

Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit and Budget Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, November 06, 2014, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Present: S. Germain, Chair
M. Blake, Mayor
T. Ault, Councillor
G. Boutilier, Councillor
L. Bussieres, Councillor
J. Stroud, Councillor
A. Vinni, Councillor

Absent: J. Cardinal, Councillor
J. Chadi, Councillor
K. McGrath, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor

Administration: M. Ulliac, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
S. Harper, Legislative Officer
R. Kendall, Supervisor

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m. in the absence of Chair S. Germain.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the agenda be amended to include number 9; Rescheduling of Audit and Budget Committee meeting, Nov. 18, 2014, and that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED
For: A. Vinni, Mayor M. Blake, T. Ault, G. Boutilier, L. Bussieres
Opposed: J. Stroud

Budget Presentations

2. 2015 Budget Introduction

Elsie Hutton, Chief Financial Officer, provided an introduction to the 2015 proposed Operating and Capital Budget.

3. Public Infrastructure and Planning

Emdad Haque, Director, Engineering, gave a brief overview of the department's 2015 proposed budget and indicated that there are capital projects that will be brought in-house.

Councillor Boutilier exited the Chamber at 3:35 p.m. and returned at 3:36 p.m.

Discussions ensued with respect to the offsite levy and the cost that the Municipality is spending in the expansion of infrastructure. It was requested that Administration provide the

estimated costs of the offsite levy for 2015 as well as the costs on a specific individual lot basis in 2012 to generate the \$10,000,000 in 2013.

Felice Mazzoni, Director, Planning and Development, gave a brief overview of the major initiatives and mandate in the 2015 budget for the department. Discussions ensued and it was requested that the number of housing developments for 2014 be provided to Council, as well as the 2015 projected growth in the region.

Assuming of the Chair

Chair S. Germain entered the meeting and assumed the chair at 4:45 p.m.

Mayor M. Blake exited the Chamber at 4:46 p.m. and reentered at 4:47 p.m.

Councillor T. Ault exited the Chamber at 4:54 p.m. and reentered at 4:55 p.m.

Councillor G. Boutilier exited the Chamber at 4:55 p.m. and returned at 5:01 p.m.

Robert Kirby, Acting Director, Public Operations, gave an overview of the mandate of the department and its commitment to providing services in a proactive and operationally efficient manner.

Discussions ensued with respect to the large amount of mud in the dog park. Administration indicated that they would go to investigate and try and rectify the issue.

Councillor Boutilier exited the Chamber at 5:23 p.m. and returned at 5:29 p.m.

Darcy Dragonetti, Acting Director, Environmental Services, provided an overview of the 2015 proposed budget and indicated that the department's mandate is to work towards continual enhancement of operations through the development and incorporation of leading and emerging technologies. Discussions ensued and it was requested that administration provide a breakdown of which projects are regulatory and which are not.

Councillor Bussieres exited the Chamber at 5:59 p.m. and returned at 6:04 p.m.

Recess and Exit

A recess occurred between 6:25 p.m. and 7:03 p.m., and Councillor G. Boutilier exited the meeting.

4. Regional Emergency Services & RCMP Support/Bylaw Services

Darby Allen, Regional Fire Chief, gave a brief overview of the department's Operating Budget for 2015, and the proposed enhancements to 911 dispatching operations.

Superintendent Bob Couture, RCMP, gave a brief overview of the 2015 proposed budget, the key items that the department is focused on and the importance of maintaining the level of service in the community.

5. Corporate and Community Services

Carole Bouchard, Director, Community Services, gave an overview of the proposed 2015 budget for the department and pointed out the key initiatives, including the six major sporting events that will be held in the region in 2015. Discussion ensued and it was requested that Administration identify whether or not if there is a budget allocation for the Communities in Bloom Committee to take on special initiatives.

Maggie Farrington, Director, Aboriginal and Rural Relations, gave a brief overview of the proposed 2015 budget for the department, which includes the enhancement of rural relations through communication.

Roseanne Hall, Director, Human Resources, gave a brief overview of the 2015 budget for the department and spoke to the development and implementation of procedure and policies.

Keith Smith, Acting Director, Land Administration, gave a brief overview of the proposed 2015 budget for the department.

Leanne McCarthy, Director, Information Services, spoke to the department's mandate and provided a brief overview of the proposed 2015 budget.

Leanne McCarthy, Director, Advisory Services, provided an overview of Advisory Services, noting that it was recently amalgamated with Information Services, and then spoke to the 2015 proposed budgets.

Leanne McCarthy, Acting Director, Communications and Stakeholders Relations, spoke in relation to the 2015 budget and indicated that the department will be concentrating on public engagements and increased information for residents. Discussions ensued and it was requested that that Administration provide how the Communications department compared to other cities and towns regarding staff numbers. The CAO undertook to provide the numbers to council as it was addressed as part of the audit.

6. Financial Services

Brian Moore, Director, Assessment and Taxation, spoke to the proposed 2015 budget and indicated that the department is concentrating on building staff capacity for the future and reducing the risk of reliance on contracted staff.

Mayor Blake exited the Chamber at 8:36 p.m. and returned at 8:39 p.m.

Ralph Timleck, Municipal Auditor, spoke to the proposed 2015 budget for the department.

Kola Oladimeji, Director, Finance, spoke to the mandate of the department in reference to the KPMG Audit and the proposed 2015 budget.

Elsie Hutton, Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Director of the Supply Chain Management Department, Ted Zlotnik, spoke to the mandate of the department with respect to the 2015 budget. It was questioned by Council if the South Operations Centre would include cashier duties for the public.

7. Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

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8. Council

David Leflar, Director, Legal and Legislative Services, gave a brief overview of the department's 2015 budget and discussed the range of support that the department provides in being responsible for two budgets, Mayor and Council and Legal and Legislative Services.

Discussion ensued regarding the availability of other stations for the online streaming and broadcasting of council meetings. Administration was asked if there could be negotiations with other providers in the area.

It was also suggested that the Municipality pursue hiring an Intern through the Municipal Internship Program, and the appropriate adjustment be made by the Audit and Budget Committee.

9. Rescheduling of Audit and Budget Committee Meeting November 18, 2014

Moved by Mayor M. Blake that the Audit and Budget Committee meeting scheduled for November 18, 2014 be rescheduled to Monday November 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed at 9:15 p.m.

Chair

Chief Legislative Officer