

MINUTES
TOWN OF SEXSMITH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

This regular Council meeting of Town Council was called to order by Mayor Lagace at 6:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Town of Sexsmith.

COUNCIL PRESENT	Claude Lagace Jonathan Siggelkow Rick Sakundiak Don Jickling Matthew Barnfield Isak Skjaveland	Mayor Councillor Councillor Councillor Deputy Mayor Councillor
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COUNCIL ABSENT	Nicole Cooke	Councillor
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STAFF PRESENT	Carolyn Gaunt Deloris Metz	CAO Admin. Ass't.
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PUBLIC PRESENT	Harley Jantz, Nellie Sterr, Randy Gordie & Clyde Blackburn, ATCO Electric @ 6:52 p.m.
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ADOPTION OF AGENDA	RESOLUTION NO. 063-02-11
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Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council approve the agenda for this meeting with the following additions and changes:

BUSINESS ARISING 4. Spray Park

NEW BUSINESS 2. Grad Photos
 3. Old Recycle bins @ Town Shop

IN CAMERA 1. Legal advice (Joint Regional Committee
 – GPREPS deferred to budget)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC SESSION	Harley Jantz came to Council table and said the one item he would like to bring to everyone's attention is that over the last 10 years conference costs have gone up about 100%. He said he knew that Mayor Lagace tried to keep that cost down. Most, if not all of Council, went to the AUMA conferences. At least taxpayers should get a report on what they got for that money. At the Candidate's Forum, Councillors all said they were fiscal conservatives. Council did not display that fiscal conservatism about the AUMA Conference. Mr. Jantz would like Council to consider conference costs during budget discussions.
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Councillor Sakundiak said that he doesn't find any other conference as important or helpful. He said he saves his conference for the AUMA one. That one conference is important to Council.

Mr. Jantz: Are you saying then that you are not going to any other conferences and the other councilors are not going to any other conference?

Councillor Sakundiak: No, I am just speaking for myself.

Councillor Skjaveland: It is our responsibility and duty to attend the conferences and the other committees we attend. If the Towns did not attend AUMA, we would not

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have anyone to represent Sexsmith at the provincial level. Councillors are not paid salaries and the little bit they are given is money well spent in his opinion.

Councillor Siggelkow said that he didn't attend AUMA the first year he was on Council but has since found great value for the Town in attending. He said he went from 'it's a waste of money' to it is 'very beneficial for me and for the Town'.

Councillor Barnfield said this is the only conference that Council goes to and thinks it is a benefit to Council.

CAO: Our Council has not been a regular participant at other conferences.

Councillor Skjaveland said Don, Claude, and myself went to the local to Tec Centre this past week for a conference, as we were able to go. The other Councillors were working and I think it is my duty to attend as a Councillor.

Mayor Lagace then asked Nellie Sterr if she wanted to add to PUBLIC SESSION. She said that the Town roads are not as nicely cleared as they have been in the past.

Mayor Lagace said there have been some good review and others not so good on the roads. He thinks it has more to do with the weather this year and the amount of snow that has fallen on occasion.

Mrs. Sterr said she was watching the grader work in her area and it was like the grader was too big to turn. It took quite a lot of back and forth to get the grader turned.

Mayor Lagace: The regular grader broke down and Public works probably had to use the big grader.

Mrs. Sterr: It seemed like it cleaned the middle of the road but not next to the curb. But it is a minor detail.

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

RESOLUTION NO. 064-02-11

Councillor Jickling moved that Council accept the Regular Council Meeting minutes of February 7, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**BUSINESS
ARISING**

RESOLUTION NO. 065-02-11

**Engineering Info
on Snow Piles in
North End of
Town**

Moved by Councillor Siggelkow that Council accept this for information only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Peace Officer
Agreement**

RESOLUTION NO. 066-02-11

Moved by Councillor Sakundiak that Council approve the Peace Officer Agreement for 2011, with an hourly rate of \$93.80.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 067-02-11

Moved by Councillor Sakundiak that Council add the Fire Agreement to the agenda under BUSINESS ARISING.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

**Randy Gordie, Team Lead for Service Department, & Clyde Blackburn,
Customer Services, ATCO Electric**

Clyde Blackburn and Randy Gordie, of ATCO Electric, attended Council and Larry Gibson sent regrets that he could not attend due to family responsibilities.

Mr. Blackburn spoke about the franchise renewal. He said ATCO Electric presented a new franchise agreement to the Town in early spring last year, using a template they have been using for about ten years. Council gave 1st reading to the ATCO Electric Franchise Bylaw. Then, the Town received communication from AUMA saying a bill was going through the legislature regarding calculating franchise fees and AUMA was in the process of renegotiating the template. AUMA advised that the Town not sign the franchise agreement yet. The bill was dropped from the legislature, so no changes are pending and regarding the other, the template agreement, ATCO Electric is working with AUMA to refresh the template because they want to be sure the changes are fair to both ATCO Electric and communities. ATCO Electric would like to suggest that Council sign the franchise agreement and, if there are changes, ATCO would come back to Council to talk about making changes to the signed agreement. ATCO Electric thinks it would be good for both parties to sign the franchise agreement now and revisit the agreement if changes are necessary.

Mayor Lagace said that AUMA is taking the lead and it is out of the Town's hands.

Mr. Blackburn said that is not totally true. At any time, a town can negotiate an agreement with ATCO Electric. The template has a pre-approval from government, so it is a quicker approval process if the template is used. If a community needs something different, then ATCO Electric is quite willing to negotiate.

Mayor Lagace said that the Town is not against signing the franchise agreement.

CAO said that it at was just that AUMA suggested that the Town wait until the changes to the template have been negotiated. The Town can check back with AUMA to see if that is still their advice.

Councillor Siggelkow asked if Council revisiting the franchise could be written into the agreement?

Mr. Blackburn: Certainly. There are some new advantages for you in the new template.

Mayor Lagace said the CAO will be contacting AUMA and will get back to ATCO Electric after doing so.

Mr. Gordie said he would like to respond to letter of last April from the Town to ATCO Electric about the high cost of ATCO Electric charges to homeowners. ATCO Electric is a delivery company to 245 communities in North and Northeast Alberta. Prices are set by the government. ATCO Electric delivers but does not sell power. With ATCO Electric, the service area is quite vast and the customer base is small. As a result ATCO Electric needs more poles and lines than cities need, where populations are denser. So the cost is higher. ATCO Electric serves 2/3 of the province in area but serve less than 15% of population. ATCO Electric delivers to the hardest and most remote areas. It is important to know that rural area service is more costly than urban areas.

The Edmonton survey compared grapes to watermelons.

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Mr. Blackburn said that Grande Prairie is the only smaller community that is mentioned in the survey. If they were to look at other communities, ATCO compares well to prices in places such as Lethbridge.

Mr. Gordy said ATCO Electric wants to make sure all the costs of the streetlights are paid by each rate class, so residents won't bear the sole burden.

Mr. Blackburn said increases of 7 – 8 % were approved a while ago but were adjusted so that they did not go into effect until January 1st, 2011. Residential rates went up 8%, commercial went up 7%, and the municipalities went up 25% to make rate classes pay cost recovery.

CAO said that if ATCO Electric is going cost recovery, does it cost more for a farm than town lot?

Mr. Blackburn said it is almost like a grapes and watermelon comparison. Residential needs a far less robust system.

Mr. Blackburn said ATCO Electric makes an investment in the system. The developer pays full price to put in the streetlights, then ATCO Electric recovers their investment through a franchise fee on monthly bills. The franchise recovery payment would go up, if ATCO Electric needed to collect more money.

Councillor Siggelkow said ATCO Electric is basically charging the residents a little more so the Town can get the franchise fee back.

Mr. Blackburn said basically, yes.

Councillor Siggelkow asked where is the majority of our power coming from?

Mr. Gordie replied that there is a pool of power from Grande Cache, southern Alberta, small plant in Grande Prairie, a gas-fired plant at Poplar Hill and other places.

Councillor Siggelkow said that ATCO Electric has nothing to do with the price of the energy, they merely deliver the energy.

Mr. Blackburn said that is true.

Mayor Lagace said the CAO will touch base with AUMA and get back to you. The Mayor then asked Mr. Jantz if he wished to ask any questions. He said that during Klein years, taxpayers funded horse racing to the tune of about \$80 million a year. Do you know how much ATCO Electric contributes to horse racing now?

Mr. Blackburn said he doesn't think the company is involved, but thinks the owner is a private investor in the equestrian centre.

Mayor Lagace thanked ATCO Electric for donation of the lights they supplied to the outdoor rink across from the old St. Mary's school. Council gave ATCO Electric a hand. There were thanks around and the delegation left @ 7:37 p.m.

**Animal Control
Agreement**

RESOLUTION NO. 068-02-11

Moved by Councillor Sakundiak that Council approve the Animal Control Services Agreement for 2011, with an hourly rate of \$93.80.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Spray Park

Information only.

Fire Agreement

Information only.

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NEW
BUSINESS

New FCSS
Board Member

RESOLUTION NO. 069-02-11

Moved by Councillor Skjaveland that Council approve the appointment of Melisa Walker for FCSS Board Member.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grad Photos

Information only.

Old Recycle Bins
@ Public Works
Shop

RESOLUTION NO. 070-02-11

Moved by Councillor Sakundiak that Council look to find someone in Alberta who could use the recycle bins, at no cost to the Town.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION
ITEMS

Mayor Lagace reported that at the Mayors’ Conference last week in Edmonton, he learned that AUMA is trying to come up with an agreement from the parties that are running for election for a different funding agreement, so that communities can do long term planning. (MSI Grant will be done in 2016).

