

TOWN OF TWO HILLS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Town of Two Hills held July 19, 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 July 19, 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, Chief Finance Officer L. Tatarin, Public Works Foreman T. Stefiuk, and 21 members of the public.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

2016-140 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to accept the Agenda with the following additions:

- 10 (b) By-Election
- 10 (c) Vote of Thanks
- 13 (c) Natural Gas Distribution System

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

2016-141 **MOVED** by Councillor G. Saskiw to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2016 with following correction to Motion 2016-139, after the word "renegotiation", insert "with the CAO contract:".

CARRIED

DELEGATION: None

OPEN FORUM: Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo welcomed all in attendance read the preamble for Open Forum. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated firmly that there are three issues that Council will not discuss during the Open Forum:

1. Henry Neufeld's resignation as Mayor.
2. By-Election. As directed by Council, the CAO has written to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting a delay in holding a by-election. Council is currently waiting for an answer.
3. Sidewalk Construction. There is a \$100,000.00 budget for sidewalk repairs and maintenance that is garnered from government (provincial and federal) grants that must be spent on Capital Projects such as sidewalk repairs or replacement. This money cannot be used for general operations. Council, collectively, decided on which sidewalks were in the most need of repairs and it was a non-biased decision and the tender will be awarded later during this council meeting. To reiterate, the Town

does not have budgeting issues with Capital; the Town has been having a difficult time budgeting for Operations.

With having said that, Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo encouraged the public to state their concerns.

One resident asked council if he could see all the Public Works' accident and incident reports and asked if the Town do drug/alcohol testing on employees. He also stated that it seems that quite a few houses are either over taxed or under taxed. He would like to see the tax rate for vacant lots to increase from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00.

Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo responded that the CAO will provide the incident reports as requested depending on Freedom of Information and Privacy laws. Councilor W. Babiuk stated that the trucks purchased were used vehicles and there were previous dents and marks on them already. As far as he can see, the Public Works Foreman is doing a good job supervising permanent staff as well as casual contractors and summer students. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated that the Supreme Court of Canada has deemed drug testing as unconstitutional for our type of employment.

Another resident stated that some taxes have doubled and the property owners have done nothing to their home or yard for five (5) years. Is there a limit on how much taxes can be raised? Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo noted that all property taxes in the Town of Two Hills are based on the value of the property. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo also noted that Wainwright Assessments assesses properties on a three (3) year cycle and there are many variables that affect the assessments such as houses being sold nearby for more than appraised value. He also advised the resident to come to the Town Administration Office for help with any questions regarding taxes and any one of the staff would gladly help.

The same resident then asked why there is a big increase in water bills without the usage going up.

Councilor G. Saskiw stated that the rates have not changed therefore the only way water bills could go up would be a change in the usage. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo again advised the resident to visit the Administration Office for clarification on any questions regarding water bills.

Another resident asked why some houses do not pay taxes at all stating knows of one for sure; the resident refused to indicate which property.

The CAO responded that churches, senior's lodges, senior's centers, and schools do not pay municipal taxes but all residential and commercial properties must pay property taxes. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo suggested that perhaps the resident that said he didn't pay taxes was perhaps a renter. The resident stated he knew that the person owned the property.

At 7:29 pm, Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo thanked everyone for coming and stated that the Open Forum part of the meeting was now over, that the rest of the council meeting would now continue, and everyone was welcomed to stay.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

C.F.O. Report

The report was provided to Council in advance for their review and presented by C.F.O. L. Tatarin. A couple of questions were asked for clarification and were answered.

Public Works Report

The report was provided to Council in advance for their review and presented by Public Works Foreman T. Stefiuk. Councillor B. Gray asked the Public Works Foreman if the waterline in Geleta Park going towards the golf course was hit during recent construction. Public Works Foreman confirmed that the waterline was struck and that there is way of knowing the exact location of the waterline prior to digging. Councilor B. Gray asked that the road towards the old trailer court (46 Ave) be graded. Councilor W. Babiuk noted that it seems the generator at the lift station is high maintenance. It was also noted that when the Town provides custom work for other municipalities, such as street sweeping, the Town is left short staffed even though the Town does acquire some revenue.

