

MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015

Present: Mayor Gary Burgess
Councilors: Cheryl Phillips
Gordon Nicholson
Carol Descoteaux

CAO: Greg Gayton
Elise Mumert – Reporter for West County News

1. Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
2. Minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular Council meeting
MOVED by Councillor Phillips that the minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular Council meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED 03/15/38**

3. Business arising from the Minutes:

Mayor Burgess noted that he and the CAO had met with the Pioneer Home regarding the building west of the Village office.

4. Representation:

- a) Kenny Huey, Public Works Supervisor Report – 5:45 p.m.

Public Works Supervisor Kenny Huey joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Huey discussed some of his staff activities from the last few weeks. He noted that snow removal was done on the weekend of March 21 & 22, 2015, and some outside assistance was brought in.

There was some discussion about the culverts at Tags. It was suggested that for next year that perhaps Sherri Peterson should be approached about not having so much snow piling up near the culvert.

Mr. Huey requested that Council look at some new lighting in the shop.

There was some discussion about work boots, and dome lights for the truck.

Mr. Huey left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

5. Meeting Attended:

Councillors reported on meetings attended from March 9, 2015 to March 23, 2015.

Councillor Phillips reported on a Royal Purple meeting and a Pioneer Home Board meeting.

Now that the province has announced the 48 bed addition, the Board is able to move on with the project. The Pioneer Home Board would like to stay with Points West as a partner on this project. Points West would provide a turnkey operation to the Pioneer Home upon completion of this construction.

Councillor Phillips noted that the funding from the province represents 33% of the total cost of the project, the Pioneer Home has the obligation to raise the rest of the funds.

Initial plans are to break ground in the summer of 2015 and hopefully have the building near completion by December of 2016.

There was some discussion about the sewer from the old hospital site. Staff will check to see if there are sewer lines coming from the old hospital site into our system.

Mayor Burgess reported that he attended an event in Grande Prairie on March 11, 2015 at which Premier Jim Prentice spoke.

6. Correspondence:

a) Odyssey House – Progress Tour – received for information.

b) Satellite Dental Clinics

Council received a letter from the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA) asking for a letter of support for retention of Dental Clinics in MacClennan, High Level and LaCrete. Satellite Dental Clinics are a joint service with the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta. However there are some structural changes coming and there is not certainty that the Clinics will continue. PREDA asked that Council sent a letter of support requesting that these Satellite Dental offices continue.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to send a letter of support to the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance. **CARRIED 03/15/39**

7. Other Business & Information:

a) Municipal Affairs – Changes in Municipal Government Act

CAO presented Council with some information received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding some proposed changes in the Municipal Government Act that will take place when the Act is passed in 2016. These include: a Public Participation Policy; a requirement for a Code of Conduct for elected officials; more guidance on the conduct of Council meetings; some changes to public notification methods; new requirements that subdivision and development appeal board member receive proper training, and the requirement that municipalities adopt a three year operating plan and a five year capital plan. Council received this submission for information.

b) Playground Society

Council reviewed information from the Friends of Hythe and Community Playground Society. Council noted that the Playground Society had taken on a very substantial project in doing a total review and upgrade of the playground facility at Hythe Regional School. Received for information.

c) Bylaw #524 Utility Rates

The CAO noted as per discussion at recent budget meetings that utility rates were due for some review and changes. Changes to utility rates have not been done since 2013. CAO reviewed the Bylaw setting the utility rates.

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to give Bylaw #524 first read. **CARRIED 03/15/40**

MOVED by Councillor Phillips to give Bylaw #524 second reading. **CARRIED 03/15/41**

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to give Bylaw #524 third and final reading at this meeting. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 03/15/42**

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to give Bylaw #524 third reading. **CARRIED 03/15/43**

d) West Waterline

Council reviewed the West Waterline submission. Meetings have now wrapped up on this and the project will be submitted to the Water for Life program for funding.

e) Resolution – re Small Communities Program
Staff reviewed the current plans for sewer lining upgrades with Council. Some discussion ensued.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to proceed with a \$150,000.00 application to the Federal Small Communities Fund for rehabilitation of sewer mains in phases 4 and 5 of the project. **CARRIED 03/15/44**

8. Other matters (members' business):

Councillor Descoteaux inquired about the spring clean-up. CAO noted that usually the spring clean-up is held in May and sometimes will continue on until early June.

Council requested that Public Works staff take a shop inventory.

Council discussed the Public Works request for the replacement of lights and fans in the Public Works shop. Staff will obtain quotes for lights, ceiling fan and some exhaust fans for the Public Works shop. These will be included in the budget for further consideration.

Council discussed the request regarding work boots.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson that Council approve 50/50 cost sharing with Public Works staff for one pair of winter work boots and one pair of summer work boots. Boots may be replaced not more than once every two years. **CARRIED 03/15/45**

There was some discussion about Public Works staff wearing coveralls, CAO will check into see if two pairs of coveralls have been ordered for each staff member.

CAO noted that Council meetings have been starting earlier than the 5:30 p.m. which had been conventionally set for the meeting. He suggested that if this was going to be an ongoing practice that the formal time set for Council meetings be moved back to reflect what is occurring. There was further discussion on the matter.

MOVED by Councillor Phillips that the regular Council meeting times change from 5:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. **CARRIED 03/15/46**

The Council meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Monday of each month except as noted in the Organizational meeting minutes.

Elise Mumert left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Council continued on with members' business discussing the Volunteer Week Event on April 15, 2015. Staff were requested to ensure that someone was hired to clean up after the event. There was some discussion on staff participation.

There was discussion on FCSS scheduling and hours of work. Council looked at a new option for dealing with some of the issues arising from that.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to initiate discussions with the FCSS Director on a new structural option. **CARRIED 03/15/47**

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor Phillips that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED 03/15/48**

Time of adjournment was 7:10 p.m.