

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH  
REGULAR MEETING 08-09  
THE FIRST MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR  
THE MONTH OF AUGUST AND THE  
EIGHTH FOR THE YEAR 2009**

**PRESENT:** Mayor P. Martselos D/M P. Burke  
Cr. B. Linaker Cr. M. Berls

**ABSENT:** Cr. B. Johnson, Cr. F. Daniels, Cr. T. McDonald

**STAFF:** J. Holland, Senior Administrative Officer  
A. Sebert, Executive Assistant  
D. Webb, Director Public Works & Planning

**GALLERY:** CBC's Jennifer Hunt and Andrew Paisley, RCMP Sgt. Grant Payne, SRJ Samantha Stokell, Mike Couvrette, Janie Hobart, Toni Heron, Jessica Cox, Charlie Schaefer, Tim Gauthier, Elizabeth Stock, Sydney O'Sullivan, Dorothy Laviolette, Freida Martselos, John McArady, Fred Beaulieu, Ronnie Schaefer, Tom Berikoff, Grace McAdam, Vina Champagne, Brenda Rissling Daniel Freund

Meeting 08-09  
August 18, 2009

7 PM  
Council Chambers

(i) **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Martselos called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

(ii) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**193-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the agenda be adopted as amended to include a presentation from RCMP Sergeant Grant Payne."

MOTION CARRIED

(iii) **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

(iv) **DELEGATIONS**

The Mayor invited RCMP Sgt Grant Payne to provide a community policing update. Sgt Payne advised that he had provided a report to the Mayor a few weeks ago. The Mayor thanked the Sgt for the report and asked whether there was any change in incident occurrence from last year. The Sgt advised that impaired driving charges were down but liquor offences had more than doubled. He noted the hiring of a new liquor inspector and looked forward to working with him as well as working joint patrols with the Park's enforcement position. The Mayor asked about youth initiatives. Sgt Payne noted a new rewards program geared to positive rewards for youth. He also advised that the South Slave Friendship Festival weekend had been fairly good overall noting that they had been busy with more people in town. Overall he had been impressed with the Super Shaker noting that it had been fairly well run. The Mayor thanked Sgt Payne stressing the importance of working with the youth.

The Mayor invited Tourism Advisory Board (TAB) members Mike Couvrette and Janie Hobart to provide an update on TAB activities. Mr. Couvrette provided a handout and advised that the TAB had representation from the museum, Parks Canada, Industry Tourism and Investment (ITI), Council and the community. He noted a shortfall in the TAB's budget and hoped to meet with Council to discuss the budget and the Visitor Information Center (VIC). He felt that the quality of service at the VIC had improved from prior years and was especially pleased with the "Walk About" program. He advised that the Manager of ITI wanted to meet to discuss Mission Park services. Mr. Couvrette advised that ITI wanted to move forward with community signage repair and that they would be bringing forward motions for "Walk About", "Did You Know Facts" and "Highway and Turnaround with Directions and Points of Interest" signage after students completed assessments. He advised that the town's website was being revamped and they were continuing with tourism advertisements. Mr. Couvrette informed that an opportunity may be coming forward for a Fort Smith representative to become involved in an Alberta project. He suggested increasing the number of visitor guides, promotion materials and opportunities with trade shows but their budget was limited. Ms. Hobart requested a special meeting with Council to discuss the tourism report. She stated that the tourism plans of 1996 and 2004 had identified hiring of an events coordinator as well as



developing a comprehensive budget and market to promote Fort Smith including trail systems, an awareness campaign for the citizens of Fort Smith, infrastructure development, trails, lookouts and conference center, a co-op approach with other stakeholders. She asked for a meeting date. Ms. Hobart invited everyone to take a "Walk About" tour at the Parks office. She highly recommended the tour which was historical in nature and took about 45 minutes. The Mayor thanked the TAB members and felt that working on the signs was good. He also suggested that the TAB lobby for and support a loop road south. He felt that a loop road through Wood Buffalo National Park would bring tourists to Fort Smith. He was pleased to see a partnership between Parks and the Town for the operation of the VIC. He stated that the facilities at the Recreation Center were also good when the VIC was operated out of the facility as many tourists used the showers. The Mayor thanked the TAB members for the presentation. Mr. Couvrette thanked Cr. Linaker for representing Council on the TAB.

(v) **ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

**194-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the Accounts Paid for the period ending August 14, 2009 totaling \$846,942.32 be adopted."

MOTION CARRIED

**195-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the Accounts Payable for the period ending August 14, 2009 totaling \$35,925.04 be approved."

MOTION CARRIED

Administration presented a revised finance statement.

**196-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the revised Quarterly Finance Statement as of June 30, 2009 be adopted"

MOTION CARRIED

(vi) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**197-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the minutes of Regular Meeting 07-09 of July 21, 2009, be adopted as presented."

MOTION CARRIED

**198-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the minutes of Special Meeting SP-05-09 of August 7, 2009, be adopted as presented."

MOTION CARRIED

**199-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"THAT the minutes of Special Meeting SP-06-09 of August 13, 2009, be adopted as presented."

MOTION CARRIED



(vii) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cr. Linaker wondered about the Curling Club's request to use the ice surface as the motion to deny the request had been defeated. Administration advised that the club could go ahead and hold the function as the motion had been defeated.

(viii) **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting August 11, 2009 - Recommendation Report by D/M Burke**

Thank you Mr. Chair, the Committee of the Whole met on August 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. I am pleased to present the Report of the Committee, a copy of which is attached to the Council meeting agenda.

As a result of the items reviewed and discussed I would like to present the following recommendations to Council for consideration and adoption:

**1. Standing Committee on Personnel Appointments:**

The Mayor requested that the appointments to the Standing Committee on Personnel be delayed until such time as all Councilors were present. Council agreed.

**The Mayor called for a five minute break at 7:30 pm. The meeting resumed at 7:35 pm.**

(ix) **CORRESPONDENCE**

Council was provided with a list of correspondence.

(x) **ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS**

**By-Law 813 to Dispose of Real Property – Lot 1334, Plan 1788 to Trevor Tordiff – 1st Reading**

200-09 Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Linaker

"THAT By-Law 813 to Dispose of Real Property, Lot 1334, Plan 1788 to Trevor Tordiff be introduced and given first reading"

MOTION CARRIED

**By-Law 813 to Dispose of Real Property - Lot 1334, Plan 1788 to Trevor Tordiff – 2nd Reading**

201-09 Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Linaker

"THAT By-Law 813 to Dispose of Real Property, Lot 1334, Plan 1788 to Trevor Tordiff be given second reading by title only."

MOTION CARRIED

(xi) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor

i. Water and Sewer Line Project

The Mayor asked for an update on the sewer line project. The Director of Public Works and Planning Don Webb advised that the project was on schedule noting a couple of surprises but everything was going well.

ii. New Senior Administrative Officer John Holland

The Mayor welcomed the new SAO stated how pleased he was that Mr. Holland was bringing many years of experience to the Town. The Mayor thanked Mr. Webb for his contributions to the Town noting that Mr. Webb was working closely with Mr. Holland. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also thanked CBC.



2. Councilors

i. South Slave Friendship Festival

D/M Burke thanked the musicians, volunteers and organizers who participated in the festival. Cr. Linaker was pleased to see the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary so well attended. The Mayor commended the volunteers and D/M Pat Burke for an excellent festival. He stated that as always the Deputy Mayor's singing was very much enjoyed. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers and performers.

ii. Seniors Over +55 Games

D/M Burke thanked the elders involved in the seniors' games. Cr. Linaker stated it was good to see many new faces. The Mayor stated that the games were good for Fort Smith and thanked everyone, participants and volunteers.

iii. Tourism Advisory Board

Cr. Linaker advised that she had attended a Tourism Advisory Board meeting last evening. She recommended the "Walk About" tour and noted it was good to see Town staff out.

3. Administration

i. New Home Occupation Business License Applications

**202-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"That the following new home occupation business license application be approved provided it complies with the provisions of the Town of Fort Smith Zoning Bylaw #794:

<u>License No</u>	<u>Business Name</u>
HO-09-102	Creative Health Solutions

MOTION CARRIED

ii. Beer Garden Request

**203-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"That the Fort Smith Northstars be permitted to hold a beer garden at the Harry Sodom Ball Park on Saturday, August 29, 2009, from noon until 9 pm and Sunday, August 30, 2009, from noon until 5 pm in conjunction with the Slo-Pitch Tournament."

MOTION CARRIED

iii. Fort Smith Health Centre

The Mayor advised that he and the SAO had met with the Community Leadership to discuss the Health Center renovations and had been advised of a reduction in services from 4.5 to 2.5 doctors and from 10 to 6 beds. He stated that the change was unacceptable. He stated that the community was talking about promoting tourism and growth. He did not support this change but did support the renovation project. He felt that this reduction in services would lead eventually to the hospital downsizing to a nursing station. D/M Burke stated that the Health Center seemed to have difficulty in obtaining the services of doctors. He was appalled that a community of Fort Smith's size having no doctors. Cr. Berls asked how the other community leaders felt about the issue. The Mayor advised that they agreed and disagreed. He suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Minister and to each community leader.



**204-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"That a letter be written to Sandy Lee, Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services to inform her that Mayor Martselos and Town Council do not agree with the direction her Department is heading precisely that the Fort Smith Health Center will be going from 4.5 doctor positions to 2.5 doctor positions and from 10 community beds to 6 community beds. This is a move backwards and will have a tremendous effect on the community of Fort Smith."

MOTION CARRIED

iv. Arena Operation Contract

Administration advised that the arena operation contract had expired in March. The Mayor stated that Northern Performance had been the operator for many years and had done a good job although maintenance was not part of the contract. The Director of Public Works and Planning Don Webb advised of a drastic increase in usage. The Mayor advised that the arena operation and maintenance could be done by an employee. Cr. Berls suggested a four month trial position. Cr. Linaker wondered whether the Town had a qualified employee and suggested contracting out the ice. Administration suggested hiring the contractor as an employee. Cr. Linaker felt it was a complicated matter and wondered whether contracting out would be more cost effective. She suggested having an employee look after the maintenance. D/M Burke wanted to see cost comparisons. Administration agreed advising that the contractor costs would be based on last years contract costs. The Mayor asked Administration to bring cost information back to Council.

(xii) **ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

1. Approval of Absence

**205-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Linaker

"THAT Councilors Tim McDonald, Brenda Johnson and Fred Daniels be excused from regular meeting 08-09 of August 18, 2009."

MOTION CARRIED

2. Notice of Future Absences

There were no future absences noted.

(xiii) **FIX DATE FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**206-09** Moved by: D/M Burke  
Seconded by: Cr. Berls

"That the Regular Meeting of Council for the month of September shall be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009,

And further that the Committee of the Whole meeting for September shall be held on Wednesday September 9, 2009, in accordance with the Council Procedures Bylaw."

MOTION CARRIED

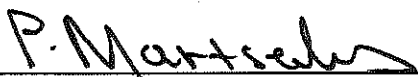
(xiv) **ADJOURNMENT**

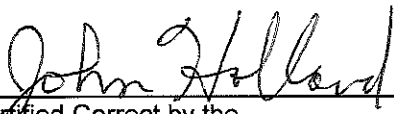
**207-09** Moved By: D/M Burke  
Seconded By: Cr. Berls

"THAT we do now adjourn: Time: 8:00 P.M."

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes adopted this 22 day of September, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Peter Martselos

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Correct by the  
Senior Administrative Officer