



Town of Vegreville

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020 - Regular Council Meeting - 07:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Vegreville Council was called to order by Mayor Tim MacPhee on Monday, May 11, 2020 via Zoom video conferencing, commencing at 7:00 PM with: Councillor Berry, Councillor Brodziak, Councillor Lemko, Councillor Rudyk, Councillor Warawa and Councillor Waters.

Together with: Mr. Cliff Craig, Town Manager; Mr. Paul Casey, Corporate Services Director; Mr. Dale Lefebvre, Infrastructure, Planning & Development Director; Mr. Phil Rowe, Community Services Director; Ms. Sandra Ling, Recording Secretary; and Mr. Kaleb Brink, Communication Coordinator and video meeting facilitator in attendance.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2020-05-31

Moved By: Councillor Warawa

That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on May 11, 2020 be adopted as amended.

10.1. Removal of Bylaw No. 08-2020 - Rezoning Bylaw.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2020-05-32

Moved By: Councillor Waters

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on April 27, 2020 be received and filed.

Carried

4. DELEGATION

5. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5.1 URBAN HEN REQUEST

2020-05-33

Moved By: Councillor Lemko

That Town Council support an Urban Hens and Bees Pilot Project within the Town of Vegreville.

Name	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Councillor Berry		✓		
Councillor Brodziak	✓			
Councillor Lemko	✓			
Mayor MacPhee		✓		
Councillor Rudyk	✓			
Councillor Warawa		✓		
Councillor Waters		✓		

Defeated

5.2 URBAN HEN REQUEST CORRESPONDENCE

2020-05-34

Moved By: Councillor Waters

That the following correspondence be received and filed:

5.2.1 Alain & Laureen Houle - Request to keep Backyard Hens

5.2.2 Linda Breti - Request for Backyard Chickens

5.2.3 Brian Butler - Request for Bees, Chickens and Rabbits

Carried

5.2.1 ALAIN & LAUREEN HOULE - REQUEST TO KEEP BACKYARD HENS

Correspondence dated April 29, 2020 from Alain & Laureen Houle stating:

As the price of groceries continues to climb and the unstable circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we the residents of Vegreville are sincerely interested in living more sustainably as individuals and a community. We believe one way to do this is to produce a little of our own food and therefore we are requesting the revision of the rules regarding backyard laying hens to domestic animals for the purpose of household egg-gathering.

The biggest benefit of having backyard hens is the fresh eggs they produce. On average, a hen will give an egg a day. If you have three hens, you're looking at about 91 dozen eggs a year. Because the chickens will be outside, the sunshine they receive will provide vitamin D rich eggs which you would not normally get from store bought eggs. Omega-3 fatty acids, and more vitamin A & D are all important in boosting our immune systems and pertinent as we move forward and navigate COVID-19.

Chicken droppings, which are rich in nitrogen, also make good fertilizer. This rich compost can be used in our garden and shared with neighbours and friends to improve the quality of our crops.

You can legally keep chickens in your yard in Edmonton, St. Albert, Grand Prairie, Airdrie, Peace River, Fort Saskatchewan as do the cities of Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Surrey, Montreal, Gatineau, Moncton, Guelph, Waterloo, Brampton, Niagara Falls and Whitehorse. These communities have fantastic Urban Hens Programs that demonstrate the success of raising backyard chickens and provide education regarding the welfare, environment, winter management, manure management and health of their birds.

A six pound hen, unlike a five-hundred-pound hog or fifteen-hundred-pound bull, is not inherently a farm animal, and a small backyard flock of three or four hens is no more inherently an agricultural operation than are a couple of dogs – and is likely to create far less noise, smell, waste, and annoyance to the neighbors than the dogs.

Chickens have been present in backyards large and small in cities, small towns, and rural areas from time immemorial. Hens are not farm animals; any more than dogs or rabbits are. We ask that they be removed from the town's definition of production animals and be included in the definition of domestic animals.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

5.2.2 LINDA BRETİ - REQUEST FOR BACKYARD CHICKENS

Correspondence dated May 1, 2020 from Linda Breti stating:

I was wondering if there might be the possibility of changing the bylaw to allow for the citizens of Vegreville to have a few chickens in our back yards. I find that there seems to be an ever increasing interest for people to grow their own food and this has increased even more in light of the pandemic that we have been experiencing lately. I moved to Vegreville just over 10 years ago now and have always enjoyed planting a large garden in my back yard and would love the chance to have fresh eggs as well. I was disappointed to learn that Vegreville had a bylaw which did not permit chickens.

Would council reconsider this decision? I think implementing a cap on how many chickens one could have in town would be reasonable.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I look forward to your response in this matter.

5.2.3 BRYAN BUTLER - REQUEST FOR BEES, CHICKENS, AND RABBITS

Correspondence dated May 5, 2020 from Bryan Butler stating:

a. *Bees in Vegreville.*

Suggestion:

- i. 1 Hive per yard / family*
- ii. Locked area: Shed (with signage) or small fenced area around the hive.*
- iii. Permission (license?) from the town.*
- iv. Currently permitted in Edmonton, Airdrie, and St. Albert (among others).*
- v. For home owners only.*

Notes:

- i. Bees will pollinate gardens and flowers around the town.*
- ii. Bees can prevent wasps from making a nest close by (no data on how close).*
- iii. Bees prefer to fly at the 3 - 4 meter height to and from the hive.*

b. *Chickens*

- i. Hens only - 3 - 5 per family / yard*

- ii. Broilers (12 weeks maximum - male or female) - 50 per family / yard
 - broilers need 1-1.5 sq. ft. per bird
 - could be raised in a portable shed

c. Rabbits

- i. In a shed/structure
- ii. In a movable cage - limit number of animals

Thanks so much.

5.3 VEGREVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD - HIGHWAY 16 SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT INITIATIVE

2020-05-35

Moved By: Councillor Brodziak

That Town Council support the project and direct Administration to start the Request for Proposal process.

Memorandum dated May 11, 2020 from Tom Koep, Economic Development Manager stating:

As discussed in the Legislative meeting on May 5, 2020, the Highway #16 sign replacement initiative.

A meeting was held with the Vegreville Economic Development Advisory Board (VEDAB), the Board of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and several businesses. At that (and to a lesser extent the industrial sector) have been having a poor year and they wanted to talk about ways to help. This meeting came up with a number of ideas, several of which the town had already either considered or was actually planned (including a marketing strategy, social media campaign, new website, wayfinding signage) and several other ideas. The one that almost everyone was in favour of was to update the signage on Highway #16, as it is dated, tough to read and a long way from the edge of the highway and away from the offramp. After gathering a number of designs from a local company, it was discussed at the next VEDAB meeting and in a presentation to council.

As a response, Council appointed and suggested a sub committee that included 2 council members, VEDAB members, Chamber of Commerce board and executive and Tourism board members, which was tasked with narrowing down the design options into a workable number – in this case 3 options, with sign #13 the chosen #1 option, but the other two had support as well.

A recap of the sign designs and estimated costs, are in a summary below: sign #13 will cost approximately \$85,000 all in, or two signs for \$162,500 total due to cost saving of putting two up at once. If we decide to drop the electronic messaging board, that will save us approximately \$20,000 per sign or \$40,000 total. If we decide to lease, the prices are listed in the recap, but I have summarized here:

1. Sign #13, 16 feet tall, without a message board - \$70,000 or \$131,000 for 2
2. Sign #13, 16 feet tall with a message board - \$90,000 or \$171,000 for 2
3. Sign #13 – 25 feet tall without a message board- \$105,000 or \$200,000 for 2
4. Sign #13 – 25 feet tall with a message board - \$142,000 or \$265,000 for 2
5. Sign #4 – 13 feet tall without a message board - \$68,000 or, \$128,000 for 2
6. Sign #4 – 13 feet tall with a message board - \$98,000 or \$190,000,000 for 2
7. Sign #2 – 16 feet tall without a message board - \$55,000 or \$105,000 for 2
8. Sign # 2 – 16 feet tall with a message board - \$80,000 or \$152,000 for 2.

At this time, the Economic Development Manager and Advisory Board are looking for three decisions.

1. Does Council wish to proceed with the Highway 16 Signage Replacement Initiative?
2. Does Council wish to decide on a design or go with the recommendation from the Advisory Board?
3. What type of funding arrangements does Council want to consider as this is an unbudgeted initiative.

Thank you.

Carried

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Waters declared pecuniary interest and left the meeting at 7:34 PM.

6.1 KRystal HOOK, ROYAL LEPAGE HOMEWISE REALTY - LETTER OF INTENT FOR 4817 - 45 AVENUE

2020-05-

This item is tabled to a future Meeting of Town Council to allow the Infrastructure, Planning & Development to investigate potential costs of subdivision.

Correspondence dated April 23, 2020 from Krystal Hook, Royal LePage Homewise Realty stating:

My name is Krystal Hook. I am a realtor with Royal LePage Homewise Realty. I am sending this Letter of Intent to you on

behalf of my client Ryan Clark.

Ryan resides at 4821-45 Avenue, Vegreville and is interested in purchasing a lot adjacent to his property that is owned by the town of Vegreville, Plan LXVI-A Block 6 Lot 2,3,4 namely Lot 2. Ryan is offering \$15,000.00 plus gst for this lot which he will amalgamate with his title. This will be a cash unconditional offer with the stipulation that the Town takes care of the cost of the subdivision and Ryan will take care of the cost to amalgamate it with his title. Ryan proposes that he will have a taxable structure on this piece of land and have the property fenced within a year.

I trust this is sufficient for Mayor and Council to make a decision on selling this piece of land to my client. Please do not hesitate to call me if further information is required.

Tabled

Councillor Waters returned to the meeting at 7:47 PM.

7. FINANCIAL

7.1 MONTHLY CASH STATEMENT - APRIL 30, 2020

2020-05-36

Moved By: Councillor Brodziak

That the Town of Vegreville Monthly Cash Statement for the month ended April 30, 2020 be received and filed.

Carried

8. MEMORANDA

8.1 DALE LEFEBVRE, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - 2020 BUSINESS LICENCE PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION DEADLINE EXTENSION

2020-05-37

Moved By: Councillor Berry

That Town Council approve the deadline extension for Business Licence payments (including penalties) as well as the cancellation of 2020 Business Licences from the original cancellation deadline of March 31, 2020 to June 1, 2020 to accommodate those affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

BACKGROUND:

Business Licence penalties of fifteen percent (15%) were applied on March 1, 2020 for those licences that were still outstanding after the original payment deadline of February 28, 2020.

Administration is proposing to extend the payment of both penalties and licence fees until June 1, 2020. Any licences that have not been paid by that date will be cancelled. Due to the restrictions put into place by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the requirement for self-isolating practices and social distancing procedures, it has increased the difficulty for businesses to pay their 2020 Business Licence fees. The extension of the cancellation date may accommodate businesses at this time.

Carried

8.2 PAUL CASEY, CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTOR - SALE OF TAX RECOVERY PROPERTY LOT 8 BLOCK 26 PLAN 1966A

2020-05-38

Moved By: Councillor Lemko

That Town Council approve Administration's recommendation that the property be offered for sale for \$89,000.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Vegreville acquired the property at 4769-49 Ave through the tax recovery process in October 2019. Until recently the property was occupied by a renter who vacated the premises in March. The Town engaged Atlas Appraisals to perform an appraisal on the property. The Appraisal was significantly less than the assessed value of the property. Given the large discrepancy between the appraised value and the assessed value, Administration reached out to a local realtor to assess a reasonable fair market price for the property. The proposed fair market value provided was in the range of \$85,000 to \$89,000.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The property will be offered for sale through advertising in the local newspaper and information provided to the local Realtors together with the conditions of purchase and sale. In addition, for sale signs will be placed on the properties advising prospective purchasers to contact their local realtor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All successful sales agreements negotiated through realtors will be subject to a payment of commission in accordance with Schedule "A" of Policy 2017-11 Sale of Town Owned Land. All funds received will first be used to repay property tax arrears and costs, including commissions. Any proceeds in excess of property tax arrears and costs, including commissions, will be held in trust in a separate bank account and the previous owner and other interested parties will be notified and must make application under section 428(1) of the Municipal Government Act to the Court of Queen's Bench to obtain the surplus funds.

Carried

8.3 KALEB BRINK, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

2020-05-

That Council adopt the 2019 Annual Report as presented.

