

CITY OF MEADOW LAKE

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 23, 2014

M I N U T E S

PRESENT:

Mayor:	Gary Vidal	Diana Burton, City Manager
Deputy Mayor:	Elaine Yaychuk	Cheryl Dodds, City Clerk
Councillors:	Merlin Seymour	Neil Marsh, Fire Chief/Building Official
	Curtis Paylor	Frank Richardson, Bylaw Officer
	Conrad Read	Phil Ambroziak, Northern Pride
	Layne Shkopich	Benjamin J. Partyka
	Annette Klassen	Don Buchanan
		Roger Epp

Mayor Gary Vidal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

179/14

SHKOPICH - YAYCHUK

That the agenda be adopted as a guideline for the meeting.

CARRIED

180/14

PAYLOR - KLASSEN

That the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 9, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Deputy Mayor Yaychuk asked where the City is at regarding Glenn Winkler's garage. The City Manager informed Council we have heard back from Community Planning, but we are waiting for an employee to return to work to ask him some questions.

The Deputy Mayor noted that the security cameras for the compost site were ordered but asked if they are in. The City Clerk mentioned they are in and hopefully will be up and operating this week.

DELEGATION:

Mayor Vidal made opening comments. He referred to the written submission received and stated that he was offended by comments in the letter suggesting Council having a conflict of interest as business owners and having rental suites.

Benjamin Partyka spoke against Bylaw No. 6/2014 based on Section 62 of *The Regional Health Services Act* that the tax levy can be part of the regular tax levy or a special tax. Section 275 of *The Cities Act* refers to a special tax bylaw, and that in Section 275(3) public notice shall be given. He outlined the requirements of the bylaw for a special tax. His clients believe that they are being discriminated against based on the properties they rent out. The principles of fairness and justice were not mandated and they feel this tax discriminates against the homeowners. The city had a choice by raising funds by a general tax or a special tax. He asked that council revisit this bylaw in the next couple of weeks due to time constraints.

Roger Epp addressed Council. He made it clear that they support the long term care facility one hundred percent. Based on the tax levy put in place, his tax burden alone for this year is a significant loss to his business because he cannot give an additional increase to his rent this year because of no notice. Commercial businesses have not been taxed with this levy but they are in support of the facility. They believe this facility should not be built by the home owners only, the tax base should be supported by everyone. This is hurting their rental property businesses.

Don Buchanan addressed Council last. In the past few years the landlords had to take on the burden of utility bills. They have lost thousands of dollars paying utility bills because renters have walked out without paying. The homeowners, renters, and seniors are the ones who have to bear the burden of the long term care facility. They are not against the facility but everyone needs to support it, including commercial businesses.

Councillor Klassen questioned the rent increase process. Roger Epp explained that regulations do not allow them to increase the rent without giving 12 months' notice.

Councillor Klassen stated that not only does the City have to help pay for the construction of the building, but that the City also has to raise \$1.5 million in donations for furnishing.

Mayor Vidal turned the Chair over to the Deputy Mayor to address the delegation.

Mayor Vidal stated that if they wished to be treated fairly through the taxation process then rental properties, as a business, would be taxed the same as commercial businesses, which is 2.5 times higher than what they are paying now. He also noted that the City does not have a say on who a land lord rents to, so why should all of the residents bear the burden of those tenants who don't pay their water bills?

REPORTS/MINUTES:

181/14

READ - SEYMOUR
That the RCMP report be received.

CARRIED

182/14

YAYCHUK - READ
That the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's monthly report be received.

CARRIED

183/14

SHKOPICH - KLASSEN
That the Fire Chief/Building Official's monthly report be received.

CARRIED

184/14

PAYLOR - READ
That the Minutes from the Northwest Regional Waste Management Authority Inc. meeting of April 17, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

X
CD

185/14 YAYCHUK - SHKOPICH
That the Minutes from the North of Divide Planning District Commission meeting of May 22, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

186/14 READ - SHKOPICH
That the Minutes from the Lakeland Library Region Executive Committee Meeting of June 18, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

187/14 SEYMOUR - SHKOPICH
That the following correspondence be received for filing:

Mistik Management Ltd.

CARRIED

COUNCIL ENQUIRIES:

Deputy Mayor Yaychuk mentioned there is a blister in the pavement on Cochin Avenue that is quite big and asked what is happening with it. The City Manager talked to the public works foreman on Friday and he had looked at it. They are trying to resolve what is causing it.

Councillor Klassen asked if there were any homes damaged due to the downpour yesterday? The City Manager reported there was a plugged sewer yesterday and they were worked on it. Once it was opened everything was okay. There were some homes that were backing up.

Councillor Read mentioned the pavement is eroding by the little bridge on 9th Avenue West by the new lift station. The pavement is sinking. This needs to be checked out as it did drop 8 to 10 inches.

Councillor Shkopich mentioned that in front of 2 to 3 residences on Cochin Avenue, where the garbage truck goes, the pavement is broken and raised.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

188/14 KLASSEN - SEYMOUR
That the Accounts Payable for the month of May, 2014 relating to cheque numbers 4563 to 4678 for the total amount of \$548,338.39, and Payroll cheques for the total amount of \$175,146.98 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

189/14 KLASSEN - SHKOPICH
That the May, 2014 Financial Statements be approved.

CARRIED

X
CAO

190/14

PAYLOR - SEYMOUR

That City Council go to a closed meeting, as defined in Section 94(2) of *The Cities Act*, to discuss one of the exemptions in *Part III of the Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

CARRIED

Council entered a closed meeting at 8:18 p.m.

The closed meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m. and the Regular Council Meeting re-convened at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

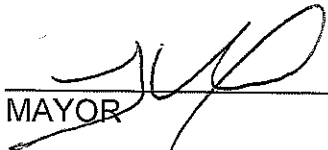
191/14

PAYLOR

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



CITY CLERK



MAYOR