

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

In attendance were Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Martin Kreger, Daniel Armstrong, Joel Hagarty, and Brent Helgeson.

Giving regrets was Councillor Neil Ivall for reasons of employment.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Julie Tiboni recorded the minutes.

Opening Ceremonies, Moment of Silence, and Salute to the King

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

Additions, Deletions or Amendments

Motion #23-105 - Martin Kreger – Gordon Prost

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Prost disclosed a conflict regarding the Library Board, and Councillor Brent Helgeson disclosed a conflict regarding the Fire Department and Recreation Board; and the necessary paperwork was completed for both.

Presentations/Delegations

There were no delegates in attendance.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council October 10, 2023

Motion #23-106 - Martin Kreger – Gordon Prost

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 10, 2023, as presented.”

Carried

Special Council October 24, 2023

Motion #23-107 - Gordon Prost – Martin Kreger

“To approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of October 24, 2023, as presented.”

Carried

Financials (as of October 31, 2023)

Motion #23-108 - Gordon Prost – Martin Kreger

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of October 2023 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$172,036.75
Water	\$ 17,261.10
Sewer	\$ 35,762.90
RRHCC	\$ 424.27

Carried

Reports from Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business arising at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

Property/By-laws/AMBIS – Councillors Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost, and Joel Hagarty

Councillor Prost suggested that the overgrown park shrubs be ripped out and new plantings done next year for the big town festival. He will arrange to have this done.

By-law 1858-23 – Property Deeming – Dave Armstrong

The reading of By-law 1858-23 was given by Councillor Gordon Prost.

Motion #23-109 - Martin Kreger – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1858-23, being a by-law to deem certain lands not to be within a registered plan of subdivision, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Other Business

McKellar – Amendment to the Legislation Act Resolution

Resolution #23-021 - Gordon Prost – Martin Kreger

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of McKellar in requesting that the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations.”

Carried

The Archipelago – Cigarette Producer Responsibility Resolution

Resolution #23-022 - Brent Helgeson – Daniel Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of The Archipelago Resolution Number 23-178 regarding cigarette producer responsibilities.”

Carried

Stouffville – Illegal Land Use Enforcement Resolution

Resolution #23-023 - Daniel Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in their resolution regarding illegal land use enforcement.”

Carried

NOMA – NOSM Funding Increase Resolution

Resolution #23-024 - Brent Helgeson – Joel Hagarty

“**WHEREAS** that The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River recognized the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians;

AND WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and that mental health and addictions are at a 4X higher rate;

AND WHEREAS one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor and many must travel long distances to access health-care services representing the failure of health care in Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities;

AND WHEREAS NOSM University’s current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT with the announcement of unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University’s medical programs, The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River strongly request that the Provincial government grant NOSM University’s request for a permanent increase in annual base funding of \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that was originally established by the Conservative Government in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario.”

Carried

Holiday Hours, Staff Appreciation & Christmas Donations

Holiday Staff Appreciation

Motion #23-110 - Daniel Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will hereby issue a \$100 gift certificate to each permanent employee of the Town of Rainy River, and a \$50 gift certificate to the four independent contractors, as a Christmas gift.”

Carried

Christmas Donations

Motion #23-111 - Brent Helgeson – Daniel Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the Rainy River Public Library Board for their holiday celebrations.”

Carried

Motion #23-112 - Joel Hagarty – Brent Helgeson

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the West Rainy River District Fire Department for their holiday celebrations.”

Carried

Motion #23-113 - Martin Kreger – Brent Helgeson

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the Rainy River Recreation Board for their holiday celebrations.”

Carried

Holiday Hours

Motion #23-114 - Martin Kreger – Joel Hagarty

“That municipal services will be reduced to a half day on December 22, 2023, and December 29, 2023.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1859-23 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The reading of By-law 1859-23 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

Motion #23-115 - Martin Kreger – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1859-23, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 14th day of November 2023, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, December 11, 2023

Adjournment

Motion #23-116 - Brent Helgeson

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:05 p.m.”

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer