



CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

March 14, 2023

NOTES

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present:

- Mayor John Petrie
- Councillor Joel Goodnough
- Councillor Mohammed Idriss
- Councillor Ray Juska
- Councillor Jon Nesbitt
- Councillor Bill Prentice
- Councillor Marissa Wardrop

CITY STAFF

Present:

- Amanda Peterson, Deputy CAO
- Amy Rommens, Manager, Administration
- Shelley Thomas, Manager, Finance
- Alicia Bartlette, Manager, Planning and Engineering
- Kevin Swanson, Fire Chief
- Mitchell Iwaasa, Economic Development Officer
- Jourdan Jones, Communications Officer
- Jenny Wallace, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Other:

- Duane Perkins
- Sandra Stanway, Brooks Bulletin

Mayor Petrie called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

1. AGENDA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR PRENTICE that “the agenda be adopted with the addition of Agenda Item 7. – Public Donations – Held Confidential Pursuant to Section 23(1) of FOIP; and Agenda Item 8. – Discussion on Agreement – Held Confidential Pursuant to Section 21(1) of FOIP”.

MOTION CARRIED

2. AMPHITHEATER PRESENTATION

- Mayor Petrie advised that D. Perkins presented the idea of building an amphitheater at Evergreen Park to the Brooks Rotary Club, and that he is now presenting the concept to Council to obtain their feedback and support.

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- ✚ D. Perkins spoke about the amphitheater in Virden, Manitoba and circulated photos that he took when visiting there. He added that he brought up the concept of having one in Evergreen Park to Communities in Bloom and they thought it was a good idea, and that they will be having a meeting to discuss this.
- ✚ D. Perkins spoke about his concept for an amphitheater in Evergreen Park. He noted that as he is now Chair of the Alberta 55+ Summer Games, he will not be able to commit the time to this proposed project until after the Games are over. By then, the grant programs should be open to accepting applications again.
- ✚ Mayor Petrie noted that the proposed amphitheater project would be at no cost to the City; however, the City would operate and maintain it once it is operational.
- ✚ Council Committee discussed amphitheater locations and the potential to strategically locate it in Evergreen Park to reduce train noise, parking, maintenance, obtaining feedback/ideas from user groups, applying for grants, and future maintenance. A. Peterson advised that she would like to have a conversation with the Parks Department about maintenance and staffing levels.
- ✚ Mayor Petrie noted that A. Peterson will talk to the Parks Department, and that this item be brought back in the fall to Council Committee.

D. Perkins left at 4:56 p.m.

3. **2024 FIRE TRUCK TENDER**

- ✚ K. Swanson advised that in the City's 10-year Capital Plan, the Fire Department has a fire truck budgeted for replacement in 2024. He added that if a Request for Tender was facilitated in 2024, the fire truck would likely not be delivered in time to replace the aging fire truck that no longer meets national standards; therefore, requiring costly repairs in 2024.
- ✚ K. Swanson advised that if a tender was facilitated in 2023, the fire truck would most likely be delivered in the fall of 2024 with funding from the 2024 budget. A 10% down payment of \$55,000 would be required upon placing the order with funding from the 2023 Protective Services Reserve.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the 2024 Fire Truck Tender to Council for formal approval.

4. **DRAFT FIRE BYLAW 23/04**

- ✚ A. Rommens advised that Administration drafted Fire Bylaw 23/04 to update minor administrative changes and to fit within the current practice of the Fire Department. Additionally, the early payment option for fines was removed, to align with other City Bylaws.

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Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward Fire Bylaw 23/04 to Council for formal approval.

5. DRAFT FIRE SERVICE FEES BYLAW 23/05

- ✚ A. Rommens advised that Administration has drafted Fire Service Fees Bylaw 23/05 to align with the fees the County of Newell charges for their response to calls where the Fire Departments are utilized/required. There are times when the City and County Fire Departments respond to the same calls, so aligning service fees will make billing insurance companies and receiving payment an easier process.
- ✚ A. Rommens also noted that fees also match Alberta Transportation rates of reimbursement for Fire Department units, which are reviewed annually. Moving forward, the City's Bylaw will be updated if the Province's rates are updated.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward Fire Service Fees Bylaw 23/05 to Council for formal approval.

6. ATTAINABLE HOUSING

- ✚ Mayor Petrie advised that the biggest challenge to the community here is the lack of attainable housing. He stressed the importance of the community figuring out a way to get housing built here to enable the community to grow. There were two examples given of where a large number of people could have been brought into the community; however, it was unable to happen due to lack of housing and transportation services, and limited capacity at the local schools.
- ✚ A. Bartlette spoke about the Growth Study that was done in preparation for updating the IDP. She spoke about how there is still substantial residential land available for growth; and noted that land that is easy to develop goes first leaving land that is difficult to service undeveloped. She also spoke about off-site levies and how Developers have to pay for upgrades. S. Thomas spoke about the purpose of the Land Development Reserve.
- ✚ Council discussed the need to advocate to the Federal and Provincial Ministers responsible for housing about the urgency of paying for infrastructure costs to accommodate housing development to address the housing shortage. Council also discussed discounting land prices for City-owned land, and the need to look at other incentives.
- ✚ A. Peterson spoke about incentives the City offered in the past. In addition, she noted that Mayor Petrie had brought up the incentive that is offered by the Town of Drumheller, and that she has done some research on it. She handed out a copy of the Bylaws from the Town of Drumheller, and spoke to the incentives in the Bylaws.

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- 🚧 Mayor Petrie inquired if there is interest in discounting City-owned land.
A. Peterson advised that she would like to bring back a report to Council Committee on different discount options. Council Committee also noted that they would like to know what City-owned land is serviced/unserviced.

Council to meet with both the Federal and Provincial Ministers responsible for housing; and Committee directed Administration to bring back a report to Council Committee on different discount options, and to further research the Town of Drumheller's Bylaws.

7. CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GOODNOUGH that "Council close the meeting to the public for agenda item 7. Public Donations as per Section 23(1), FOIP and agenda item 8. Discussion on Agreement as per Section 21(1), FOIP at 5:50 p.m."

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JUSKA that "the meeting move out of Closed Session at 6:32 p.m."

MOTION CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GOODNOUGH that "the meeting adjourn at 6:32 p.m."

MOTION CARRIED