

**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Council
Of the Town Of Castor
Held Monday, November 25, 2013
Council Chambers, Castor Town Hall
Castor, Alberta**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Garry DeVloo.

Councillors in Attendance:

Lonny Nelner, Brenda Wismer, Travis Ryan, Tony Nichols, Rod Zinger, Richard Elhard.

Also in Attendance:

Sandi Jackson – C.A.O.
Stan Boettcher – Public Works Foreman
Landin Chambers – Q-14 Reporter

Agenda:

250/13 MOTION: Councillor Nelner that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Minutes:

Council reviewed the minutes of the November 12, 2013 regular Meeting of Council.

251/13 MOTION: Councillor Wismer that the Minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular meeting of Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Accounts:

The List of Accounts was presented to Council for payment.

Councillor Nelner declared an interest in account number 16587.

252/13 MOTION: Councillor Nichols that Account Numbers 16553 to 16593 excluding account number 16587 to That's My Specialty be approved for payment and that the list of Accounts be marked Schedule "A" and attached to these minutes of Council.

CARRIED

253/13 MOTION: Councillor Ryan to pay Account Number 16587.

CARRIED

Councillor Nelner did not participate in any discussion on this account.

Correspondence:

Canadian Badlands:

Council received correspondence on Canadian Badlands plans into 2014 for their information.

- Looking at bringing tour operators to the area.
- Through an awareness campaign, will be advertising in larger centers.

- Currently working on an Action Plan to be completed by March 2014.
- Reminded Council of their AGM and Conference coming up in March 2014.

Battle River Watershed: Council received a funding request from the Battle River Watershed - .50/per capita.

254/13 MOTION: Councillor Zinger that the Town of Castor not support the Battle River Watershed Invest Fund.

CARRIED

Old Business:

Reserve Lot: The Town crew located the gas line on MR5, Block 40, Plan 062 5725. In order to keep the gas line on MR5, the Town could sell 100' x 30'. This would need to be done by Bylaw to dispose of a portion of a Municipal Reserve.

255/13 MOTION: Councillor Elhard that a portion of Lot MR5, Block 40, Plan 062 5725 be disposed of and sold in the amount of \$2,000.00 in accordance with section 674.1 of the Municipal Government Act.

CARRIED

New Business:

AUMA Convention Reports:

Councillors Elhard and Ryan, along with the CAO attended the AUMA Convention from November 20 – 22.

Councillor Ryan:

- Attended a session on Climate Change – it was stressed to make sure our disaster plans are up to date. Presenter made predictions concerning weather patterns based on years of monitoring.
- Small Communities – Making your community more adaptable to bring people into the community. Looked at entrepreneurs. Discussed what would attract young people into your community.
- Connecting through media. The presenter explained how to use the media to your advantage – they can be a great tool for your community. Encouraged supporting the media.
- During the session on Council Obligations the overall message was “don’t let fear get in your way”. Stand behind your decisions. Received good insight on working together as a group. Felt it was a great learning experience.
- Discussed a solar power program with the Town of Black Diamond. Panels on Town buildings offset the cost of their power and some of their town residents have purchased solar panels privately. There is a seven year payback.

Councillor Elhard:

- Talked with Alberta Energy systems about energy programs. A representative is willing to meet with Council if there is an interest.
- Attended an asset management session. Maintenance and replacement have been a struggle for most communities.
- Attended a session on policing. The main message was on prevention through the schools.
- Also attended session on Dealing with the media and Council obligations. Felt there was value in both sessions.
- Resolution session, Councillor Elhard touched on the energy resolution to cut back on coal fire generation. Another controversial resolution was to have mandatory AED's in public places – that resolution did not pass.
- Chris Hadfield gave a very impressive speech as the keynote speaker.
- Minister Griffith spoke to Bill 28. Premier Redford spoke as well.
- Both Councillor Ryan and Councillor Elhard reported on the meeting with Alberta Transportation. We addressed concerns with Veteran's Memorial Highway long term plans and the importance of educating pilot truck operators. They hope to have this ready to bring to the public by January. We also brought our concern with the maintenance of 599 and 861 to their attention. Finally we discussed concerns about Carrillion and fire calls.
- Talked to a representative on water line trace.

CAO:

- Attended the "Women in Municipal Government" session that dealt with challenges women face while working in predominantly male environments and overcoming barriers.
- Attended the CAO session where discussion revolved around decision making.
- Dialogue with the ministers – met with energy minister Ken Hughes, Services minister Manmeet Bhullar, Minister of Education Jeff Johnson.
- Attended "Balancing the Municipal Books" session where they talked about prioritizing fiscal wants and needs with a limited revenue.
- We discussed the new main street lights with Transportation Lighting Solutions and how there is not enough light - what our options would be and he informed us he would look into the situation.
- Talked to the Town of Black Diamond about their solar power project. They placed solar panels on their municipal buildings for a cost of \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 per building. They are seeing a significant savings. The CAO will contact the CAO of Black Diamond for more information.

Employee Retirement:

Council received a notice of retirement from the Town Foreman.

256/13 MOTION: Councillor Nelner that Council go

to an in camera session to discuss the retirement of the Town Foreman.

CARRIED

Council went in to an in camera session at 8:47p. Landin Chambers and The Town Foreman left the meeting.

257/13 MOTION: Councillor Wismer to come out of the in camera session.

CARRIED

Council came out of the in camera session at 8:03pm. Landin Chambers and the Town Foreman returned to the meeting.

Multi Year Capital Plan: The CAO presented Council with the Multi Year Capital Plan for comments and approval. The debt limit calculation was also explained to Council.

Committee Reports:

Councillor Nichols:

- Talked to the Fire Department about the purchase of a personnel carrier. That could be added to the capital budget plan.
- Victims Services are looking at putting on seminars on prevention for family violence. There are 8 advocates for Victim Services from Consort to Castor.

Councillor Elhard:

- Victorian Christmas at the Hospital will be held on November 28 to December 1.

Foreman:

- Water shut off at a residence that was leaking, crew have repaired it.
- Finished filling holes at the water plant.
- Water issues from the pump transfer are being looked at. There is a fair bit more work to be completed on this project.
- Water week – Adam is attending this week to acquire his education credits.
- Robert is working on the station off the Nova trunk line. There are some leaks that have been repaired.
- New heaters have been installed at the new shop.
- Bondo have been working on the radios.
- New phones have arrived and working well.
- Brackets have been placed on the new street light poles and then placed the Christmas decorations.
- Working in Pals Park to make sure the lights will work for the tree lighting.
- Placed 6 concrete blocks at the alley off 49th Street.
- Cleaned the snow off the streets and will work on Main Street again.
- Spent a great deal of time sanding.
- There is still some de-commissioning to do a the pump house and the water plant.

C.A.O.

- Auditors will start the 2013 audit this week.
- The street light at the old home hardware site will be shut off this week. If Council wishes, the pole can be left up as there is currently a flood light on the pole that is powered by the building.

Mayor DeVloo:

- Reminded Council about the open house on the 13th of December from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

Adjournment:

258/13 MOTION: Councilor Zinger that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:02p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER