

MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2008
IN THE TOWN OFFICE – 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor: Leona Hanson

Councillors: Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus
Mary Hermans
Joan Kyle
Tracy Willey
Richard Lappenbush
Craig Milliken

Others: Ivan Hegland, Town Manager
Ione O’Connell, Recording Secretary
Jim Nichol, Public Works Rep.
Brenda Jones, Beaverlodge & District
News Representative
Clayton Barclay, The Advertiser
Representative
Bernie House & Stuart Remple, County of
Grande Prairie Representatives
Grande Spirit Board Representatives,
Richard Harpe & Brian Hillaby

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion #1-03-25-08

Moved by Councillor Hermans that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

7.2 Jewitt Subdivision Time Extension Request

Carried

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3.0 DELEGATIONS

3.1 County Representatives Bernie House & Stuart Remple

Mayor Hanson welcomed the delegation and Mr. House briefly went over what they have been working on recently. They have contracts with our municipality for protective services, fire and SPCA, with Bernie administering all of these.

Stuart Remple, who is the manager of Enforcement Services for the County, addressed Council regarding the enforcement services that the County provides to us. Any concerns that we have should be forwarded to Town Manager, Ivan Hegland, who then forwards them to be prioritized. On average they spend 96% of their allotted time on traffic and 4% on other issues.

Council requested that they focus their enforcement services on large trucks in town, 11th Avenue traffic concerns, and move more to the interior area of town and not so much on the highway corridor. It was also suggested that the truck traffic be monitored after 7:00 p.m.

They indicated that they are very willing to focus on areas as requested. Mayor Hanson thanked them for their time and indicated that we appreciate their services to our community.

3.2 Grande Spirit Board Members Richard Harpe & Brian Hillaby

This delegation attended the Council meeting to update Council on the status of a rumoured addition at Amisk Court. Mr. Harpe informed Council that in 2006 they had proposed adding a 25 unit addition that would incorporate added services such as bathing, therapeutic tubs, medication assistance, etc. Funding for this would have been applied for through affordable living grants. Discussions indicated that the projected units would have cost approximately 4.29 million in 2007. When they heard that there was the possibility of an assisted living facility, they decided that they would have to wait to see if that project went ahead before proceeding.

Our Council inquired as to if we can send a representative to the management committee meetings, so that we can be more aware of what is happening with the Grande Spirit Foundation. They were informed that we could send someone as an observer, and that the next meeting is scheduled for this Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Lodge in Grande Prairie. Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus plans to attend this meeting.

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3.0 DELEGATIONS – CONT'D.

Mr. Hillaby also assured Council that he would make sure that the minutes are more readily available. Mr. Harpe indicated that they will continue to follow the plans for Beaverlodge, so that if they proceed they know that they will not be competing to supply a similar service. He left some information from their business plan for Council to review.

Our Council indicated their appreciation for the visit and that they will follow happenings closely and try to stay as informed as possible, so that our senior's will be well represented.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Mar. 10th, 2008

Motion #2-03–25-08

Moved by Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 10th, 2008 be approved as presented.

Carried.

5.0 TABLED ITEMS

Nil

6.0 FINANCE

6.1 Library Staff Request for Benefits

Council discussed this item, and because library staff are not town employees they cannot be included. Town Administrator, Ivan Hegland will inform the library board that their employees are not eligible under our town benefits package.

7.0 PLANNING

7.1 P.P. N Wireless Network Solutions Ltd. Application to Build a Communication Tower

Council discussed this item and noted that it would supply great service for access to high speed Internet. It was also mentioned that it may present an opportunity that may be conducive to partnering to improve cellular service within town.

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7.0 PLANNING – CONT'D.

Motion #3-03–25-08

Moved by Councillor Milliken that Council approve in principle, the application from P.P. N Wireless Network Solutions Ltd., to build a communication tower at the old landfill site north of town. Ivan Hegland, Town Manager, along with Mayor Hanson will work out the necessary lease agreement for this project.

Carried.

7.2 Jewitt Subdivision Request for Time Extension

Motion #4-03–25-08

Moved by Councillor Willey that Council approve the request from Roger Jewitt to grant a one-year extension to his subdivision approval.

Carried.