Councillor Skjaveland reported about the Grande Spirit letter that the Town sent and was read out at the meeting, may result in some changes to that board. He also spoke on the subject of having representation on the board. Lorne Radborne seemed to think there could be some changes, as well. It will be looked at the next full board meeting in March. Councillor Skjaveland asked if the Mayor could attend the March full board meeting, as Councillor Skjaveland will be away on holidays? Mayor Lagace agreed to do so.

ROUND
TABLE

Jickling	At the last FCSS meeting in round table, they talked about rink across from St. Mary’s school. The FCSS Coordinator asked if we could donate anything. He went with his grandkids to the rink on Family Day. He asked his daughter-in-law how she knew about the family day skate and she said there were posters at store and at the arena. The posters stated that the event was sponsored by Grace Bible Fellowship and Sexsmith FCSS. The Town wasn’t very well represented. Council should have known about it and sent a representative.	Mayor Lagace said if Council had known about it, he would have tried to attend. Councillor Sakundiak was at the event from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. There was no representative from FCSS there and he thought there should have been. He is not sure if GBF wanted help or not. Public Works was not available, so Councillor Sakundiak cut a lock off the light pole so they could get power. It was a timer problem (an ATCO Electric problem). It was a well-attended community function, with about 300 people attending.
Sterr	Possibly Grace Bible Fellowship wanted it done on its terms. There will be people who will be happy to	Information only.

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	know GBF are involved in community events.	
Siggelkow	It is quite likely that Grace Bible Fellowship did not want help with the skate. It was possible it was part of the community component of their service ministry.	Information only.
Skjaveland	<p>Do you know if we are getting another doctor? A resident was at the clinic from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. before they got called in to see the doctor. There was only one doctor working that day.</p> <p>We are still giving the Museum Society \$2,000 a month. How long are we going to continue to do so?</p>	<p>Mayor Lagace said there will be a new doctor here this spring. However, there will sometimes still be only 2 doctors at the clinic, as the 3rd doctor takes some time off.</p> <p>Mayor Lagace said Council is paying them to have all their items listed. They need accessioning to get accredited. They need to be accredited to be able to apply for some grants. Councillor Barnfield said that a lady is coming back next month to continue with the accessioning. The Museum Society has made an offer on the Anglican Church but no word yet on whether they were successful.</p>
Siggelkow	How long is Council going to continue to pay the \$2,000 per month to the Museum Society?	The Mayor said it is ongoing. It is a painstaking process and will go on until they are caught up.
Sakundiak	RWZ and the St. Mary's school council meetings were cancelled, as was the Saddle Hills meeting, so he only went to the Sexsmith Secondary School meeting and spoke about the grad photos.	Information only.
Barnfield	Is there a way to get a 5-year dog tag? It would be a good option.	Information only.
Mayor	<p>From the Sustainability meeting, it was thought that planting more trees along the highway would be a good start at making the Town more attractive.</p> <p>RE: Advertising: Wembley</p>	<p>Information will be passed on to Public Works Department.</p> <p>CAO will advertise in that</p>

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	advertises in <i>Homes & Land</i> . It is delivered all over the Peace and is online. Sexsmith should advertise in it as well, as the Town is trying to pull more citizens in from the same pool of people as Wembley.	publication.
Siggelkow	Spoke about how Wembley has starter homes, unlike Sexsmith, and that might be drawing more people there.	There was discussion about Council encouraging developers to build some starter homes in Sexsmith.
CAO	When I talked to the CAO in Wembley, she said there was not much going on there. Councillor Cooke not here as her father-in-law passed away.	Information only. Information only.

Mayor Lagace declared a 5-minute break at 8:40 p.m.

**CLOSED
TO THE
PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 071-02-11

Moved by Councillor Jickling that Council go ‘in camera’ at 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MEETING
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 072-02-11

Moved by Councillor Barnfield that Council return to the open meeting at 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deloris Metz left Council Chambers.

**CLOSED
TO THE
PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 073-02-11

Moved by Councillor Jickling that Council go ‘in camera’ at 9:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MEETING
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION NO. 074-02-11

Moved by Councillor Jickling that Council return to the open meeting at 9:15 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Grad Class
Donation**

RESOLUTION NO. 075-02-11

Moved by Councillor Sakundiak that Council give \$200 to graduating grade 12 classes in the Town of Sexsmith.

**5 FOR
1 OPPOSED
MOTION CARRIED**

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ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION NO. 076-02-11

Councillor Siggelkow moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Lagace, Mayor

Carolyn Gaunt, Town Administrator