C.A.O. Report

The report was provided to Council in advance for their review and presented by C.A.O. E. Howanyk. To add to the report: CAO E. Howanyk purchased four (4) used portable toilet units for the sum of \$1,000.00 to be used for special events. It was noted that the tv monitors in the gym at the curling rink are not lined up in conjunction with some of the equipment. After discussion, it was decided that we would wait till the facility opened to see if that poses an issue. Councilor B. Gray noted a hairline crack in the cement floor of the curling rink. Councilor G. Saskiw was aware of the crack and indicated that it was inspected by Brysand who indicated that it shouldn't be an issue. The Town will monitor it over the next year before the warranty expires. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo indicated that CAO E. Howanyk, Dr. Satar, and he are to meet tomorrow, July 20, to discuss the burned remains of 4710-50 Street. Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo stated that before the next council meeting, something will be done about next door.

2016-142 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that the C.F.O., Public Works and C.A.O. Reports be acknowledged as presented and incorporated into the minutes.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Wild Pink Yonder

It was decided at the last Regular Council meeting that the Town of Two Hills welcomes them and encourages all businesses and non-profit organizations to be involved in this initiative. Councilor W. Babiuk has noted that there is no budget for this so he is going to solicit businesses for donations towards some kind of supper, perhaps an old fashioned Cowboy BBQ. He is also looking for ideas to 'Color the Town Pink' such as balloons or ribbons.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Town of Two Hills will participate in the Myrnam parade on Saturday July 23, 2016 and the Two Hills Ag Society parade on Sunday, August 14, 2016.

2016-143 **MOVED** by Councillor W. Babiuk that the Town of Two Hills participate in the Vegreville parade on Thursday, August 4, 2016 along with the Two Hills & District Agricultural Society; and further, share the cost of the candy.

CARRIED

2016-144 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that the Correspondence listed, be acknowledged as presented and filed.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

RFP 2016 Sidewalk Replacement Program

Only one (1) bid was received for the 2016 Sidewalk Tender.

1) Loewen Construction, Two Hills, AB - \$89,596.00

2016-145 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to award the RFP 2016 Sidewalk Replacement Program Tender to Loewen Construction.

CARRIED

By-Election

Councilor B. Gray asked if there was any word from Municipal Affairs with regards to delaying the election. The CAO will provide each member of Council a copy of the letter that was sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs as soon as it is received.

Vote of Thanks

Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo wanted to publically acknowledge the fact that he noticed many staff from both Administration and Public Works volunteering their personal time at events such as Canada Day, Hairy Hill Rodeo and the Run to the Hills Rally. On behalf of Council, Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo would like

to convey his thanks to all Public Works and Administration staff who dedicate their time for volunteering.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

8:21 Councilor W. Babiuk left Council Chambers

2016-146 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray that the Council Reports be acknowledged as presented and incorporated into the minutes.

CARRIED

8:23 Councilor W. Babiuk returned to Council Chambers.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Regular Council Meeting August 16, 2016 7:00 PM.

2016-147 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to go into camera at 8:25 P.M.

CARRIED

2016-148 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to revert back to an open meeting at 8:45 P.M.

CARRIED

2016-149 **MOVED** by Councillor B. Gray to TABLE the CAO Evaluation and Contract negotiation until Council hears from the Minister of Municipal Affairs in regards to the status of the by-election.

CARRIED

2016-150 **MOVED** by Councilor W. Babiuk to TABLE item (c) Natural Gas Franchise.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With all items on the agenda having been addressed, Deputy Mayor S. Rajoo adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 8:47 P.M.

SONNY RAJOO, DEPUTY MAYOR

ELSIE HOWANYK, C.A.O.