

**Minutes**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
Monday, March 9, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers.

In attendance were: Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Andrew Hartnell, Larry Armstrong, Pat White, Brent Helgeson and Martin Kreger. Also in attendance was Inspector Nathan Schmidt of the OPP.

Absent was Councillor Neil Ivall.

The minutes were recorded by Chief Administrative Officer Veldron Vogan.

**Opening Ceremonies, Moment of Silence and Salute to the Queen**

Mayor Deborah Ewald opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a salute to the Queen.

**Additions, Deletions or Amendments**

**Motion #20-019** - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

**Carried**

**Disclosure of Interest**

Councillor Kreger noted a disclosure conflict with regard to the accounts payable – the necessary paperwork was completed.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Council February 10, 2020

**Motion #20-020** - Pat White – Brent Helgeson

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 10, 2020 as presented.”

**Carried**

**Financials (as of February 29, 2020)**

A few questions were asked about the After School Program.

It was noted that a block heater needed to be installed in the Kia as it didn't come with one.

Fire extinguishers were inspected in the town buildings.

The HST breakout was explained.

**Motion #20-021 - Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong**

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of February 2020 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$707,154.96
Water	\$ 33,280.02
Sewer	\$ 8,192.61
Cemetery	\$ 28.94
RRHCC	\$ 1,177.67

**Carried**

**Presentations/Delegations – Inspector Schmidt, OPP Annual Report**

Inspector Schmidt provided an overview of the OPP activities in the town and within the district. It was noted that the staff complement is close to full – which is better than in previous years. There was also some discussion regarding community police boards and how this will be in effect with the new legislation being developed by the province. It was noted that the Emo detachment would be closing – leaving Fort Frances, Rainy River and Atikokan.

There was some discussion about how the OPP works with the First Nations Treaty 3 police.

Inspector Schmidt answered council's questions regarding some of the incidences which had taken place and some other measures being implemented (especially in the area of mental health). It was noted that a mental health coordinator had been hired and should be able to assist the officers in the performance of their duties and in dealing with residents who have mental health issues and sexual assault victims.

Inspector Schmidt left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. He was thanked for his attendance and he will provide council with more information on the Safe Communities' changes to the Policing Act.

**Reports from Unfinished Business**

The Celerity Agreement has been sent out but there has been no response.

Pat Giles, the clerk for Dawson and Lake of the Woods, had been forwarded the town's response regarding the EDO agreement but there has been no response from him as of yet.

**New Business – Committee Reports (as needed)**

Property/By-laws/AMBIS – Councillors Pat White (Chair), Andrew Hartnell and Brent Helgeson

NWHU Charitable Rebate of Property Taxes

**Motion #20-022** -Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the 2019 Charitable Rebate of Property Taxes application as submitted by the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) in the municipal amount of \$540.57 and the educational amount of \$141.54.”

**Carried**

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald

NOMA Annual General Meeting and Conference

**Motion #20-023** -Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“That Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Brent Helgeson attend the NOMA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Fort Frances on April 29 – May 1, 2020 with expenses paid as per policy.”

**Carried**

Municipal Council Resolution to Save Local Health Care Services

**Resolution #20-005** - Larry Armstrong – Andrew Hartnell

“**WHEREAS** public health care consistently ranks as the top priority in public opinion polls, and;

**WHEREAS** Public Health provides vital health promotion and prevention services based on the unique demographic and economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities, and;

**WHEREAS** the evidence from hospital amalgamation in Ontario and across Canada is that they have cost billions of dollars and have not yielded the promised administrative savings but have taken money away from frontline care, and;

**WHEREAS** there is no evidence to support the proposed closure of 25 out of 35 local Public Health Units, the closure of 12 of 22 local ambulance dispatch centres, and the closure of 49 out of 59 local ambulance services, and;

**WHEREAS** there is a deep consensus among virtually all stakeholders that increasing acuity in our long-term care homes requires additional staff and resources, not cancellation of the two special funds and real dollar cuts to per diem funding of our long-term care homes, and;

**WHEREAS** our local hospitals have been downsized for an entire generation and cannot meet population needs while sustaining real dollar cuts to hospital global budgets.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Council of the Town of Rainy River calls upon the Ontario government to halt the closures of, mergers of, and cuts to our local health care services including Public Health Units, land ambulance services, hospitals and long-term care homes.”

**Carried**

**In Camera Session – Personnel**

**Verbal Motion #20-023A** – Larry Armstrong – Andrew Hartnell

“To move in camera to discuss personnel matters at 7:05 p.m.”

**Carried**

**Verbal Motion #20-023B** – Larry Armstrong – Andrew Hartnell

“To return to regular session 7:16 p.m.”

**Carried**

**Confirming By-law**

By-law 1738-20 – to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1738-20 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #20-023C** – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1738-20 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #20-024** -Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That By-law 1738-20, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 14, 2020 (as Monday is Easter)**

**Adjournment**

**Motion #20-025 - Pat White – Brent Helgeson**

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:22 p.m.”

**Carried**

Original Signed  
Mayor

Original Signed  
Chief Administrative Officer