

**Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Council
Of the Town Of Castor
Held Monday, December 14, 2015
Council Chambers, Castor Town Hall
Castor, Alberta**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Garry DeVloo.

Councillors in Attendance:

Lonny Nelner, Brenda Wismer, Travis Ryan, Tony Nichols, Rod Zinger, Richard Elhard.

Absent:

Rod Zinger

Also in Attendance:

Sandi Jackson – C.A.O.
Arjan Van Heinen – Public Works Foreman
Mitch Elhard – Castor Masons
Lee Bagshaw – Fire Department

Agenda:

274/15 MOTION: Councillor Nichols that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Delegations/Interviews:

Mitch Elhard – Masonic Temple
Lee Bagshaw – Castor Fire Department

- The Masonic Temple group recently worked a casino and would like to distribute some of their proceeds to the community. They chose to donate \$5,000.00 to the Fire Department. Lee Bagshaw from the fire department was on hand to accept the donation.

Mr. Elhard and Mr. Bagshaw left the meeting at 7:04pm

Minutes:

Council reviewed the minutes of the November 23, 2015 regular Meeting of Council.

275/15 MOTION: Councillor Ryan that the Minutes of the November 23, 2015 Regular meeting of Council be approved.

CARRIED

Accounts:

The Lists of Accounts were presented to Council for payment.

Councillor Nelner declared an interest in Account number 19536 payable to That's My Specialty.

276/15 MOTION: Councillor Elhard that Account numbers 19456 to 19544 excluding account 19536 payable to That's My Specialty be approved for payment and that the list of Accounts be marked Schedule "A" and attached to these minutes of Council.

CARRIED

277/15 MOTION: Councillor Nichols that Account number 19536 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

Councillor Nelner did not participate in any discussion concerning this account.

Cash Statement:

Council was presented with the Cash Statement for the month ending November 30, 2015.

278/15 MOTION: Councillor Nelner that the Cash Statement for the month ending November 30, 2015 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Budget Comparison:

The C.A.O. reviewed the budget with Council, all systems remain on track.

279/15 MOTION: Councillor Ryan that the Budget Comparison be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Correspondence:

Wellness Alberta:

An invitation to join Wellness Alberta's coalition was presented to Council. Their goal is to transform our quality of life and reduce demands on healthcare. There is no fee, they are just asking for a statement of support.

280/15 MOTION: Councillor Elhard that the Town of Castor support the efforts of Wellness Alberta.

CARRIED

Old Business:

Coal-Fired Generating:

The CAO reported to Council that she offered the support of the Town of Castor to the group working to keep the coal-fired generating stations open. Meetings have taken place with TransAlta. TransAlta is in the process of making a presentation to the Province to discuss their plan to reduce the carbon footprint. It is doubtful that any of the shutdowns will be instantaneous since 50% of our power is currently generated by coal.

Council felt this would be a good discussion for our joint meeting. We should also contact some of the communities around the Power Plant.

ATCO Release:

ATCO revamped their original release and discharge regarding the former Castor power plant site. The Town's legal advisors did not have any strong objections to the Town's execution of the amended release, however they feel the execution of the release is unrelated to legal

considerations and as such is outside the scope of their expertise.

Council discussed the issue at length. They would like to wait until we receive the report from Kyla Downey and then consider the continuation of monitoring the wells for the next year. Depending on results council would then revisit the release.

New Business:

Recreation Board
Report:

Mayor DeVloo called upon Councillors Elhard and Ryan to give the Recreation Board Report

- Recreation Board received \$2,500.00 from the Mason Lodge as a donation towards the arena improvements.
- The recreation staff will talk to Gus Wetter School to see if the shop class is interested in building skate cubbies at the north entrance of the arena.
- Skate-A-Thon is today, the numbers are down.
- 3 C's – jerseys are still not ordered.
- County Councillor Blumhagen gave some insight into the linear assessment.

281/15 MOTION: Councillor Nelner that the Recreation report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Bylaw No. 1041:

A Bylaw for the purpose of providing for the establishment and operation of Fire Protection services for the Town of Castor.

Council will take a look at the Bylaw over the next couple of weeks and bring it back to the next meeting of Council.

2016 Temporary
Budget:

The Town of Castor is required to adopt a budget for 2016 prior to year ending December 31, 2015.

282/15 MOTION: Councillor Elhard that the Town of Castor use the 2015 Budget as a preliminary budget for 2016.

CARRIED

Syrian Refugees:

The C.A.O. reported that the Town as a whole (not specifically the Council) has been approached to consider supporting Syrian Refugee families.

Council discussed the idea, it may be an issue for a community group in Town, not necessarily the Town.

East Central 911
Requisition:

The 2016 East Central 911 Requisition to the membership will be \$3.43/capita.

Committee Report

Councillor Nelner:

- Asked about gas line shut down, the C.A.O. informed Council that July 2016 would be the shut

down for checking the line. It could be down as long as six days. The C.A.O. will look into trucks to bring gas.

Councillor Nichols:

- Attended a Victims Services meeting. Dare to Care programs were held at both schools. A Healthy Youth Relationship course was held in coronation. Will try another one in the spring. Safe for life program in the spring as well. Victims Services will also be looking at starting a white ribbon campaign – to end violence against women and girls.

Councillor Elhard:

- Attended an ambulance meeting. AHS was in attendance. Ambulance is running smoothly.

Foreman:

- Crew is busy with snow removal
- Time has been spent exercising water valves – they were able to get to nearly every one of them this year.
- ATCO tree removal, some wood has been left for the town crew to pick up.

C.A.O.:

- Has discussed working with the Gas Co-op to share costs in their meter readers.
- Contacted the SCF grant. It appears we will receive, if needed, approximately 1.7 million dollars to March 31, 2017. That would represent two thirds and we would need to come up with one third.
- Attended PEPS meeting. The requisition will again be only 50% for 2016. The amendment has been completed for the Brodersen tower but has not yet been signed. PEPS have ordered new banners and they should arrive in January 2016.
- Contacted EDO to discuss hiring a consultant to come to Castor, Coronation, & Halkirk to assess our motels and give advice as to what upgrades would help to make them more attractive and rentable.

Mayor DeVloo:

- Elaborated on the new owners of the motel.
- Attended a Dr. Recruitment meeting.

In Camera Session:

Council will go to an in camera session to discuss employee wages and the Weseen subdivision.

283/15 MOTION: Councillor Nelner to go to an in camera session to discuss an employee wages and the Weseen Subdivision.

CARRIED

Council went to an in camera session at 8:32pm.

284/15 MOTION: Councillor Elhard to return to an open Council meeting.

CARRIED

285/15 MOTION: Councillor Ryan to approve the employee grid as presented.

CARRIED

Council returned to an open meeting of Council at 8:48

286/15 MOTION: Councillor Nichols that the Town of Castor move our Benefits Program from Alberta Blue Cross to Green Shield through Lane Quinn Benefit Consultants as of March 1, 2016.

CARRIED

287/15 MOTION: Councillor Ryan that the Town of Castor table a Wellness program for our employees to the next meeting.

CARRIED

Adjournment:

288/15 MOTION: Councilor Wismer that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER