

**Town of Drumheller  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**April 15, 2019, at 4:30 PM**  
Council Chamber, Town Hall  
224 Centre Street, Drumheller, AB, T0J 0Y4



**PRESENT:**

**MAYOR:**

Heather Colberg

**COUNCIL:**

Kristyne De Mott

Jay Garbutt

Lisa Hansen-Zacharuk

Tony Lacher

Fred Makowecki

Tom Zariski

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

Darryl Drohomerski

**DEPUTY CAO/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES:**

Barb Miller

**DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

Dave Brett

**DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE / EMERGENCY SERVICES:**

Greg Peters

**MANAGER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Sean Wallace

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:**

Julia Fielding

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Linda Handy

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Heather Colberg called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**2. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARK**

Mayor Colberg announced the following activities:

Community Standards Bylaw Open House -April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at the BCF

Dinosaur Trail Golf Club AGM – April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Chamber's Spring Expo - April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at BCF

Valley Bus AGM – May 8<sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM at BCF

Parade Committee is looking for volunteers – any interested citizens should go to [DrumhellerParade.org](http://DrumhellerParade.org) to sign up

Mayor Colberg thanked the organizers of the Volunteer Appreciation Event and all the residents who participated in the 20-20 challenge to clean up the community.

Councillor J. Garbutt advised that he attended the Dinner and Reception with the President of the Red Deer University and the Board of Governors. He further advised that they had a tour of their newly constructed \$88M Canada Game Centre.

### **3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MO2019.67** Hansen-Zacharuk, Lacher moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **4. MINUTES**

#### **4.1. ADOPTION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

4.1.1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2019

**MO2019.68** Lacher, DeMott moved to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2019 as presented. Carried unanimously.

#### **4.2. MINUTES OF MEETING PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION**

#### **4.3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **5. DELEGATIONS**

### **6. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS**

#### **6.1. CAO**

##### **6.1.1 2019 Capital Budget Approval**

D. Drohomerski provided an overview of capital priorities as follows:

Downtown Plaza–Washrooms / hardscaping / etc. / sound system (Elks site) - \$60,000;

Computer Services (IT upgrades to server/Microsoft licensing/telephones) - \$182,000;

Communication Upgrade – TownApp - \$15,000

Fire Equipment – \$50,000

Fire Hall – lockers - \$12,000

Fire Vehicles – Ladder pumper increased to \$1.1M (tender to go out in 2019) and Fire

Chief Truck replacement - \$50,000

Flood Mitigation (dyke construction and update to be provided in the early summer)

Town Hall Vehicle (Development Officer / Economic Development) - \$40,000

Heavy Duty Equipment (Portable Compressor) - \$510,000

Salt Shed (asphalt floor) - \$25,000

Street Rehabilitation Program increased to \$1M

Bridge 11 (grant dependent) - \$1.6M

Runway Lighting replacement (grant dependent) - \$142,000

Pen Booster Station – water booster station for the Penitentiary needs replacing start work with engineering this year and construction next year and cost sharing with Province - \$100,000

Watermain Replacement / Valves in downtown core - \$415,000  
ShopA Bulk Water Station Relocation(near WTP);move out of residential area-\$200,000  
Replace one HVAC Unit at WTP this year; and two each year thereafter - \$91,000;  
Under Year 2020–WTP / WWTP Optimization Engineering and Design treatment of backwash water and sludge from WTP (dependent upon Environment’s directive on backwater discharge to river) – need to allow for \$4M;  
Nacmine Forcemain (grant dependent) \$1.4M (needs replacement due to aging – bypass under Newcastle);  
Nacmine Sewer Lines are on the radar for replacement (freezing due to lines being shallow) – currently they are flushed more regularly - \$1.5M (grant dependant);  
Cemetery – Phase 3 /fencing / landscaping - \$75,000;  
Elks Club Demolition (completed at \$70,000);  
Aquaplex Change Room(carry forward from last year) and Air Handling Unit - \$438,500;  
Arena – Zamboni - \$130,000;  
Tree Spade (the Town can manage their own work) - \$30,000;  
Washrooms at the Hoodoos (relocating washrooms from west end of parking lot to east end to allow for dedicated space for vendors) - \$15,000;  
Spray Park \$50,000 design this year as per Council’s direction and \$250,000 next year;  
Dog Park Fencing - \$15,000; construct another one in 2020.  
Dinosaur Rex – listed as a donation - \$50,800;  
Fitness Equipment Replacement at BCF - \$30,000;  
Ceiling Mounted Basketball Nets at BCF - \$65,000  
New Pickleball Nets at BCF - \$5,000

Councillor T. Zariski asked that dollars be assigned for BCF for drop down curtains and flooring for the fieldhouse next year.