8.0 BY-LAWS

8.1 Bylaw # 892 – Urich, Waldemar & Anna Rezoning (1st Reading)

Motion #5-03–25-08

Moved by Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus that Rezoning **By-Law #892 – Urich, Waldemar & Anna, be given first reading.**

Carried.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Citizen Concern Regarding a Gas Well in Close Proximity to Town Boundary

Information has been provided regarding the above mentioned site to Council.

10.0 READING FILE

10.1 GPREP Meeting Minutes – Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Protection.

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11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Mayor Hanson

- Mayor Hanson reported that Council has been invited to the official opening of our new Protective Services Building. It will be an informal lunch and open house on April 10, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the old Minhas Bros. Building on the correction line. Ione will RSVP for any Council members who wish to attend, please leave your name with her.
- Mayor Hanson accompanied Dr. Miller in touring a photographer through our hospital facility recently. An editorial regarding our facility should be printed in the next few weeks and should be a good indicator of growth in our area and the need for new infrastructure.
- Mayor Hanson mentioned that the Research Station buildings have been a media focus just recently. The federal Agriculture Minister may be in the area in June and hopefully will tour the facility.
- Mayor Hanson indicated that MP Chris Warkenton continues to be in contact with her regarding many issues including new information regarding dollars available for water and wastewater projects. She also mentioned that she hopes to coordinate a time for him to meet with Council in the near future.
- Mayor Hanson mentioned that the Hythe, Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge Chambers met last week and plans to lobby for the highway twinning with a unified voice. This will be discussed further at the next Chamber meeting.
- Mayor Hanson spoke with MLA Wayne Drysdale regarding the twinning today and he will continue to follow this item closely as well.

11.2 Ivan Hegland, Town Administrator

Nil

11.3 Councillor Hermans

- Councillor Hermans attended a Regional Development open house with Mayor Hanson.
- Councillor Hermans mentioned that the GPRTA is proceeding with plans for a destination marketing fund.
- Councillor Hermans attended the Regular Library Board Meeting as well as their policy meeting.
- Councillor Hermans attended the Peace Library Board meeting and mentioned that some extra grant dollars have been allocated and that our library is in receipt of some of these, which will be used to access wireless Internet services.

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11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – CONT'D.

- Councillor Hermans plans to attend the Peace Library Board AGM on May 10th and requested that she be appointed as our chairperson to the Peace Library Board, with Councillor Willey as the alternate.

Motion #6-03–25-08

Moved by Councillor Willey that Councillor Hermans be appointed as the chairperson of the Town of Beaverlodge Standing Committee for the Beaverlodge Municipal Library Board and the Peace Library System.

Carried.

11.4 Councillor Milliken

- Councillor Milliken inquired as to if staff has any further information regarding the 11th Avenue lighting project, and was informed that they do not at this time.

11.5 Councillor Willey

Nil

11.6 Councillor Lappenbush

- Councillor Lappenbush reported the he attended a meeting with Communities in Bloom regarding beautification along the highway corridor.
- Councillor Lappenbush mentioned that the PC AGM this year will be in Jasper from October 3 – 5th, which will overlap with AUMA which is scheduled for October 1 – 4th.

11.7 Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus

- Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus reported that she attended a Community Futures lending training seminar, which was very informative.
- Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus also attended a Friends of the Foundation meeting.
- Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus mentioned that Senior's Week celebrations will be held on the week of June 1st – 7th, and that the Grande Spirit Foundation plans to be involved.
- Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus plans to attend future Grande Spirit management committee meetings so that she can keep Council better informed as to developments.

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11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – CONT'D.

- Councillor Kokotilo-Bekkerus asked Public Works Foreman, Jim Nichol about having a broken stop sign fixed on 11th Avenue. Jim indicated that he instructed his staff to repair the sign today.

11.8 Councillor Kyle

- Councillor Kyle attended an FCSS Advisory Committee meeting and reports that FCSS Coordinator, Jody Evans-Urien will be vacating her position as of March 31st to take on a position with the County as a school liaison. Jody has just completed conducting an interagency survey on social needs for our community.
- Councillor Kyle mentioned that the volunteer breakfast is slated for May 2nd. FCSS organizes this event with helpers from the RCMP and Town Staff and Council cooking for the event.
- Councillor Kyle also mentioned that welcome packages for new residents are available at the FCSS office. It was also suggested that staff indicate this to new people applying for business licenses.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion # 7-03-25-08

Moved by Councillor Kyle that the meeting adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor Hanson

Ivan Hegland, Town Manager