

VILLAGE OF THORSBY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2010
8:00 PM

Call to Order: The regular meeting of Council was called to order by Mayor Gee, at 8:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor: Allan Gee

Councillors: Jim Robb
Joanne Osness
Rick Hart
Barry Rasch

CAO: Harold Wynne

Treasurer: Dennis Litke

Recording Secretary: Dennis Litke

County Councillor: Audrey Kelto

Delegates: John Hunter
Ben Tuck
Dan Canuel
Richard Blais
Nathalie Roy

Reporters: Linda Steinke, Pipestone Flyer
Coreena Van de Cappelle, Thorsby Target
Kate Hamilton, Leduc Representative

2010-168 Moved by Councillor Osness to adopt the agenda as amended.
Carried.

2010-169 Moved by Councillor Hart to adopt the May 25, 2010 regular meeting minutes as amended.
Carried.

DELEGATIONS/PETITIONS

1. Resident Delegation Regarding Taxes

Mayor Gee asked for a representative to speak for the delegation party. Nathalie Roy approached Council with some concerns regarding tax rates within the Village. These concerns evolved around the slow resale of property in town, the tax rate in the Village compared to other municipalities in the area, infrastructure repair and maintenance, and property assessment values. Ms. Roy felt that the high tax rates are the cause for slow growth in the residential and business sectors in the Village, and this is causing many of them to question the future of Thorsby. Upon Ms. Roy completing her presentation, Mayor Gee asked for any other presentations. Mr. Canuel, Mr. Tuck and Mr. Blais also spoke to Council.

Council and C.A.O. Wynne explained that they worked hard on holding the taxes to a zero increase for the Municipal taxes. They noted that the school taxes rose by 5% this year. It was also pointed out the amount of new development going on within the Village, such as the recreation complex redevelopment, new water treatment plant, and new elementary school. Beyond the costs of development, the Village also has to cover its day to day expenses. Council stated that they were aware of the crumbling infrastructure and is working on making arrangements for maintenance.

Council also reminded the residents that any concerns about the property assessment value should be brought up with the assessor. They also stated that costs to rise and the Village had to find a way to cover the costs of operating. The Village is turning to grants more now than what it has in the past for funding purposes and with time taxes will drop, especially if more businesses establish within the Village. C.A.O. Wynne stated that applying a maximum tax amount would be looked into.

The delegates and Council members agreed that Thorsby is a great place to live and hope that more residents and business would begin to call the community home.

Nathalie Roy, John Hunter, Ben Tuck, Dan Canuel, and Richard Blais left the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

2. Doris Mason, Recreation Board

Ms. Doris Mason approached Council with some concerns regarding the Recreation Complex in the areas of a lack of programs, the new summer hours and how busy Mrs. Laurie Gellert is with the Complex Redevelopment project.

Ms. Mason stated that the Soccer Program has over 300 individuals registered and with the Complex closed in the evenings no one has access to use the facilities or buy from the concession after games or practice. She also said with the new hours, people who hold gym memberships cannot use the weight room after work. The summer hours also pose a problem for the library since the only bathrooms available are located on the locked side of the Complex. She also voiced some concern about how the programs are being run since the instructor for some of the programs is sixteen years old and according to past policy a staff member must be present when the Rec Complex is open. She felt concerned that Mrs. Gellert is no longer given enough time to properly do her job. Ms. Mason expressed that the Recreation Board is working hard to keep good recreation activities in the community and having good recreation programs available is vital.

C.A.O. Wynne responded by saying that he hopes to have the Recreation Board become more involved in community recreation planning. He also said that he is looking into other ways to operate and manage the complex. C.A.O. Wynne reminded Ms. Mason that he is Mrs. Gellert's supervisor and he is arranging how she will spend her time.

Mayor Gee pointed out that C.A.O. Wynne is working on solutions for finding a way to have the Complex run smoother and more effectively.

Ms. Mason left the meeting at 9:47 P.M.

2010-170 Moved by Councillor Hart to recess at 9:48 P.M.
Carried.

Mayor Gee called the meeting back to order at 10:00 P.M.

2010-171 Moved by Councillor Robb to extend the June 8, 2010 Regular Council Meeting past 10:00 P.M., but limit the meeting to 11:00 P.M.
Carried.

REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS

1. Admin Reports

2010-172 Moved by Councillor Hart to accept the administrative reports as presented.
Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Leduc County FCSS re: 2010 grant

2010-173 Moved by Councillor Osness to accept the Leduc County FCSS Core Funding Dollars letter as information.
Carried.

2. June Mayor's Caucus Meetings, Calgary

2010-174 Moved by Councillor Hart to authorize the Mayor's attendance in Calgary.
Carried

2010-175 Moved by Councillor Osness to approve one day honourarium for the Mayor's attendance at the Mayor's Caucus in Calgary and that mileage and expenses be paid.
Carried

3. Letter from Audrey Brosseau

2010-176 Moved by Councillor Robb to accept the letter from Audrey Brosseau regarding the Recreation Complex reduction in hours as information.
Carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Administrative Law II Course, June 21 & 22, Edmonton, Assessment Course, June 17, Red Deer

Councillor Hart & Councillor Rasch will attend the Edmonton and Red Deer Courses.

2. Inspections Group Dinner Cruise Invitation

2010-177 **3. Community Features Capital Region Open House**
Moved by Councillor Hart to accept items F1, 2, & 3 as information.
Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2010-178 **1. Set Reserve Bid for Tax Sale Property**
Moved by Mayor Gee to set the Reserve Bid for the Tax Sale Property at \$27,500 for Tax Roll # 01171, Lot 11, Block 10A, Plan 724HW.
Carried.

2010-179 **2. Council Rep for CUPE Negotiations**
Moved by Councillor Robb that if Councillor Hart may not be able attend the CUPE Negotiations, that Councillor Osness be appointed as the alternative to the negotiation committee.
Carried.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Gee

- Went to the Quebec Housing meeting in Quebec on behalf of the Leduc Foundation.
- Attended the Small Communities meeting in Mannville.

Councillor Hart

- May have to cancel the Chamber BBQ since he will be away on a course.

Councillor Rasch

- Had a Rec Board meeting.
- Communities in Bloom will be planting flowers on June 9th and all the new planters are up. A thank you was given to Public Works for installing the hanging baskets.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2010-180 **1. Cheque Register 021600 to 021632**
Moved by Councillor Hart to accept the Cheque Register as information.
Carried.

2010-181 Moved by Councillor Hart to recess at 10:32 P.M.
Carried.

Mayor Gee called the meeting back to order at 10:39 P.M.

2010-182 Moved by Councillor Osness that the meeting go into camera at 10:39 P.M.
Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

2010-183 Moved by Councillor Hart that the meeting come out of camera at 10:48 P.M.
Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

2010-184 Councillor Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 P.M.
Carried.

Harold Wynne, CAO

Allan Gee, Mayor

Date Adopted