

Meeting Summary: Arm of Springfield Committee of the Whole Meeting - March 11, 2025

Attendees: Mayor Patrick Terrain, CEO Colleen Draper, Deputy Mayor Glen Fuel, Councillor Mark Miller, Councillor Melinda Warren, Councillor Cousinsky, and Councillor Smellery. Dr. Daniel Page was also present as a member of the public.

Agenda & Minutes:

The meeting began with housekeeping and introductions. An addition to the agenda regarding the King Charles III medal recipients was approved. The approval of the minutes from February 11, 2025, sparked a significant discussion. Dr. Page had contacted Councillor Miller expressing concern that the minutes inaccurately reflected his delegation. Councillor Miller and Councillor Cousinsky supported Dr. Page's concerns, highlighting the importance of accurate record-keeping. Councillor Smellery raised similar concerns regarding misrepresentation of delegations in minutes. The CAO (Colleen Draper) explained that municipal minutes are not legal documents and should focus on council decisions, not verbatim transcripts. After further discussion, the minutes were approved with a vote of 3-2.

King Charles III Medals:

Mayor Terrain reported on the successful King Charles III medal ceremony held on March 4th, listing the recipients: Gary Walker, Mayor Terrain himself, Emily Rancher, and another individual whose name was partially inaudible. Councillor Miller congratulated the recipients but raised concerns about the apparent bias towards political figures in the selection process, noting many deserving community volunteers receive no recognition.

Unsightly Bylaw:

A new draft unsightly bylaw, prepared by Constable Zillman (absent from the meeting), was presented.

Councillor Smellery questioned the inclusion of rubbish within the bylaw, given suggestions for separate bylaws regarding vehicles and unlawful dumping. The CAO explained the intention to amend the existing bylaw initially, then develop separate bylaws later. Councillor Miller raised concerns about the interpretation of "regular outdoor burning" in the bylaw, particularly concerning smudging practices for horses and the potential for misinterpretations in legal proceedings. There was discussion regarding clarifying the definition and whether garbage burning is permitted. The CAO noted that garbage burning is generally not permitted and will seek further clarification from the fire chief.

June District Resolutions:

A reminder was given regarding the June 1st deadline for submitting resolutions to the June district meetings.

In-Camera Session:

The meeting went into a closed in-camera session.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Action Points/Conclusions:

- * Review and potentially revise the process for recording minutes to ensure accuracy and avoid misrepresentation of delegations. Further investigation into the best practices of other municipalities is needed.
- * Clarify the definition of "regular outdoor burning" in the unsightly bylaw, potentially separating this from other burning regulations. Seek clarification on the legality of residential garbage burning.
- * Submit resolutions to the June District Meetings by June 1st.