



CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

April 11, 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:

- Alan Martens, CAO
- Amanda Peterson, Deputy CAO
- Amy Rommens, Manager, Administration
- Shelley Thomas, Manager, Finance
- Randi McPhillips, Manager, Recreation Services
- Lisa Tiffin, Manager, Community Development
- Don Saari, Manager, Works & Utilities
- Logan Grant, Community Peace Officer
- Jenny Wallace, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Other:

- Richard Kam, President, Brooks Smoker Wars
- Sandra Stanway, Brooks Bulletin

Mayor Petrie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. BROOKS SMOKER WARS OVERVIEW

- ✚ R. Kam provided an overview of the 2023 Brooks Smoker Wars Competition to be held on June 16 and 17, 2023 at the Centennial Regional Arena (CRA). He requested that their non-profit Society receive a reduction on the CRA rental fee. He proposed that instead of them paying the rental fee, for every dollar that doesn't go towards rent would be donated back to a community funded project whether it be the Kinbrook Pathway or the Alberta 55+ Summer Games. He added that it would be up to Council to decide where the donation would go.
- ✚ There was general discussion about the event with R. McPhillips noting that there are no concerns with the event being hosted during that time at the CRA.

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MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JUSKA that “Council approve of waiving the CRA facility rental fee for the Brooks Smoker Wars event in exchange of them making a donation back to a City of Brooks project”.

MOTION CARRIED

R. Kam and R. McPhillips left at 4:48 p.m.

2. 2023 Q1 MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- ✚ A. Rommens provided an overview of the Q2 Municipal Enforcement Statistics, which covered the following areas:
 - Outreach and Education;
 - Collaboration with External Departments;
 - Traffic Safety Program; and,
 - Animal Control/BAPS.
- ✚ There was discussion on the number of applications applied for under the City’s Urban Hen Pilot Program, vaping in public places, litter, the need to educate youth on the safe use of crosswalks, and the incident involving leaking oil into the City’s wastewater system.

L. Grant left at 4:58 p.m.

3. ATTAINABLE HOUSING UPDATE

- ✚ A. Peterson advised that she contacted the Town of Drumheller to get feedback on how their residential development incentive program is going. R. Johnson, Manager of Economic Development, advised her that the program is receiving very little to no utilization or uptake. She added that they do check with their local developers periodically to give them a reminder about the program. The developers have advised that they are not utilizing the program because of high interest rates, high construction costs, and supply chain issues. He also noted that the Town of Drumheller is also experiencing difficulty in their real estate market.
- ✚ A. Peterson advised that she was also informed by R. Johnson that the Town of Ponoka has a couple of incentive programs. She added that she did check one of the programs that they have, and it was renewed until December 31, 2025. They have a residential new builders’ incentive, which is similar to Drumheller’s, and then they also have one called a home renovation or a major home renovation incentive program.
- ✚ J. Petrie advised that when he and Councillor Idriss were in Edmonton recently they met with Minister Schulz and MLA Cici about attainable housing. He asked where the City goes from here in addressing this issue; and noted the previous discussion that Council Committee had with respect to looking at tax incentives, etc. A. Peterson advised that Administration is working on some options to bring back to Council Committee.

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- ✚ Councilor Wardrop advised that that she attended a convention this week in Edmonton, and that there was a couple of sessions she felt applied to the City. Instead of each municipality or housing organization working individually to address this, organizations work together collectively by leveraging assets to create a larger pool of funds and then decide as a group which projects to proceed with. She noted that she felt the same concept could be applied to the region. Councillor Idriss suggested bringing together the local housing organizations, and maybe some developers to discuss partnership ideas.
- ✚ A. Peterson advised that she spoke with the contractor who completed the City's 2019 Brooks Housing Strategy and he is willing to update the strategy; and that she is waiting for a quote from him. She also spoke about a new funding program that is available through the Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and that one of the requirements is that you must have an updated strategy.

4. DRAFT UTILITY RATES BYLAW 23/08

- ✚ S. Thomas advised that the purpose of the proposed bylaw is to streamline the administrative processes relating to the billing and collections of utility service charges as discussed at the Council Committee meeting on February 28, 2023. She presented the changes to the Bylaw.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the Utility Rates Bylaw 23/08 to Council for formal approval.

5. DRAFT COLLECTION PROCEDURE POLICY

- ✚ S. Thomas advised that the amended Collection Procedures Policy F-001-014(A) established guidelines for the treatment and collection of general utilities receivable. She touched on some of the changes to the Bylaw, and noted that the majority of the changes are updating the policy to our current processes with modifications reflecting the proposed changes in Bylaw 23/08.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the Collection Procedure Policy F-001-014(A) to Council for formal approval.

6. LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST

- ✚ S. Thomas advised that on April 4, 2023 Council received a letter from the Brooks Public Library explaining that Administration had misunderstood the amount of their budget request for 2023. In addition to their budget deficit of \$5,062, the Brooks Public Library was requesting an increase of \$9,872.

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- ✚ J. Petrie noted that S. Stanway has informed him that the Provincial Government is funding an increase of \$3 million to libraries annually. There was discussion on whether the increase in the provincial funding to the Brooks Public Library for 2023 would offset the \$9,872. A. Martens noted that the new funding from the Provincial Government would be to enhance services.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the Library Budget Request to Council for approval.

7. PRIVATE LANDFILL WITHIN THE COUNTY

- ✚ Council Committee discussed the private landfill that is being proposed in the County of Newell. Councillor Prentice spoke about how the new private landfill may potentially impact the NRSWA landfill.

8. ACP – SAEWA INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION APPLICATION

- ✚ Council Committee discussed the letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs wherein they advised that the SAEWA grant application under the Intermunicipal Collaboration component of the 2023/23 Alberta Community Partnership Initiative was declined. R. Juska advised that there is a SAEWA Executive meeting this Friday, and a Strategic Planning session on April 21.
- ✚ J. Petrie noted that this matter can be discussed further at the April 25th Council Committee meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR IDRIS that “the meeting adjourn at 6:03 p.m.”.

MOTION CARRIED