.

Mayor Richards also highlighted the issue of inequalities in municipal funding available to municipalities. These inequalities in municipal funding just add to the challenges between urban and rural municipalities.

(c) Memo re: Highway 56 Utility Replacement Tender Award

CAO G. Switenky advised that at the April 15th Council Meeting, Administration was directed to proceed with the design/tendering of the water and sanitary main replacements necessary on Highway 56 prior to the road construction that will occur in 2015. Estimated costs including engineering to complete the work at the time were \$390,000. Urban Dirt Works - \$526,145.60 was the only tender received by the Town. Since Urban Dirt works was the sole tenderer, Administration has negotiated the tender prices and scope of work, reducing the tender value to \$449,531.13 excluding GST. As part of the tender price, the scope of work will also include storm work to drain a low spot on Highway 56 which will cost \$27,083.07 which will be covered by Alberta Transportation.

Construction costs bore by the Town is expected to be \$422,268.06. Engineering costs are \$45,000 for a total Town contribution of \$467,268.06.

General discussion took place regarding only receiving one (1) tender and the pros and cons of not accepting the tender and retendering early in 2015.

Motion 14:09:04

Moved by Councillor Bachman that Town of Stettler Council award the 2014 Water and Sewer Main Replacements contract to Urban Dirt Works Inc. and utilize Tagish Engineering for engineering services with a total value not to exceed \$468,000 excluding GST, funded from MSI.

MOTION CARRIED (6-1)
Opposed: Councillor Bachman

(d) CAO Report

CAO G. Switenky provided departmental highlights of the monthly organizational report to Council.

Mayor Richards expressed sadness and condolences to the family of Rene Lamoureux following his sudden passing.

Motion 14:09:05

Moved by Councillor Nolls that the Town of Stettler accept the CAO Report for the month of August.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(e) Bank Reconciliation as of July 31, 2014

Motion 14:09:06

Moved by Councillor Sernecky that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Bank Reconciliation as of July 31, 2014 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(f) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$896,535.64

Motion 14:09:07

Moved by Councillor Campbell that Accounts Payable in the amounts of \$470,877.48 & \$425,658.16 for the period ending August 31, 2014 for a total amount of \$896,535.64 having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

7. Council:

Mayor and Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Richards

- Aug 22 - Town Office cheques.
- Aug 29 - Town Office cheques and agenda approval.
 - Met with a local real estate agent and discussed out-of-Town Business License fees.
- Aug 30 - Dignitary Breakfast and parade.

(b) Councillor Bachman

- Aug 19 - Pheasant Festival Meeting.
- Aug 27 - AB Electric System Operator Open House.
- Aug 31 - Pancake Breakfast.

(c) Councillor Brown

- Aug 20 - Met with a citizen re: concern of radar speed control sign.

(d) Councillor Campbell

- Aug 20 - Rodeo Meeting.
 - SMRWSC Line to Donalda and Big Valley.
- Aug 26 - Rodeo Meeting.
- Aug 27 - Alta Linc Open House.
- Aug 28 - Set up for rodeo.
- Aug 30 - Parade and rodeo.
- Aug 31 - Town & County Breakfast.

(e) Councillor Fischer

- Aug 20 - Brought Greetings at the SMRWSC line to Big Valley and Donalda.
- Aug 27 - Electrical Transmission Open House at Community Hall.
- Aug 28 - Regional Waste Management Strategic Planning Day.
- Aug 30 - Chauffeured Kevin & Darlene Sorenson in the Stettler Steel Wheel Parade.
- Aug 31 - Town & County Breakfast.
- Sept 1 - Rene Lamoureux Funeral.

(f) Councillor Nolls

- Aug 30 - Steel Wheel Parade.
- Aug 31 - Town & County Breakfast.

(g) Councillor Sernecky

- Aug 20 - SMRWSC Line to Donalda and Big Valley.
- Aug 27 - BBQ re: Community Fundraiser for Playground Project.

8. **Minutes:**

(a) None

9. **Public Hearing:**

(a) None

10. **Bylaws:**

(a) None

11. **Correspondence:**

(a) East Parkland Community Futures AGM Meeting

(b) SMRWSC Turning on the Taps Ceremony

(c) Lifesaving Society – re: Commonwealth Service Award

Motion 14:09:08

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

12. **Items Added:**

(a) None

13. **In-Camera Session:** (a) None

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 14:09:09

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO