

MINUTES
TOWN OF SEXSMITH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010

This regular Council meeting of Town Council was called to order by Mayor Lagace at 6:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Town of Sexsmith.

COUNCIL PRESENT	Claude Lagace Jonathan Siggelkow Rick Sakundiak Don Jickling Matthew Barnfield	Mayor Councillor Councillor Councillor Deputy Mayor
COUNCIL ABSENT	Isak Skjaveland Nicole Cooke	Councillor Councillor
STAFF PRESENT	Carolyn Gaunt Deloris Metz	CAO Admin. Ass't.
PUBLIC PRESENT	Harley Jantz; Barry Donovan, Head of County Assessment Department for the County of Grande Prairie; Craig Rees	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	RESOLUTION NO. 396-12-10 Moved by Councillor Jickling that the agenda for this meeting be adopted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	
PUBLIC SESSION	None.	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	RESOLUTION NO. 397-12-10 Councillor Siggelkow moved that Council accept the Regular Council Meeting minutes of December 6, 2010, with Resolution 386-12-10 be amended to read the Town will send a letter expressing opposition to tax exemptions for Peace River Seeds. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	
BUSINESS ARISING		
County Grant for Zamboni	RESOLUTION NO. 398-12-10 Councillor Jickling moved that Council commit \$25,000 to be applied out of the 2011 budget to the purchase of a new zamboni for the Ag Society CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	
DELEGATION	Barry Donovan, Head of County Assessment Department, County of Grande Prairie Mr. Donovan introduced himself and Council introduced themselves. CAO said that Council wanted to know where Mr. Donovan thinks assessment is going, particularly the commercial assessment.	

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Mr. Donovan replied that there will probably be 3% reduction in residential and commercial assessment. Prices for sales are going down. There will probably be an increase in highway commercial property. He said they don't have all the numbers in yet but it is looking like an increase of \$2 million.

Mayor Lagace asked if he meant TAGs, etc?

Mr. Donovan said there will be a slight increase. "There was a sale there, so we are trying to get closer to market; trying to get to where the assessment should be." Overall assessment will probably go down about \$12,000,000.

Councillor Sakundiak asked if residential looks like it will drop in assessment?

Mr. Donovan. Yes.

Councillor Sakundiak asked about the hotel. That question came up at the public meeting during election.

CAO said that she checked and the owner had his figures wrong. She went through the numbers with owner and he is happy with the explanation.

Councillor Sakundiak asked if people's land assessment will go up?

Mr. Donovan said that you only get that in newer areas where there is empty land being sold, so assessment is based on sale prices.

Mayor Lagace said the commercial value jumped.

Mr. Donovan replied that they had staff turnover so they had to go in and do an assessment of commercial. The commercial assessment had probably been undervalued. So, almost all commercial saw a shift up in their assessment. People were probably getting a break before. The County assesses the whole town every year. In the County, they get maybe 1,500 sales but there are areas where you'll only get one sale. If everything is going up everywhere else, all has to go up, even where there were no or few sales.

Mayor Lagace asked if sheds are assessed.

Mr. Donovan said, "Sheds over 14' or bigger, we will assess. We put a value on C-cans only because it is amazing how many commercial properties are using them."

Mayor Lagace told Mr. Donovan that Council will write letter opposing tax exemption for Peace River Seeds.

Mr. Donovan said he talked to Peace River Seeds and explained why they did not get an exemption.

CAO asked about medical clinic and will they be doing an assessed value to that?

Mr. Donovan said the Town can still pass a bylaw to exempt those lands but you still have to have rate payers pay the school portion.

Mayor Lagace asked if that is the way arenas are treated?

Mr. Donovan replied that when arenas are not leased out by the Town, they are not assessed. "We have to tax on leases."

Mayor Lagace said that the Civic Centre is rented not leased.

Mr. Donovan said that he doesn't know of too many exempt doctors' offices or pharmacies.

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Councillor Siggelkow said you’re talking about the school tax portion of the doctors’ office – so everyone’s school tax would be higher?

Mr. Donovan said, “Basically, yes.”

Thanks around and Mr. Donovan left at 7:05 p.m.

**Lease Agreement
With Peace Wapiti**

RESOLUTION NO. 399-12-10

Moved by Councillor Siggelkow that Council accept the lease agreement with Peace Wapiti School Board to provide space for Sexsmith Child Development Centre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW
BUSINESS**

**Request to meet
With City of
Grande Prairie**

Accepted for information only. CAO to set meeting date.

FINANCIAL

RESOLUTION NO. 400-12-10

Moved by Councillor Jickling that Council accept the bank reconciliation as at November 30, 2010 and the cheque register as at November, 2010 (cheques #034458-034583, 034587-034586), as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

**Wildrose Caucus
Municipal Survey**

RESOLUTION NO. 401-12-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council advise each Councillor to fill out the survey and mail it back on their own.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Request for
proposal for Audit**

RESOLUTION NO. 402-12-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council direct the CAO send out requests for 3-year and a 5-year proposals for audits.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Request for
Support letter &
bylaw for Regional
Collaboration for
the Land Use
Framework**

RESOLUTION NO. 403-12-10

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council table bylaw and support for regional Land Use Framework to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Budget meeting dates for January were set as Monday, January 24th and Wednesday, January 27th.

**ROUND
TABLE**

Siggelkow	The Town had a number of people who put their names	The CAO replied that the names are public
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	<p>forward for the Sustainability Committee. Not all made it onto the committee. Would it be appropriate to contact the names who are not on the Sustainability Committee to ask them to serve on the Library Board?</p> <p>Would like to discuss having a Farmers' Market in Town.</p> <p>Talked about moving the log building at ball diamonds. Could it be moved to the new rink?</p>	<p>information, so go ahead and give the names to the Library Board.</p> <p>CAO said it ran for a couple of months and folded due to lack of success. It may run now and be more successful.</p> <p>There was a problem moving the building due to the height. GBF is planning to construct their own building.</p>
Sakundiak	<p>Re: Questions on last quarterly financial report.</p> <p>Has Vortec information on water parks from AUMA.</p>	<p>CAO doesn't have it for this meeting but will bring back answers to the next meeting.</p> <p>When Council does budget they will need find out the costs.</p>
Barnfield	<p>Should City be invited to the joint meeting?</p> <p>Brought it up a year ago, about putting up signs for doing snow removal. Suggested we have a budget line for snow plowing damages.</p> <p>Re: Fireworks on New Year's Eve. Why doesn't the Town do that anymore? We had about 300 people show up for hot chocolate.</p>	<p>Will have to find out who's meeting it is, before inviting anyone.</p> <p>Mayor said PW Superintendent is dead against putting up signs. Mr. Rees said, "We can do the Town inside of 3 days and, if someone hasn't moved a vehicle, we have to wait for that to be dealt with. Accidents happen. We try our best to avoid accidents."</p> <p>CAO: The Town has to have a qualified person to set fireworks off.</p>
Jickling	<p>Library is closed from the December 24th to January 2nd. It's a great place for kids to spend their time. We have a facility and staff and now we are closing it when the kids are out of school. In Grande Prairie, they are running programs</p>	<p>Because of stat holidays, library will not be closed for much additional time.</p> <p>Councillor Siggelkow said that they were told during the Library Board meeting that in the past few kids show up during the</p>

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	<p>especially for the kids who are out of school.</p> <p>Merry Christmas to everyone.</p>	<p>holidays.</p> <p>Information only.</p>
CAO	Chocolates on the coffee table are from John Murray Architecture Assoc. and she read out their Christmas card.	Information only.
Mayor	Had a meeting with Mayor Given about contracting bylaw enforcement and some of our other services (snowplowing, etc).	Information only.
Jantz	<p>\$50,000 of tax payers' money going into arena. There should be more public skating</p> <p>Re: green areas – need more diligence by the Town for development in low lying areas.</p>	<p>Councillor Jickling will take concern back to the Ag Board but said there are times when 3-year olds and moms, with help of older kids, can skate. What would be reasonable for people that Mr. Jantz has spoken with? Mr. Jantz replied that evenings would be a good time for families. Councillor Jickling said if Mr. Jantz had specific hours that would be good.</p> <p>CAO has meeting with Alberta Environment coming up on January 19, 2011 to examine storm drainage for the whole town. The Storm Study has been done and developers now need a 100 year storm study before proceeding.</p>
Mayor	Public Works are doing an excellent job on clearing snow.	Information only.

ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION NO. 404-12-10

Councillor Sakundiak moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY