

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Banff in the Province of Alberta
Town Hall Council Chamber
Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 pm**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Sorensen	Mayor
Leslie Taylor	Councillor
Stavros Karlos	Councillor
Chip Olver	Councillor and Deputy Mayor
Paul Baxter	Councillor and Acting Mayor
Brian Standish	Councillor
Grant Canning	Councillor

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Robert Earl	Town Manager
Adrian Field	Manager of Engineering
Kelly Gibson	Manager of Corporate Services
Randall McKay	Manager of Planning and Development
Cheryl Hyde	Municipal Clerk (Recording Secretary)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the regular meeting of council to order at 2:00 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1. Meeting Agenda

COU12-17 Moved by Mayor Sorensen to approve the agenda of the regular meeting of council with the following additions:

- Move item 8.1 to 8.3
- Move item 5.1 to precede the delegation.

CARRIED

2.2. 2012 Council Priorities and Workplan

Accepted as information.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Bow River Pedestrian Bridge and Utility Crossing

Administration spoke to a written report summarizing the options considered for replacing the sanitary pipes crossing the Bow River and the solution that's being recommended – building a pedestrian bridge that will carry the pipes across the river.

The Mayor invited comments from the gallery.

Mr. Dick Smith spoke on behalf of the residents living at the corner of Muskrat Street and Buffalo Street. Mr. Smith acknowledged that the sanitary sewer pipe needs a repair. He also agreed a pedestrian bridge is necessary, and supports building one at Central Park. He is opposed to a pedestrian bridge being built in the proposed location because:

- There is extra cost involved in building a bridge to carry the sanitary sewer pipes.
- The traffic on the bridge may impact the wildlife that frequent the area.
- Area residents are concerned people using the bridge may cause an increase in noise and vandalism.
- The effort to involve the community in this decision has been inadequate.
- There are unanswered questions with respect to pedestrian movement, lighting, parking, possible expropriation of homes, protection from increased risk of crime, and the need for installation of public washrooms.

Mr. Smith requested that council delay their decision regarding construction of a pedestrian bridge.

Dr. Dwayne Lepitzki spoke on behalf of the Buffalo Street Manor condominium association. He spoke to a written submission that has been added to the agenda package for this meeting. Dr. Lepitzki is opposed to the construction of the proposed pedestrian bridge because:

- Area residents have not had time to respond this proposal.
- Alternatives and socio-economic impacts have not been adequately explored and debated.

Dr. Lepitzki requested that council delay their decision regarding construction of a pedestrian bridge.

Council accepted a written submission from Buffalo Street residents Van and Iris Christou. Mr. and Mrs. Christou are opposed to the construction of a pedestrian bridge in their neighbourhood. The letter has been added to the agenda package for this meeting.

Administration provided the following information in response to questions from council:

- Pipe jacking, or installation of a smaller pipe inside the existing pipe, was investigated and is not an option for this location.
- The proposed bridge would be integrated with the existing pedestrian trails on both sides of the river, and on the south side there would be a connection to Spray Avenue.
- The number of pedestrians and cyclists using the bridge – 1600 pedestrians and 100 cyclists per hour – represents the busiest time of year on the existing bridge. When asked the question ‘if there was a pedestrian bridge would you use it’, 76% of respondents said yes.
- When asked the question 76% of this traffic would be diverted to a pedestrian bridge.
- The Town sent individually addressed notifications to adjacent owners and sent a general letter to a broader circle of area residents. Administration is also aware of a third letter being circulated by a party other than the Town. A meeting last week held between administration and area residents was instigated by the residents.
- The environmental assessment of the potential impact of increased pedestrian traffic will be further investigated once there is an approved design. Initial feedback shows the proposed bridge will bring a net environmental benefit to the community.

Administration will undertake the following process if council approves today's recommendation:

- Write a fixed price contract
- Hold a public open house within the next two weeks to get input on the design, particularly on the river banks.
- Initiate the permitting process, including the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) application. The permitting process is expected to take approximately six months and includes a two-week period when the public can forward concerns.

Administration stated that, if the decision to go ahead with a design-build contract is postponed, the project has a good chance of being delayed to 2013. There is a chance the existing pipe may fail if the project is delayed.

Any unanticipated cost increases would require council approval.

COU12-18 Moved by Councillor Taylor to direct administration to pursue the replacement of the sanitary pipes crossing the Bow River with the construction of a new pedestrian bridge and utility crossing in accordance with the design-build proposal supplied by StructureCraft Builders Inc.

CARRIED

3.0 DELEGATIONS

3.1. John Bowden, Banff Lake Louise Winter Marketing Committee – Improving Après-Ski Experience

John Bowden and Stuart Hart spoke on behalf of the Banff Lake Louise Winter Marketing Committee. The committee has come up with three initiatives to encourage winter visitation, and presented one today – the après ski experience.

Mr. Bowden, Program Director for Banff Heritage Tourism, spoke to a written request submitted by the committee. The committee requested that council approve and support the following initiatives related to improving the après-ski experience for Banff visitors: temporary ski racks on downtown sidewalks, outdoor music in the downtown core, and outdoor food and beverage sampling.

COU12-19 Moved by Mayor Sorensen to permit a maximum of six temporary ski racks on downtown sidewalks during the winter season and to direct administration to work with the Winter Marketing Committee on a design that would include a mechanism to lock skis to the rack.

CARRIED
Karlos opposed

COU12-20 Moved by Mayor Sorensen to approve Town operations time to provide installation service for fitting ski racks to existing Town infrastructure/bicycle racks.

CARRIED
Karlos opposed

COU12-21 Moved by Mayor Sorensen to permit small, tasteful, and templated signage on each ski rack that recognizes the supporting business/rental store.

CARRIED
Karlos opposed

COU12-22 Moved by Councillor Olver to allow installation of ski racks on downtown sidewalks as a pilot program for the winter of 2012 only.

COU12-23 Moved by Councillor Taylor to amend motion COU12-22 as follows: to allow installation of ski racks on downtown sidewalks as a pilot program for the winters of ~~2012 only~~ 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

CARRIED
Olver and Karlos opposed

The vote followed on motion COU12-22, now amended: to allow installation of ski racks on downtown sidewalks as a pilot program for the winters of 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

CARRIED
Karlos opposed

Stuart Back, Banff Lake Louise Tourism, was present in the gallery and was invited by the Mayor to speak. Mr. Back said that he will ensure that the opportunity to apply for installation of a ski rack is open to everyone.

COU12-24 Moved by Councillor Karlos to direct administration to add “outdoor music infrastructure and installation” to capital budget requests for 2013 as a cost-sharing opportunity with other contributor and/or organizations. This would allow for the purchase and installation of speakers and wiring on street lights and other necessary infrastructure required to play centrally controlled music on Banff Avenue and Bear Street during the next winter season.

CARRIED

COU12-25 Moved by Councillor Olver to:

1. As a proposed après-ski special event, permit outdoor music during a daily three hour (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.) timeframe. This daily event would occur during winter months (November 1 to April 30).
2. Permit an après-ski special event as a pilot program that would allow any business, whether or not the business holds a sidewalk seating permit, to play the same music from the same source outdoors during the 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. pilot period from February 1 to April 30, 2012.
3. To direct administration to select a single source, such as a satellite radio station, for any interested businesses to use for outdoor music during the 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. pilot period from February 1 to April 30, 2012.
4. To direct administration to work with the Winter Marketing Committee to collect data from visitors, residents and businesses to measure support for outdoor music.

DEFEATED
Olver and Sorensen in favour

The next item up for council consideration was outdoor food and beverage sampling. Both Councillor Karlos and Councillor Canning declared a pecuniary interest as they each own a food and beverage business which may be effected by this decision. They left the meeting at 4:09 p.m. and returned at 4:15 p.m.

- COU12-26 Moved by Mayor Sorensen to allow for heaters to facilitate outdoor sidewalk seating during the winter (November 1 to April 30).
DEFEATED
Sorensen and Karlos in favour
- COU12-27 Moved by Councillor Karlos to direct administration to research the possibility of allowing outdoor fire pits in the downtown core.
CARRIED
Olver opposed
- COU12-28 Moved by Councillor Karlos to direct administration to investigate the feasibility and location of a toboggan run for the winter of 2013.
CARRIED
- 4.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES**
- 4.1. Minutes of the January 9, 2012 Regular Meeting of Council**
- COU12-29 Moved by Councillor Baxter to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 regular meeting of council as presented.
CARRIED
- 6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 6.1. Community Art Committee Appointment**
- COU12-30 Moved by Councillor Taylor to appoint Sonja Purcell to the Community Art Committee for a term ending at the 2014 annual organizational meeting.
CARRIED
- 6.2. Minutes of the December 9, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Banff Housing Corporation**
Accepted as information.
- 7.0 INQUIRIES**
There were no inquiries.
- 8.0 STAFF REPORTS/BYLAWS**
- 8.2. Briefing: Closing Doors in Winter**
- COU12-31 Moved by Councillor Taylor to direct administration to propose an amendment to the Community Standards Bylaw, prior to September 2012, that would require business doors not to be left or propped open in the winter when outside temperatures fall below certain levels.
CARRIED
Karlos opposed
- 8.3. Request for Decision: 2012 Finance Committee Schedule**
- COU12-32 Moved by Councillor Karlos to adopt the 2012 Finance Committee schedule as presented.
CARRIED

8.1. Request for Decision: 2011 Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission Requisition

COU12-33 Moved by Councillor Taylor to approve the payment of two requisitions from the Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission: \$38,000 in operating funding and \$45,000 in capital funding, with the amounts to be paid from the 2011 budget.

CARRIED
Baxter opposed

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

11.0 INQUIRIES

There were no inquiries.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

COU12-34 Moved by Councillor Karlos to adjourn at 4:49 p.m.

CARRIED

Karen Sorensen
Mayor

Cheryl Hyde
Municipal Clerk