



**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING  
August 23, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor: Barry Rasch  
Councillors Rick Hart  
Mitch Williams  
Joanne Osness  
Cathryne Pharis  
CAO: Harold Wynne

Distribution: Agenda; July 26, 2011 Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes; Downtown Revitalization Committee Agenda, Mar 18/11; Parks Development Committee Meeting Agenda, June 25/11; Community Marketing Committee Agenda, July 21/11; Report to the Governance Committee, Capital Region Board, July 2011.

Call to Order

Mayor Rasch called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

1. Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Councillor Pharis: Wild Pink Yonder update

Mayor Rasch: CAO evaluation; RCMP detachment relocation to Warburg

Councillor Williams moved the agenda be adopted as amended.

2. Thorsby Tax Incentives

Council directed administration to draft a tax incentive policy, modeled after the one in the Town of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. Elements to include from the "commercial incentive policy" policy category include: (1) new business construction (Years 1-5 at 100%, 100%, 50%, 50%, 25%); (2) new business established in an existing building; (3) business expansion incentive; (4) business renovation incentive. Elements to include from the "residential incentive policy" include: (1) residential construction (Years 1-3 at 100%, 50%, 25%).

Administration was directed to set a meeting with local realtors between Sept 15 and 27. The draft policy will be presented to the realtors for comment and further discussed at the Council retreat on October 22.

3. Enabling Accessibility Fund

Mayor Rasch tabled information on the grant entitled *Enabling Accessibility Fund*. Through the EAF, the federal government is helping people with disabilities by improving their access to facilities, activities and services. Administration was directed to look into applying for this grant to enable access to the Recreation Complex.

Mayor Rasch adjourned the meeting for a break at 8:10 P.M.

Mayor Rasch reconvened the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Councillor Williams requested copies of the Village bylaws. CAO Wynne explained these were contained in numerous binders and that they were available at the Village office for viewing at any time. It was agreed that administration would forward an electronic copy of the bylaw index to Councillors and electronic/print copies of individual bylaws would be made available on request.

4. Downtown Revitalization, Park Development, Marketing Committees

CAO Wynne tabled copies of the most recent committee meeting agendas, along with the outcomes from vision sessions held by each committee. Further discussion of these three strategic planning areas was tabled to the Council retreat on October 22.



5. Policy/Bylaw Development

CAO Wynne commented that the task of continuing with the policy (and later bylaw) review is large in scope and may have to be approached as an independent project wherein contracted help is required. Council agreed to revisit this project after the AUMA conference.

6. Bulk Water Distribution Plan

CAO Wynne reported that he had discussed the development of a business plan associated with the distribution of bulk water from the new Thorsby water treatment plant with Peter Pellatt, an instructor in the Faculty of Business at the University of Alberta. Mr. Pellatt has agreed to develop a business plan for this purpose and CAO Wynne suggested a budget of \$10,000 be set aside for this planning. Council discussed this project and consensus was to proceed with the development of the business plan concurrent with the submission of an application to Alberta Transportation to develop a bulk water fill facility.

7. Motion Tracking Sheet

Mayor Rasch introduced the concept of administration developing a "motion tracking" sheet to identify motions/tasks from previous meetings. After some discussion, Council suggested having a "business arising" section on subsequent Council meeting agendas to discuss the status of initiatives from the previous meeting. It was agreed this new section will be placed on all subsequent Council meeting agendas.

8. Three Month Strategy

Mayor Rasch requested the discussion of a three-month strategy be placed on this agenda. He commented that planning appears to be taking place and communication is improving; therefore, no further discussion is warranted at this time.

9. Report to the Governance Committee, Capital Region Board

Mayor Rasch tabled the document entitled *Report to the Governance Committee, Capital Region Board, July 2011*. He encouraged Council members to read this and share any comments they wished to make.

10. Council Round Table

Councillor Pharis described the events being planned for the Wild Pink Yonder ride on August 30. She also encouraged Councillors to get into the spirit by "pinkifying" their residences and encouraging other residents and businesses to do likewise.

Councillor Pharis noted that former Mayor John Hillary had recently passed away and that perhaps a plaque in the recreation complex and library commemorating his many contributions to Thorsby would be appropriate. Also, his picture should be in the Council chambers. Administration is to consider possibilities and advise Council.

CAO Wynne suggested that the Village also send condolences and a donation to the family of Ed Chubolka, the former Reeve of Leduc County, who had also recently passed away. Council agreed and directed administration to do so.

Councillor Williams enquired about progress on repairing the roofs at the Village office, Community Hall and Recreation Complex. CAO Wynne responded that he and Public Works Manager Chris Legault were presently awaiting quotes from contractors.

Council briefly discussed the recent letter to the editor from former Warburg Mayor May Metke re: the merit of relocating the RCMP detachment headquarters from Thorsby to Warburg. Consensus was that this is the opinion of one resident and not the position of the Warburg Council; therefore, did not require a response.

Councillor Osness reported that Yellowhead Regional Library Director Kevin Dodd would be in Thorsby tomorrow evening to discuss YRL planning. She encouraged Council members to meet with Kevin if they are available.

Mayor Rasch reminded Council of the special meeting with the Syncarb group set for August 25/11 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. He also informed Council that he, the CAO and



Councillor Hart would be meeting with MP Blaine Caulkins on Friday, Sept 2 to update the MP on the proposed waste-to-energy gasification project.

Council agreed that Mayor Rasch be given a \$50/month stipend for use of his cellular phone, as was the policy with the former Mayor. This amount is retroactive to January 1, 2011.

11. Adjourn

Councillor Hart moved the meeting adjourn at 10:05 P.M.

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Harold Wynne, CAO

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Barry Rasch, Mayor

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Date Adopted