BACKGROUND

To provide residents with an overview of last year's activities in a transparent — easy to understand and engaging manner, the 2019 Annual Report includes the unique highlights and functions of the Town's departments, as well as an in-depth financial discussion and analysis of the Town's 2019 Audited Financial Statements provided by the Corporate Services Director, Paul Casey. The 2019 Annual Report demonstrates the Town's financial position and our commitment to ongoing fiscal responsibility.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The 2019 Annual Report will be posted to the Town's website and shared through social media and the link to the Annual Report will be included in the Municipal Scoop. Pending the reopening of our Administration Office, copies will also be available for pick-up.

Tabled

9. BOARD MOTIONS

9.1 VEGREVILLE TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD - SUPPORT FOR MURAL PROJECT COMPLETION FUNDING

2020-05-39

Moved By: Councillor Lemko

That Town Council approve the expenditure of \$10,000 from the 2020 Tourism Budget be allocated to the Mural Project at 4910 – 50 Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Vegreville Tourism Advisory Board has been in conversation with artist Brie Adkins regarding an ongoing project that would see the completion of a full-wall mural on the east side of 4910 50th Avenue. Ms. Adkins visited Vegreville in 2019 volunteering her talents to paint the 'Learning to Share' mural and has subsequently been working with the board on concept and design plans. Originally drafted as a sponsorship concept to fund completion, the board acknowledges that the plan may not prove prudent at present and supports the idea that the Town of Vegreville move forward with the project, funding all related costs out of the existing 2020 tourism budget and considers the mural an investment in our community's tourism assets. The tourism budget will have several items that will not be expended as projected in 2020 and has sufficient funds to covers all mural-related costs.

The proposed timeframe for the project is early summer of 2020, weather dependent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Tourism & Culture Coordinator through the Community Services Director have confirmed that unexpended funds exist due to the cancellation of some 2020 program and events. A use of up to \$10,000 would be recorded as an expenditure for Tourism in 2020 to fund all mural related costs.

Carried

10. BYLAW

10.1 BYLAW NO. 08-2020 - REZONING BYLAW

Removed from agenda in item 2.

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1 COUNCILLOR BERRY

Councillor Berry reported and/or attended on the following:

- Council and CAO Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 29, 2020
- Jesse Bodnar's 100th Birthday Celebration Parade - May 1, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.2

COUNCILLOR BRODZIAK

Councillor Brodziak reported and/or attended on the following:

- Council and CAO Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 29, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 7, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.3 COUNCILLOR LEMKO

Councillor Lemko reported and/or attended on the following:

- Council and CAO Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 29, 2020
- Jesse Bodnar's 100th Birthday Celebration Parade - May 1, 2020
- Alberta Counsel Crisis Communication Webinar - May 5, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.4 COUNCILLOR RUDYK

Councillor Rudyk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Council and CAO Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 29, 2020
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 30, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- FCM Rural & Remote Forum via Skype - May 6, 2020
- A Recover for Everyone: Democracy & Gender in Governance Responses to COVID-19 Webinar - May 6, 2020
- Central Zone COVID-19 Community Conversation via Webinar - May 6, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.5 COUNCILLOR WARAWA

Councillor Warawa reported/and or attended on the following:

- Council and CAO Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - April 29, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.6 COUNCILLOR WATERS

Councillor Waters reported and/or attended on the following:

- Jesse Bodnar's 100th Birthday Celebration Parade - May 1, 2020
- Alberta Counsel Crisis Communication Webinar - May 5, 2020
- Legislative Committee Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 5, 2020
- Regular Meeting of Town Council via Zoom Video Conferencing - May 11, 2020

11.7 MAYOR MACPHEE

12. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

2020-05-40

Moved By: Councillor Warawa

That Town Council close the session at 8:27 PM.

12.1 FOIP ACT, DIVISION 2, SECTION 16 DISCLOSURE HARMFUL TO BUSINESS INTERESTS OF A THIRD PARTY

12.2 FOIP ACT, DIVISION 2, SECTION 25 - DISCLOSURE HARMFUL TO ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS OF A PUBLIC BODY

12.3 OPEN SESSION

2020-05-41

Moved By: Councillor Lemko

That Town Council return to open session at 10:00 PM.

Carried

13.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before Council, Mayor MacPhee declared the Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.