

MINUTES
TOWN OF SEXSMITH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 5, 2010

This regular Council meeting of Town Council was called to order by Mayor Lagace at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Town of Sexsmith.

COUNCIL PRESENT	Claude Lagace	Mayor
	Barb Sparks	Deputy Mayor
	Jonathan Siggelkow	Councillor
	Don Jickling	Councillor
	Isak Skjaveland	Councillor
	Matthew Barnfield	Councillor

COUNCIL ABSENT	Rick Sakundiak	Councillor
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STAFF PRESENT	Carolyn Gaunt	CAO
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PUBLIC PRESENT	Deloris Metz, Barb Buck, Nellie Sterr (@ 6:37 p.m.)
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DELEGATION	Deloris Metz, <i>Sentinel</i>
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ADOPTION OF AGENDA	RESOLUTION NO. 248-07-10
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Moved by Councillor Skjaveland that the agenda for this meeting be adopted with the following additions:

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| BUSINESS ARISING | 4. Grain Elevators
5. Back Alleys |
| NEW BUSINESS | 2. Air Conditioning |
| IN CAMERA | 1. Child Care Proposal removed from In Camera and Painted Sky put in |

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION	Deloris Metz, <i>Sentinel</i>
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Mrs. Metz presented information on the Sexsmith *Sentinel*. She spoke about the struggle about whether the paper should be a Town service to keep the citizens informed or if it should generate income and have that be the focus. She spoke about the brouhaha over graduation photos, pointing out that that Council has given direction that the *Sentinel* must try to be self-supporting.

Mrs. Metz spoke about the ways that she has tried and succeeded in making the *Sentinel* self-sufficient. She has limited the number of pages in each edition, as well as limiting the number of copies. These measures have kept the cost of the *Sentinel* down. Mrs. Metz outlined what she has done to get more advertisers. The upshot is that the *Sentinel* now has money to pay all costs for 2010, as it did in 2008 (\$17,000) and is anticipating being able to do so in future years, barring major replacement costs of programs or hardware. The *Sentinel* has also paid a portion of ‘wage recovery’ every year in the amount of \$5,000.

Mrs. Metz talked about the *Sentinels*, as well as flyers, in the garbage at the Post Office and questioned if the Town should cease to send out information to citizens because some are not interested in receiving it?

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A needs assessment for FCSS, in 1998, indicated that the citizens wanted the *Sentinel* to continue and Mrs. Metz wondered how often the townspeople must indicate their preference for the *Sentinel* to continue? Mrs. Metz said the timing of sending out the questionnaire during the same week that the taxes went out was very unfortunate. People are already cranky about taxes and then get asked about subsidizing the *Sentinel*.

It was pointed out that questionnaires are a notoriously poor way to gauge the effectiveness of anything. It is well known that few people will return questionnaires and, if they should, they are much more likely to be the disgruntled. It was noted that, at the moment, the returned questionnaires are 81% favouring the *Sentinel*.

She remarked that instead of hearing accolades for having brought the *Sentinel* to the point of paying for itself, it is once again under the knife.

Mrs. Metz thanked Council for the opportunity to reply to some of the concerns.

Councillor Siggelkow thanked Mrs. Metz for attending Council and expressing her feelings.

Councillor Barnfield said that he has no problems with the grad photos being charged to the schools. He said that when his kids graduated, he paid their fees without question.

Councillor Jickling said that approximately 5,000 copies of the questionnaire have been mailed out. He said that it should take about 1,000 replies requesting the demise of the paper before Council should consider cutting the *Sentinel*.

Councillor Sparks asked about formatting. Mrs. Metz replied that the formatting is the same as for the Daily-Herald Tribune and that the same programs are used for both.

Councillor Skjaveland said that as the paper is holding its own now, the money that was set aside in the budget for running the *Sentinel* could be put into reserve.

Councillor Siggelkow asked about putting a single page into the *Sentinel* instead of having to add four pages, as is currently the situation. The CAO said that possibly it would be an insert and the *Sentinel* pays extra for inserts.

Councillor Sparks asked if papers could just be left on the counter at the Post Office. Mrs. Metz replied that the Post Office staff is paid to put the papers in mailboxes.

Councillor Sparks asked if the paper could be put online? The CAO replied that that was possible but even large papers only allow portions of the paper to be put online.

Mrs. Sterr said that rural areas are not being considered when considering whether papers can just be left on the counter at the Post Office. We don't know if they are throwing them out. There are often lots of papers in the garbage at the Post Office, but there are also lots of flyers there, too.

There was some question about whether the *Sentinel* should further limit the copies to Clairmont or perhaps cut the copies to Bezanson (161 copies), and LaGlace (155 copies). Sexsmith currently receives 1959 copies, 40 are kept at the Town Office for people who stop in to get the newspaper, with the remainder going to Clairmont.

Councillor Barnfield said that all departments are examined at budget time.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

None

**TOWN OF SEXSMITH
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**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

RESOLUTION NO. 249-07-10

Councillor Sparks moved that Council approve the Public Hearing minutes of June 21, 2010, Regular Council Meeting minutes of June 21, 2010 and the Special Minutes of June 28, 2010, with the correction of a typo – Haley to Harley.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**BUSINESS
ARISING**

Report on *Sentinel*

RESOLUTION NO. 250-07-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council accept the report on the *Sentinel* for information only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Short-Term
Disability**

RESOLUTION NO. 251-07-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council accept the information on short-term disability for information only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor declared a 5-minute break @ 7:30 p.m. Barb Buck left the meeting.

**Municipal
Comparisons**

RESOLUTION NO. 252-07-10

Moved by Councillor Siggelkow that Council accept the information on municipal comparisons for information only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grain Elevators

Information only. Councillor Skjaveland reported that Henry Morgan called Grant Lindsay of Viterra, to report that plywood was ripped off their elevators and the ‘no trespassing’ signs are missing. Viterra was to fix the elevator today.

Back Alleys

Information only. Councillor Skjaveland would like to see homeowners charged if they don’t clean up. CAO will contact Kim, County Enforcement, and the Public Works Superintendent.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

1. Infrastructure minutes – Councillor Barnfield asked where the trees downtown are?
2. Beairsto, Lehnerns and Ketchum is looking at the sloughing along the creek. The Town should look at doing this rather than the culvert at 93 Street. The Town will contact Dave Michalko.

**Municipal
Comparisons**

RESOLUTION NO. 253-07-10

Moved by Councillor Skjaveland that Council have the CAO obtain more information about rig maintenance and notification of the Town.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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**ROUND
TABLE**

Siggelkow	Nielsson-Gundersen flyers have blowing around his neighborhood.	CAO is to check on if it is legal, as well as to contact Olaf.
Barnfield	No gates on PUL. Asked about Public Works wanting to hire grass cutting? Asked if the Town has a rough cut mower?	CAO will talk to the Public Works Superintendent about this. CAO will talk to the Public Works Superintendent about this.
Jickling	Asked about the multi dwellings. Thanked Council and staff for the fruit basket after his surgery.	CAO is doing up a memo to Alberta Permit Pro. Information only.
Skjaveland	Passed along thanks from the Tourism Association for the great lunch. Betty Hendersen called about kids throwing rocks at a little girl but she didn’t know any of the kids.	Information only. Information only.
Lagace	Asked about Slootweg’s pool.	CAO said that there is currently a stop work order on it.

**CLOSED
TO THE
PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 254-07-10

Moved by Councillor Jickling that Council go ‘in camera’ at 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MEETING
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 255-07-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council return to the open meeting at 9:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Lagace declared a 5-minute break.

ATCO & Telus

RESOLUTION NO. 256-07-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council upfront the money for ATCO and Telus bills for Painted Sky Phase IIA, to be reimbursed by developer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Jickling left Council Chambers at 9:20 p.m.

**New Separate
School land
transfer**

RESOLUTION NO. 257-07-10

Moved by Councillor Sparks that Council transfer land for the new school to Grande Prairie Separate School Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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**CLOSED
TO THE
PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 258-07-10

Moved by Councillor Sparks that Council go ‘in camera’ at 9:22 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Town Manager left the meeting.

**MEETING
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 259-07-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council return to the open meeting at 11:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 260-07-10

Councillor Siggelkow moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Lagace, Mayor

Carolyn Gaunt, Town Administrator