

TOWN OF ECKVILLE – COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Council Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 1.0 Mayor Helen Posti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Mayor Helen Posti, Councillors Gord Ebden, Sandra Hallgren arrived at 7:12 p.m., Scott Kinley, Mitch Krecsy, Rick McKinnon (left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.)
Absent: Councillor John Walker
Staff: Administrator Therese Kleeberger, Susan Norberg
Press: Carson from the Eckville Echo
- In Camera**
- 2. Delegation:** None
- Res.039/08 Moved by Councillor McKinnon that the meeting move in camera excluding all persons except Council members and staff members, Therese Kleeberger and Susan Norberg, to discuss land issues. Time: 6:01 p.m. Carried.
- Res.040/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that the meeting come out of camera and reverts back to the regular meeting. Time: 7:00 p.m. Carried.
- Res.041/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that Council take a short recess. Time: 7:01 p.m. Carried.
- Councillor McKinnon left the meeting. Time 7:01 p.m.
- The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.
- 3. Agenda**
- 3.1 Additional Agenda Items:
5.11 Communications Equipment – Cell Phones, Radio System
11.7 Linear Property Assessment Information Sessions
- Res.042/08 3.2 Moved by Councillor Kinley the agenda be adopted as presented with the additions. Carried.
- Councillor Hallgren arrived at 7:12 p.m.
- 4. Minutes**
- 4.1 Moved by Councillor Krecsy that the minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 14, 2008 be adopted as circulated. Carried.
- Res. 043/08
- 5. ACTION ITEMS**
- Safety & Loss Control Policy
- 5.1 It was recommended to Council that the Safety & Loss Control Policy be amended with the following change. When Public Works staff are not working on job tasks requiring high visibility fire retardant coveralls they are required to wear vests with reflective striping. The requested change is that they are allowed to wear high visibility clothing instead of vests. High visibility clothing is that which has reflective striping on the shirt sleeves and pant legs.
- Res.044/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that Council approve the amendment to the Safety & Loss Control Policy. Carried.
- Canada Day Celebration: Federal Grant Funding
- 5.2 Administrator Kleeberger requested that she be authorized to submit a financial request to the Department of Canadian Heritage in relation to the “Celebrate Canada!” program for costs associated with the Canada Day activities. In 2007 the Town of Eckville received \$800.00 from this program.
- Res.045/08 Moved by Councillor Ebden that Administrator Kleeberger submit an application to the Department of Canadian Heritage for the Town of Eckville’s Canada Day activities. Carried.
- Cancellation of Uncollectable Accounts
- 5.3 Administrator Kleeberger requested approval from Council to cancel uncollectable receivables totaling \$4656.66. A Collection Agency is handling one large account in the amount of \$4400.00.
- Res.046/08 Moved by Councillor Hallgren that Council approves the cancellation of the Uncollectable Accounts. Carried.
- Property Taxes Concerns
- 5.4 The Town Office has been receiving concerns regarding property taxes from residents. The concerns have been that they cannot afford an increase in their property taxes and some have also indicated they do not feel the services received warrant the amount of property taxes being charged. Administrator Kleeberger requested approval to send out a Financial Overview for the Town of Eckville, as well as a breakdown of what Property Taxes and Utility Billings pay for, in the next Utility Statements.
- Res.047/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that Administrator Kleeberger send a letter of response to the resident that submitted the letter, advising how property taxes are determined and

that a Financial Overview for the Town of Eckville and an Information Bulletin outlining what Property Taxes and Utility Billings pay for be included in the next Utility Statements. Carried.

- Energy Aggregation Program – Electricity, Gas 5.5 In 2007 AMSC (Alberta Municipal Services Corporation) reviewed their current energy aggregation program for electricity and natural gas, and were also looking into the option of becoming a self-retailer. At that time Council did not commit to participating in the Energy Aggregation program until more details were available. AMSC has advised they are now prepared to schedule an information session with the Town of Eckville, organizations within the Town of Eckville, and other area municipalities.
- Res.048/08 Moved by Councillor Hallgren that Administrator Kleeberger contact AMSC to arrange for an information session to be held at either the February 25th or March 10th Council meeting, with this session to be just for the Town of Eckville at this time. Carried.
- Eckville Ambulance 2008 Budget 5.6 The Eckville Ambulance 2008 Budget was reviewed. There is an increase of 44% over the 2007 Budget, with significant increases in Station Costs, Uniforms and Wages & Benefits. As the Eckville Ambulance Budget represents a significant portion of the Town of Eckville's Operating Budget, Council expressed their concerns over this increase.
- Res.049/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that the Town of Eckville approve the budget and to send a letter to the Alberta Government expressing dissatisfaction with the increased costs to the Town of Eckville with no increased level of service being provided, and to also request the status of the pilot projects being done in various locations in the province. Carried.
- Alberta Environment – Response to Letter from Town of Eckville re: CARWWS 5.7 Council reviewed the letter received from Alberta Environment, in response to the letter the Town of Eckville submitted expressing concern over not being included in the CARWWS (Central Alberta Regional Wastewater System) project. Alberta Environment advised that due to current and long term population projections for Eckville, and the relatively low impact on the Red Deer River, it was determined that the scope of the project would not include the Town of Eckville.
- Res.050/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that Administration contact Mr. Sunderani at Alberta Environment to arrange a meeting with Council. Carried.
- Lacombe County – Proposed Amendments to MDP and Land Use Bylaw 5.8 Council reviewed the information received from Lacombe County regarding proposed amendments to the County's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw.
- Res.051/08 Moved by Councillor Ebden that this be received for information. Carried.
- Strategic Planning Session 5.9 The Strategic Planning Policy 1120 states that Council must arrange one strategic planning session in the spring of each year. Administrator Kleeberger requested that Council set a date for the planning session.
- Moved by Councillor Hallgren that Council hold their annual Strategic Planning session on April 19, 2008 starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers with breakfast and lunch brought in. Carried.
- Water Meter Project Tender 5.10 Council reviewed the Town of Eckville Water Meter Project Tender. Council asked that Legal Counsel be contacted to find out what actions we can have in place for uncooperative residents who won't allow the company to install a water meter. It was also suggested that the Towns of Rimbey and Bentley be contacted to find out how long it took to have water meters installed in their municipalities.
- Res.052/08 Councillor Hallgren moved the Invitation to Tender be accepted, subject to determining a completion date once the Town of Rimbey and Town of Bentley have been contacted, with the inclusion of a clause addressing the actions that will be taken regarding unco-operative residents. Carried.
- Communications Equipment – Cell Phones, Radio System 5.11 The contract for the Public Works cell phone is due to expire in February. The current radios are also starting to malfunction and due to their age can no longer be repaired. Administrator Kleeberger requested that Council consider approving the purchase of three cell phones for the Public Works staff and enter into a 3-year contract with Telus. Discussion was also held regarding Public Works staff working alone after hours.
- Res.053/08 Councillor Kinley moved that the Town of Eckville purchase three cell phones for Public Works and two radios for joint use by Public Works and Disaster Services, and to have a cell phone policy put into place. 3 in favor, 2 opposed. Carried.

6. **BYLAWS, PROJECTS**

- Bylaw 677/08 – Council Procedures Bylaw 6.1 Bylaw 677/08 being a bylaw to amend the present Council Procedure Bylaw 640/02.

Res.054/08 Moved by Councillor Ebden that first reading be given to Bylaw 677/08. Carried.

Res.055/08 Moved by Councillor Kinley that Bylaw 677/08 be read a second time. Carried.

7. **REPORTS**
- Street Maintenance**
- Curbstop
- Lift Stations**
- West Lift Station
- Garbage**
- Garbage Truck
- Vehicles**
- Grader
- Pumphouse**
- Air leak
- Painting at pumphouse
- Other**
- Sewer line
- X-Mas tree pickup
- Annual reports for Alberta Environment
- Garbage bin lids
- 7.1 **Foreman's Report**
- Repairs were required to a water curb stop in the McDonald Heights subdivision.
- The motor on Pump #2 overheated and shut down. This has happened twice since the last Foreman's report. This is being monitored and investigated.
- The garbage truck cylinder on the top of the lifting arm broke away from the body of the truck. The truck was taken for repairs and new bushings were ordered. Garbage totes were emptied by hand on January 9th. The remaining blue bins were emptied on Friday January 11th.
- The frame of the grader broke and was taken for repairs. Once repaired, we will clear off some of the roadways.
- We found an air leak on the seat of one of the valves of the filters. A new seat has been ordered. New connections were put on three others. A larger compressor was purchased for the pumphouse to replace the smaller one that did not operate satisfactorily due to the leak which caused it to run all the time.
- We are sanding some rust off the equipment and lines at the pumphouse and re-painting will be done as time permits.
- The sewer line was plugged in the alley of 53 street between 50 avenue and 52 avenue. Aqua Trenching Services were called in to flush out the sewer lines to ensure there were no blockages. We again found a sewer line from a RV along with numerous rags etc. We have made two (2) x-mas tree/brush runs since the last Foreman's report.
- I am in the process of compiling reports as required for Alberta Environment for water and wastewater. These reports must be received by them before February 28, 2008.
- We have exchanged all the lids we had purchased for the blue bins. There are still many bins in the Town without lids and we will have to purchase more. Due to costs we will try single ply lids as there doesn't seem to be any difference in the life of the lids.
- Mayor Posti enquired whether there is a weather policy in place with respect to not starting equipment if it is severely cold. Administrator Kleeberger advised there isn't such a policy in place at this time.
- Councillor Ebdon suggested some sort of Status Update Report be completed by the Public Works Foreman to keep Council advised of outstanding items from previous Foreman's Reports.
- 7.2 **Administrator's Report**
- Organization Structure Change – Lacombe County
- Calpine: Bankruptcy
- Gas Meter Installation Inspections
- Diamond Software Updates
- Lacombe County advises that minor changes have been made to their organizational structure appointing Keith Boras as the Manager of Environmental & Protective Services. He will assume the responsibilities of the volunteer fire departments and enforcement services.
- On Dec. 19/07, the Bankruptcy Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York entered an order confirming the Sixth Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Calpine Corp. and its debtor subsidiaries. The Order and Plan can be viewed at www.kccllc.net/calpine.
- ATCO Gas advises that, by mid-2008, they will no longer do inspections (as per the Safety Codes Act) prior to installing a gas meter and energizing the house line. The responsibility lies with whom ever has issued a gas/plumbing permit – generally the municipality or a private agency.
- I completed the latest upgrade to the version of Diamond Software for the accounting program as well as updates for payroll program for 2008.
- 7.3 **Financial Report**
- The financial report for December 2007 was presented.
- Res.056/08
- Councillor Krecsy moved that the Foreman's, Administrator's and Financial Reports be received for information. Carried.
8. **In Camera**
- 8.1 "In Camera" moved to the end of the meeting.
9. **Committee, Board Reports**
- Councillor Walker
- 9.1 **Committee, Board Reports**
- As Councillor Walker was not able to attend, he submitted a written report. On December 13, 2007 Councillors Walker and McKinnon attended a Rural Development Fund information session regarding Rural Initiative Funding. The purpose of the fund is to provide parity between rural Alberta and the two major centres and the session provided information to help communities and groups utilize the fund.
- Attended an Eckville Interagency meeting on January 15, 2008 to review and update what local groups are doing in the community. There is a Winter Walk Day being held

on February 6th, which is sponsored by FCSS.

Attended an Eckville Adult Day Support meeting on January 17, 2008. This group is sponsored through DTHR and provides respite services to caregivers of the elderly. The need for clientele is a concern at this time.

Councillor Hallgren

Nothing to report.

Councillor Ebden

Attended a Community Hall Board meeting. There had been a request from an organization to use the hall on a regular basis, with an area designated for storage of equipment. The Board had originally declined their request due to limited storage space and now Parent Link is asking them to reconsider.

The Hall Board is in need of new members. If they don't have enough for a quorum they risk having the Community Centre going back to the Town and losing its society status, which will mean significant cost increases.

Attended an Eckville Youth Group meeting. Working on putting some policies in place and planning some activities such as a ski trip, a Valentine's dance, The Amazing Race and possibly paintball. Also looking into applying to do a Casino.

Councillor Krecsy

Nothing to report.

Councillor Kinley

Will be attending an Eckville Community Development Group meeting on Tuesday. The initial response to the suggestion of having the Community Needs Assessment Open House in conjunction with the Municipal Breakfast has been positive.

Mayor Posti

Attended the Medicine River Watershed Annual Meeting at Gilby Hall. A report was presented on the Medicine River Water Quality Monitoring results, which was very interesting and informative.

Attended the CWMC (Central Waste Management Commission) Public Open Houses in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake – there was some very good information provided.

Res. 057/08

Moved by Councillor Hallgren that the Committee and Board reports be received for information as presented. Carried.

10. Correspondence, Information Items

2007 Building and Demolition Permit Statistics – Town of Eckville

10.1 Council reviewed the report showing the building statistics in the Town of Eckville in 2007.

Alberta Animal Services – 2007 Breakdown of Warnings and Tickets

10.2 Council reviewed the breakdown of warnings and tickets issued in the Town of Eckville by Alberta Animal Services in 2007.

Municipal Government Board – 2008 Equalized Assessment Appeal

10.3 Council reviewed the information received from the Municipal Government Board advising that the City of Calgary has filed appeals with the Municipal Government Board.

Alberta Municipal Affairs & Housing – New Rates and Depreciation Factors for 2008 Taxation

10.4 Council reviewed the information received advising that The Assessment Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing implemented new rates and depreciation factors for taxation in 2008.

Central Waste Management Commission – Minutes from December 21, 2007 Meeting

10.5 Council reviewed the minutes from the December 21st CWMC meeting.

Res.058/08

Moved by Councillor Krecsy that the correspondence and information items be received for information. Carried.

11. Seminars, Meetings, Special Events

11.1 Brownlee LLP – Emerging Trends in Municipal Law Seminars (Calgary – February 7, Edmonton – February 21). Councillor Hallgren will attend the Calgary seminar and Mayor Posti will attend the Edmonton Seminar.

11.2 2007/2008 WinterLights Celebrations Symposium & Awards will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick on February 7-9, 2008.

11.3 Community Planning Association of Alberta – 2008 Annual Conference is being held in Red Deer on April 7-9, 2008. Mayor Posti and Councillors Ebden and Walker will attend.

11.4 CAEP (Central Alberta Economic Partnership) – Welcoming Communities Forum will be held in Innisfail on March 14, 2008.

11.5 CAEP – Community Economic Development Training Program. Councillor Hallgren will attend the session in Delburne on February 19 and 20, 2008.

11.6 Alberta Municipal Affairs & Housing – Actions to Effective Communication Workshop is being held in Red Deer on March 14, 2008.

11.7 Alberta Municipal Affairs & Housing – Information Session on the Linear Property Assessment Process. Administrator Kleeberger will attend the session being held in Red Deer on February 15, 2008.

Res.059/08

Councillor Kinley moved the Seminars, Meetings and Special Events items be received for information and that Council members and staff be approved to attend as indicated. Carried.

The Press left the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

8. In Camera
Res.060/08

8.1 Moved by Mayor Posti that the meeting move in camera excluding all persons except Council members and staff members, Therese Kleeberger and Susan Norberg, to discuss land issues. Time: 9:23 p.m. Carried.

Out of Camera
Res. 061/08

Moved by Councillor Hallgren that the meeting come out of camera and reverts back to the regular meeting. Time: 9:50 p.m. Carried.

12. Committee of the Whole

12.1 No items of discussion.

13. Adjournment
Res. 062/08

13.1 Moved by Councillor Kresy that the meeting be adjourned. Time: 9:51 p.m. Carried.

Mayor

Administrator