

AUGUST 22, 2016

Present: Mayor Gary Burgess
Councillors: Gordon Nicholson
Lyle Sipe
Nadine Adolf
Carol Descoteaux

CAO: Greg Gayton

1. Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Minutes of the July 11, 2016 regular Council meeting

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson that the minutes of the July 11, 2016 regular Council meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED 08/16/102**

3. Business arising from the Minutes: No business arising from the minutes.

4. Representation:

a) Chad Wiwchar – public works report, water level issues

5. Meetings Attended:

Council and staff reviewed meeting they had attended between July 11, 2016 and August 22, 2016.

Councillor Sipe noted that the breakfast at the Hythe Ag Fair hosted by the Hythe Elks and the Hythe Fire Department had raised \$1,600.00. This will be used for a new piano for the community choir.

Other Councillors and staff noted meeting they had attended.

6. Correspondence

a) Alberta Environment – Water Act License – received for information

b) Alberta Environment – Operator Certificate – received for information

c) County of Grande Prairie – regional transportation priorities

It was noted that a meeting will be coming up on this in September.

d) County of Grande Prairie – recreation, master plan

CAO noted that the Recreation Master Plan had been received. A copy of the survey attached to the plan was available for Council to review.

e) Rick's Tree Removal Services

Mayor Burgess left the meeting at 5:20 p.m. due to a possible conflict of interest.

Council reviewed a quote from Rick's Tree Removal Services to remove two poplar trees on the boulevard at 10103-104 street. It was noted that the issue with these trees is that the roots are near to the house and may soon be causing damage to the basement. It was noted that the resident immediately east of the Burgess residence may be having a similar issue. Council felt it would be appropriate to deal with residence east of the Burgess house at the same time.

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to have Rick's Tree Removal Services remove the two poplar trees on the boulevard at 10103-104 street as noted in the quote, and deal with the problem next door as needed. **CARRIED 08/16/103**

Mayor Burgess rejoined the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

f) Springland Manor – request for utility forgiveness

Council received a request for forgiveness on utilities from Richer Reality. Richer Reality operates Springland Manor in Hythe for the property owner. All six suites in the apartment building are now vacant.

Council recognized that the rental market has declined significantly in the past year, but was also concerned about the precedent that would be created by granting Richer Reality forgiveness on the utilities.

Staff also reviewed Bylaw #517 which dealt with municipal utilities on vacant buildings.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to decline the request for a reduction or wavier on the utilities for Springland Manor. **CARRIED 08/16/104**

7. Other Business & Information:

a) Bylaw #530 – appointment of assessor

Bylaw #530 dealt with the appointment of Village's assessor as a designated officer. Staff explained this is required by the Municipal Government Act in accordance with sections 210 and 284.

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to give Bylaw #530 first reading. **CARRIED 08/16/105**

MOVED by Councillor Adolf to give Bylaw #530 second reading. **CARRIED 08/16/106**

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to consider Bylaw #530 for third reading at this meeting. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 08/16/107**

MOVED by Councillor Sipe to give Bylaw #530 third reading. **CARRIED 08/16/108**

Public Works Assistant Chad Wiwchar joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Wiwchar first dealt with the water level reports. He has been monitoring a select number of water wells in town, concern has been raised that the water levels might be increasing. In his report, Mr. Wiwchar had noted the original static water level is from when the water well was drilled, which is available from Alberta Environment. He had then checked those levels against the present day static water levels. He noted that this was the first set of readings for these wells. So this information is preliminary and more readings have to be done in the future to acquire data to see if there is a trend developing.

Council then discussed the purchase of a new front mount mower. Some issues with the old Ferris have rendered it unusable. It was noted that we were looking for a new front mount with a six-foot-wide mowing deck and motor with 25 or 30 HP. Chad Wiwchar had researched various brands, such as Toro, Cub Cadets, Kubota, Ferris & John Deere. After some discussion about the strength and weaknesses of various brands, it was decided to narrow the search between John Deere and Ferris.