D. Drohomerski stated that Administration is seeking adoption of the 2019 Capital Budget and subsequent five (5) year capital plan. The 2019 Capital Budget equates to \$21,452,020 (\$26.9-2018) of which:

- \$12,098,120 (\$10.67 – 2018) are funded projects carried forward (work in progress) from 2018;
- \$1,117,000 (\$5.8 – 2018) are unfunded projects carried forward (\$142k airport runway, \$975k Bridge 11); and
- \$1.765,000 (\$4.7 – 2018) are new, unfunded projects (\$265k Bridge 11 and \$1.5M Nacmine Forcemain)

**MO2019.69** Hansen-Zacharuk, Zariski moved to approve the 2019 Capital Budget as presented.

Councillor J. Garbutt asked if the reserve funding for future years meet terms of the Town’s Capital Financing Strategy in order to fund the capital purchases? B. Miller explained based on amortization and if the grants are approved, she is confident that future capital replacements and growth of reserves is possible. She needs to rework the numbers in light of grant approval in the amount of \$55M for flood mitigation

Vote on Motion: Carried unanimously.

### **6.1.2 Multi-Year Capital Budget Approval**

**MO2019.70** Lacher, Garbutt moved to approve the Multi-Year Capital Budget as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **6.1.3 AUMA Resolution – Electricity Price Imbalance**

D. Drohomerski explained that resulting from a recent presentation to Council by ATCO Electric, it became shockingly clear that transmission and distribution costs by the companies responsible for the wires to bring electricity to your home are significantly imbalanced depending on where you live in the Alberta ATCO service area customers are paying higher costs than customers within the Fortis, EPCOR and ENMAX service areas because ATCO has a large geographical area. He explained that if the service area is large and sparsely populated, one kilometer of distribution line may only serve a few customers where in an urban centre, one kilometer of line serves a larger number of customers and the distribution portion of their bills are significantly lower. Energy delivery charges encroach upon 70% of a customer's total bill for the sum of the two components: transmission and distribution charges.

He summarized by explaining that as the electrical grid for Alberta ultimately operates as a single entity, it is reasonable to distribute those costs equally across the Province. The current system unfairly financially penalizes rural communities that literally are on the border between urban providers.

**MO2019.71** Hansen-Zacharuk, Makowecki moved that:

**WHEREAS**, the electricity price imbalance results from the cost of transmission and distribution of electricity to customers across Alberta. Imbalanced electricity prices which are becoming extraordinarily high in some service areas are regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for residential, farm and commercial customers in rural and urban areas.

**WHEREAS**, In 2018, monthly transmission charges paid by the average residential customer with 600 kWh of consumption ranged from \$19.75 (in EPCOR's service area) and \$24.82 (in ATCO's service area).

**WHEREAS**, In 2018, monthly distribution charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from \$21.58 (in ENMAX's service area) to \$81.24 (in ATCO's service area).

**WHEREAS** *“distribution and transmission rates may be different in each area of the Province because they incur different costs to build, operate and maintain their system depending on how big the system is, how new it is and how many customers are sharing the cost. A distribution company that serves rural areas will cost more than a system that serves urban areas because the utility has to build, operate and maintain more poles, wires and facilities to serve each customer”* (Alberta Utilities Commission);

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Province implement “*a modernized electrical system that has reasonable and predictable prices*” as stated on their website *Powering Alberta’s Future*: <https://www.alberta.ca/electricity-reform.aspx>.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA lobby the AUC on behalf of municipalities to reduce the imbalance of electricity pricing for transmission and distribution charges across the Province.

**Carried unanimously.**

## **6.2. DEPUTY CAO / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

6.2.1 Revisit 2019 Unfunded Priorities (resulting from large surplus) (tabled)

**MO2019.72** Zariski, Hansen-Zacharuk moved to table Item 6.2.1. Carried unanimously.

## **6.3 DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

## **6.4 DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY / PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

## **6.5 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN WORK PRIORITIES**

6.5.1 Downtown Plaza Phase 1.5

D. Brett provided the following update: The Town will be developing a stage, placing vendor sheds, decorative plantings, constructing washrooms, and placing vendor sheds and barricades on the former Elks site. A draft plan will be prepared by the end of the week. It is the Town’s intent to use the area for a year round plaza for all events including the Festival of Lights.

Councillor T. Zariski requested that residents on 1<sup>st</sup> St. E be contacted for input. D. Brett stated that he will contact the adjacent property owners. Councillor L. Hansen-Zacharuk requested that the design of the stage – which includes the speaker system – to be placed so that sounds levels are away from the residential area. She also requested that the Plaza Events comply with the Community Standards Bylaw. Council also requested that the laneway be closed into the back of the former Elks to minimize safety risks and mitigate any residents’ concerns, signage be installed to direct people to the Plaza, and communication posters be sent to the hotels and motels advising of events. It was noted that the Events Planner job description is being prepared.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION**

## **8. PUBLIC HEARING TO COMMENCE AT 5:30 PM**

## **9. PUBLIC HEARING DECISIONS**

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **11. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**12. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**13. IN-CAMERA MATTERS**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Colberg adjourned the meeting at 5:37 PM.

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Mayor