



**MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor: Barry Rasch

Councillors Mitch Williams
Joanne Osness
Cathryne Pharis

CAO: Harold Wynne

Distribution: Agenda; Mariyka Waste Removal Contract; November 1/11 39/20 Alliance Meeting Agenda; Correspondence-Brownlee LLP to Town of Rimbey, February 1/11 and March 17/11; Town of Rimbey Business Development Incentive Grant Program; Correspondence-Larry Peters to Mayor Rasch, November 11/11; Budget Update, November 7, 2011; 2009 City of Edmonton Waste Management Bylaw; 2006 Town of Sundre Solid Waste Collection, Removal and Disposal Bylaw; 2012 Draft Memorandum of Agreement, Town of Calmar and Village of Thorsby re: Peace Officer Services.

Call to Order

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

1. Agenda

Councillor Osness moved the agenda be adopted. *Carried.*

2. 39/20 Alliance Meeting Follow-Up

Council reviewed the November 1, 2011 39/20 Alliance meeting agenda and offered the following comments on this experience:

- the meeting afforded an excellent opportunity to share information and discuss joint initiatives.
- there were too many agenda items to cover them all.
- the 39/20 Councils should meet quarterly
- joint committees should be established to pursue specific initiatives (e.g., economic development, marketing, public transportation).

CAO Wynne noted the 39/20 Alliance CAOs will continue to meet regularly and that the next 39/20 Council meeting will be hosted by Calmar in early February.

3. Mundare Trip Discussion

Councillors offered the following comments on the November 12/11 joint Council-Chamber of Commerce tour of Mundare and meeting with the Mundare Council:

- Mundare's description of how the main street infrastructure project was funded and implemented was very informative.
- Mundare's plans to develop a business incubator as part of their economic development strategy is interesting and may have applicability to Thorsby.
- Beginning with a main street "visioning project" in Thorsby, similar to the approach in Mundare, has merit.
- Future Council tours to other Alberta communities should be arranged.

4. Tax Incentive Policies

CAO Wynne identified other Alberta communities that have tax incentive bylaws and/or policies, and these include: Sexsmith, St. Paul, Bruderheim and Rimbey. He also alerted Council to legal opinions offered by Brownlee LLP to the Town of Rimbey that concluded the four Rimbey tax incentive bylaws drafted between 2003 and 2008 were invalid for 3 reasons: (1) they contravene subsection 347(1) of the MGA; (2) they unlawfully discriminate between properties within the same taxable class; and (3) they fetter the discretion of Council to set property tax rates. However, Brownlee also concluded "that Council may only cancel taxes on an individual basis under subsection 347.1(b) in the year in which the tax is imposed". As a result of this legal opinion, Rimbey Council chose to rescind their four bylaws and replace these with a Business Development Incentive Grant Program that offers grants based on the level of property assessment value.

CAO Wynne advised Council that an application procedure will be developed that (1) allows individual business and residential property owners to petition Council on an individual basis, and



(2) alerts property owners that Council can only make decisions for the present taxation year only. In addition, he has contacted Brownlee LLP for advice on the Thorsby tax incentive policy and subsequent procedure that will be developed.

5. Syncarb Letter

Mayor Rasch tabled a letter and proposal he received from the Syncarb group and discussion ensued.

6. 2012 Budget Ideas

A number of documents that have implications for the 2012 budget were tabled (see distribution list). Council briefly discussed some ideas for the 2012 budget including the following:

- need for streetlight and asphalt overlay at the corner of 50 avenue and 45 street.
- consulting fees to assist with vision main street development.
- cost of camera-ing Hankin Street sewer mains and possibly impregnating lines.
- sidewalk installation north of Hoffman's warehouse on 49 avenue.

7. Adjourn

Councillor Osness moved the meeting adjourn at 9:35 P.M.

The next committee-of-the-whole meeting will be held on November 29/11 at 7 P.M. This meeting will be devoted solely to bylaw and policy review.

Harold Wynne, CAO

Barry Rasch, Mayor

Date Adopted