

TOWN OF TWO HILLS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Town of Two Hills held June 14, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Two Hills Town Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo called the Regular Council Meeting of June 14, 2016 to order at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo, Councillor W. Babiuk, Councillor G. Saskiw, Councillor B. Gray, Chief Administrative Officer E. Howanyk, Executive Secretary S. Lupul, Public Works Foreman T. Stefiuk, 1 Reporter and 21 members of the public.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

2016-095 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to accept the Agenda with the following addition under 'In Camera Session':
13 (a) Personnel

CARRIED

2016-096 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk to move 'Bylaws/Policies' until after 'New Business' as Budget needs to be passed before the Tax and Levy Bylaws.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

2016-097 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016 as presented.

CARRIED

2016-098 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to accept the Special Council Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2016 as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATION: None

OPEN FORUM: Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo welcomed the audience, noted that the Henry Neufeld had resigned as the Mayor, and reiterated the terms of the Open Forum.

A resident asked if the Town could delay all contracts such as land, development and employee, until there is a new mayor elected. Council said they would take that under consideration and whatever they can delay, they will; however, some preplanned projects and issues are time sensitive and have deadlines that cannot be ignored.

Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo encouraged the public to speak and not be afraid. Councillor G. Saskiw addressed the audience stating that the Town has not yet passed the budget but it is to be passed today as the assessment and tax notices need to be sent out. There will be no 15% decrease in operations and salaries as requested in the letter accepted by Council at the Special Meeting of June 7, 2016. The only increase in taxes is due to the Lodge Requisition, and School Requisitions which the Town collects and then pays the Alberta Government. The proposed budget has been further trimmed from 2.9% down to 1.29%.

One resident asked Council for an apology for saying that there would be a \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00 saving with respect to one employee leaving. Council admitted to making a mistake with the numbers as the Town will still need to hire contract operators to complete the fair weather projects in progress and to replace the one employee. The figure of \$60 to \$65,000 was approximately a year's worth of salary. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated that he is not receiving the mayor's salary and we will be down to one from two representatives at committee meetings.

Two residents stated that the rate payers are not accepting any tax increases at all and asked for another opportunity to prepare a more detailed response to the Town. One resident stated the Town should be a responsible government and should look at other means of increasing the efficiency of the inner working of Administration and Public Works such as liquidating non-essential assets. Council responded by saying that they really grappled with not increasing taxes but the Town is trying to collect about \$137,000.00 in outstanding taxes. Further, Council noted that in the last few years the Town has sold supplies and equipment that has no further use to the Town. Council must pass the budget today as it has to be submitted to the province and the tax notices have to be mailed out. The mill rate increased due to the school and lodge requisitions. There is no minimum tax increase nor is there a maintenance tax increase. There are approximately 665 taxable properties and there will be a special tax ley added to each of those to repay the debentures to the new community facilities: Medical Clinic (\$16.41) and the new Curling Rink (\$36.41). The Medical Clinic will be responsible for their own property taxes and their own insurance despite what the rumors are. Council was elected to make decisions on behalf of the residents of the Town of Two Hills, not everyone will think the decisions are right and not everyone will agree with the decisions made. One Councillor stated that when he was elected, there were 7 full time employees in Public Works and now there is 4, and 5 full time employees in Administration whereas now there is 4.

Another resident asked why there was a difference in taxes between an empty vacant lot and a developed lot. It was explained that all residential taxes are based on the assessment of the property, the more your property

is worth on the market, the more you pay in taxes. All lots have a minimum tax applied which means there is a minimum amount of taxes that must be paid on each lot regardless of the taxes; currently the minimum taxes are \$500 on vacant residential, \$400 on commercial vacant, and \$600 on residential and commercial non-vacant properties.

The resident further asked for detailed information on the upcoming construction on Highway 36. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated that he asked Alberta Transportation what the expected start and end date would be and was told they would 'start in summer and end in fall'. A resident stated that 7 oversized loads planned to be coming through in July, and asked if this would still be possible. Council stated that between the C.A.O. and the Public Works Foreman, and information received will be shared. C.A.O. E. Howanyk further added that it is Alberta Transportation's project not the Town's and that the contractor plans on setting up this week and tentative end date would be in September.

A member of the gallery stated that Council had their mind made up, in reference to the budget and proposed tax increase, before they received the letter; Council responded that was not true. In fact, Council and the C.A.O. have been working on the budget since December to keep taxes to a minimum; it has been very difficult with the increase in Lodge and School taxes, and a \$40,000.00 increase in insurance premiums. Town Council did not make any decisions on the budget before the letter was received.

A request was made to put up a solid wall rather than a see through fence to cover the fire damage next door to the Town Administration Office. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated that the owner has started the clean-up process and has assured Council that it will be done.

One resident inquired about the culverts at the Public Works Maintenance Yard C.A.O. replied that the Town has been trying to sell them and she has advertised on Kijiji, municipal buy & sell sites and even Facebook. She also said she would welcome any and all suggestions for possible buyers.

Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo brought the Open Forum to a close at 7:50 pm and resumed with the Regular Council meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Public Works Report

The report was provided to Council in advance for their review and presented by Public Works Foreman T. Stefiuk.

C.A.O. Report

The report was provided to Council in advance for their review and presented by C.A.O. E. Howanyk.

2016-099 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that the Public Works and C.A.O. Reports be acknowledged as presented and incorporated into the minutes.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

New Rec Facility – Change Order – Fire Pump & Generator

Town Council met with Vantage on June 13, 2014 to discuss costs associated with the change order. The Town will sign the change order as it is required but are waiting for a response to a request of a cash donation from Vantage to help offset the cost.