Council discussed the need to be able to get parts quickly and the need for a mulching mower. There was some discussion about the operation of the old mower. The front mount mowers do require a certain skill set to operate them on a consistent basis. It was felt there should be some consideration just having the permanent staff operate the mowers.

Council will finalize the decision on the matter at the September 12, 2016 regular Council meeting. Council requested that staff order some pavement patch, there are some specific manholes that will probably not be done with the new regional paving equipment, but will still be suitable to use the pavement patch we have used previously. Staff will order four barrels.

There was some discussion about burning at the landfill. Consensus was that measures have to be taken so that the compost burns hotter and quicker, rather than smoldering for long periods of time. We'll also avoid burning during special events, such as the fair weekend.

Councillor Sipe commented that staff must refrain from talking on cell phones while driving municipal equipment.

Chad Wiwchar left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

b) Newterra – water treatment plant summary- received for information

c) Poplar replacement – trees for boulevards

Staff reviewed some information on some possible trees, that could be planted as we continue to replace the northwest poplar that are at the end of their natural life. After looking at a number of options, Council decided to give a general direction to staff and the public Ash Trees would be a suitable replacement on boulevards. There are a number of different Ash trees that can be used, however they should have the attributes of providing a small canopy and little suckering at the root base.

It was noted that Mountain Ash was a good quality choice for a boulevard tree.

d) Mark Meiers – request for extension

Mr. Meiers had sent in an appeal on an order given regarding lots 22 & 23, Block 18, Plan 772 3036. The order had required him to fill in an excavation at that property, and have the excavation filled in by August 31st, 2016. Mr. Meiers asked for a variance on that order as he was considering putting in a package with a basement and a modular home at that property, and did not see the need to fill in a hole that would later be needed for the basement. Council felt that Mr. Meiers should provide Council with a set of detailed building plans for the property by September 15th, 2016 or have the hole filled in by that date. It was noted that because of the lateness of the August Council meeting, Mr. Meiers should be given a bit more time to reach a decision on this, so it was felt that a September 15th, 2016 deadline would be appropriate.

MOVED by Councillor Adolf to have Mr. Meiers either provide a detailed set of plans for the property or have the excavation filled in by September 15th, 2016. The excavation must be filled in to the present level of the surrounding ground. **CARRIED**

08/16/109

e) Councillors signing petitions – received for information

f) Council appointments (tabled from last meeting)

Council reviewed some of the vacancies on the Council committee appointments since Councillor Philips left. Councillor Adolf volunteered to attend the GPREP Emergency Services Committee meetings, and the South Peace Physician Attraction & Retention Committee meetings. Councillor Descoteaux will try to attend the Pioneer Home Board meetings and Councillor Adolf will then take Councillor Descoteaux's place on the Hythe Athletic Association Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Sipe to approve the changes in the Committee appointments as discussed. **CARRIED 08/16/110**

g) Spring clean-up summary – received for information.

h) County of Grande Prairie – Canada's 150th Centennial Celebration – received for information.

i) Cheque summary – Cheques #20160440 – 20160604 – received for information

8. Other matters (members' business):

CAO advised on the situation regarding train parking. It was noted that the rails cars that are presently parked in Hythe will be moving out shortly once the harvest begins, they are needed for hauling grain. It was suggested that if and when the rail cars return to Hythe that be parked outside of town, possibly on rail line north and west of town. It was noted that the AUMA Conference will be held on October 5th – 7th, 2016, Councillors Descoteaux and Adolf indicated an interest in going, staff will research the matter further.

Mayor Burgess noted that the Pioneer Home was interested in trying to rent out some of their four-plex, he was wondering if a fence would be allowed on the front of the four-plex. CAO will look into the matter and discuss it with the Pioneer Home.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to go into camera. **CARRIED 08/16/111**

Council went into Camera at 7:22 p.m.

9. In Camera

- a) Public Works Supervisor – position changes
- b) Grande Spirit Foundation – legal matter

While in Camera Council discussed a legal matter and the advertising for the Public Work Supervisor position.

MOVED by Councillor Sipe to go back into open session. **CARRIED 08/16/112**

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor Adolf that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED 08/16/113**

Time of adjournment was 8:02 p.m.