

## Rich should pay

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Brooks Bulletin

The Brooks Champion's Centre has cleared another hurdle on its way to becoming a reality. On Monday, the majority of city councillors approved the development application for a men's shelter at 416-3rd Street West. Councillor Kimberley Sharkey voted against the motion to approve the development application.

The approval came with 10 conditions.

Councillor Rolf Bander, who has been critical of the plan, suggested amendments to the conditions. "We put together a pretty strict list of conditions," he said.

The city had originally suggested to start with eight men in the centre for six months and then build it to 12.

Bander wanted to see the centre start with the maximum number of 12.

Another change is to provide the city each year with the names and contact information of each person on the local advisory board of directors.

The final change is that the manager of the centre or another trained staff member should be accessible to the centre at all times.

The Community Development Services Committee had made the recommendations of the conditions to council.

The other conditions are:

- All tenants must have a police record check and child abuse registry check.
- A resident of the Centre who is convicted of a criminal act or narcotic offense shall be evicted.
- Tenants must be screened for their suitability for the centre
- The manager of the Medicine Hat Champion Centre help set up the Brooks facility.
- The facility is a permanent residence not a drop-in centre

With the development permit now passed, the Champion's Centre will have wait for approval of the building permit. When that is completed they will hire a manager and start contracting to get the renovations completed.

Joel Goodnough, a member of the local advisory board, said the board anticipates that the centre will be open by the end of the summer.