2016-100 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to allow C.A.O. E. Howanyk to sign the change order from Vantage on behalf of the Town of Two Hills.

CARRIED

Response to Public Input

Town Council received a letter at the Special Meeting on June 7, 2016 responding to Council's public input request for the 2016 Budget and tax rates. Council requested one week to respond back to the group of ratepayers. Discussion evolved as to the best way to respond and who will respond.

2016-101 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to allow Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo and C.A.O. E. Howanyk to collaboratively draft a response and advertise it publicly.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

2016-102 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that the Correspondence listed, be acknowledged as presented and filed.

CARRIED

BYLAWS/POLICIES:

2016-956 Tax Rate Bylaw

2016-103 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Tax Rate Bylaw 2016-956 be now read a first time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-104 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that Tax Rate Bylaw 2016-956 be now read a second time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-105 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw that Tax Rate Bylaw 2016-956 be now given consent for a third and final reading.

CARRIED

2016-106 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Tax Rate Bylaw 2016-956 be now read a third and final time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-957 Maintenance Tax Bylaw

2016-107 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-957 be now read a first time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-108 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-957 be now read a second time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-109 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-957 be now given consent for a third and final reading.

CARRIED

2016-110 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-957 be now read a third and final time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-958 Recreation Tax Bylaw

2016-111 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw that Recreation Tax Bylaw 2016-958 be now read a first time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-112 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Recreation Tax Bylaw 2016-958 be now read a second time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-109 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that Recreation Tax Bylaw 2016-958 be now given consent for a third and final reading.

CARRIED

2016-110 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw that Recreation Tax Bylaw 2016-958 be now read a third and final time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-959 Medical Incentive Tax Bylaw

2016-111 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-959 be now read a first time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-112 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-959 be now read a second time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

2016-113 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-959 be now given consent for a third and final reading.

CARRIED

2016-114 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that Maintenance Tax Bylaw 2016-959 be now read a third and final time this 14th day of June, 2016.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Mayor Henry Neufeld

As stated by Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo, Mayor Henry Neufeld resigned for personal reasons and the Town regretfully accepted his decision. Council, on behalf of the Town of Two Hills, thanks Mr. H. Neufeld for his dedication and support for the Town and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Nomination and Election Days for By-Election.

According to the Municipal Government Act, Section 163 as Chief Elected Official (elected) vacancy must be filled by by-election if on the date the vacancy occurs there are 12 months or more before a general election.

Council briefly discussed and came to some consensus of possible dates for nomination day and Election Day for the by-election. Discussion followed on what the most cost effective solutions for the Town would be. Different options were discussed including holding an election within 90 days as outlined in the Municipal Government Act and requesting an extension from the Minister. Council directed the C.A.O. contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as to whether an extension to the next regular election (fall 2017) is possible.

2016-115 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk to TABLE to the next Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

Appointment of Returning Officer

2016-116 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk to TABLE to the next Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

2016 Organizational Meeting

2016-117 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk to TABLE to the next Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

Appointment to Alberta Central East Water Corporation

Due to the resignation of Mayor H. Neufeld, and prior to the next Organizational meeting, there will be an absence on some committees. Alberta Central East (ACE) Water Corporation is the only committee he was representing that does not have an alternate or other elected official representing the Town.

2016-118 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that, due to the resignation of Henry Neufeld, Deputy Mayor Sonny Rajoo be appointed a director from the Town of Two Hills to sit on the Alberta Central East Water Corporation Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Walk/Run for the Hills – Donation Request

The annual Walk/Run Fundraiser for the Hospital took place on Saturday, May 28, 2016 and they have requested the Town's support. Donations annually have been provided for this beneficial event which raises money towards the purchase of valuable equipment for the Two Hills Health Care Center.

2016-119 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk to donate \$500.00 to the Two Hills Health Centre Foundation for the 2015 Walk/Run event for the purchase of replacement beds and mattresses.

CARRIED

Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program – Second Intake Application

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has received additional funding through Budget 2016 for the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The Town of Two Hills did apply during the first call for proposals for upgrades to the Centennial Hall. This grant is a 50/50 cost share so options for the Town's contributions were discussed. Priorities of the grant program have changed; recreational facilities have been given priority. Bedco drafting & design provided the Town with an updated, detailed listing

of required upgrades to the Arena. Two Councillors indicated that the upgrades are severely required otherwise the arena may be shut down.

2016-120 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw for C.A.O. E. Howanyk to proceed with the application to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for the rehabilitation and renovation of the Arena.

CARRIED

2016 Budget

Presentation of the 2016 proposed budget and tax rates including special levies was presented and public input was sought at the Annual Public Meeting of May 19, 2016. Further a Special Meeting was held on June 7, 2016 to receive public input on the same. Direction from Council was to reduce the Budget by approximately \$13,000 which was done by the reduction of the Mayors wage for 3 months and some Public Works wages.

2016-121 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to approve the 2016 Operating and Capital Budget as presented.

CARRIED

COUNCIL REPORTS:

2016-122 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that the Council Reports be accepted as provided.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETINGS:

Next Regular Council Meeting is on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

2016-023 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to go into camera at 9:15 P.M.

CARRIED

2016-024 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to revert back to an open meeting at 9:23 P.M.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With all items on the agenda having been addressed, Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 9:24 P.M.

SONNY RAJOO, DEPUTY MAYOR

ELSIE HOWANYK, C.A.O.