

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers.

In attendance were: Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Larry Armstrong, Susan Carpenter, Pat White, Ashley Stamler and Gord Armstrong.

The minutes were recorded by CAO Veldron Vogan.

Opening of Meeting

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

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Add OCWA Delegation
 Refugees from the United States
 AMBIS (Property)
 Tax Bill Minimum (Finance)

Motion #17-010 - Pat White – Gordon Prost

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

Delegations

Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) – Jeff St. Pierre, Johanna Kirkbride and Jackie Muller

The OCWA representatives thanked council for making time for their presentation. Their purpose in attending this meeting was to provide a quick overview of what OCWA does and how they have changed over the last few years. As always their main focus is operations and maintenance. They have the ability to provide consultation and emergency services to a community including emergency water treatment facilities if required. These emergency facilities are at various locations within Ontario and can be mobilized depending on the need.

OCWA operates facilities across the province. They work with First Nations to develop mentoring programs and may be interested in some capital work with the community. In this

regard they can help a community repair infrastructure while OCWA is able to gain training for their staff members. A copy of their presentation was left with council for review. With no further business the OCWA representatives left the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Regular Council January 9, 2017

Corrections will be made as indicated.

Motion #17-011 - Gordon Prost – Pat White

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of January 9, 2017 as amended.”

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

It was questioned whether or not the clinic had been notified that the locum fridge needed to be defrosted on a semi-annual basis. It was confirmed that they had been notified.

Family Day information is scheduled to be sent from the Rainy River Recreation Centre to the schools for distribution to the students.

Winter Festival Ideas – Mayor Ewald noted that she hadn't had the opportunity to meet with Val Leininger of the pumpkin festival. A winter festival will most likely not take place this year but maybe next year.

The Rainy River Lions Club was organized in 2016 and is focusing their energies on three main events throughout the year. They are partnering with the Recreation Centre and Best Start Hub for Family Day activities. They will also partner with the Railroad Daze Committee and the walleye tournament organizers.

It was noted that the heating in the north end of the garage had been repaired.

Lighting at the fire hall has been improved by the replacement of some burned out bulbs.

The letter from MP Don Rusnak regarding infrastructure has been received by Gord Armstrong and the information requested will be forwarded to Mr. Rusnak.

No further information has been received from CUPE regarding union negotiations.

Financials

It was noted that a couple of items from the financial statements had been voided after the month end and that a new listing will be prepared reflecting the correct totals. At this point the accounts

motion will be tabled and a new motion brought forward with the corrected amounts at the next council meeting.

Motion #17-012 - Pat White – Ashley Stamler

“That approval be granted for the attached accounts payable for the month of January 2017 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$186,314.30
Water	\$ 18,253.75
Sewer	\$ 1,068.25
Cemetery	\$ 34.69
Cemetery Perpetual	\$
RRHCC	\$ 606.11

TABLED

Correspondence

A list of incoming correspondence for the month of January 2017 was reviewed. It was noted that these letters were available at the town office if Council was interested in further information.

Committees

Finance/Personnel – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Pat White (Chair), Larry Armstrong and Susan Carpenter

By-law 1649-17 – Interim Tax Levy

The first reading of By-law 1649-17 was given by Mayor Ewald.

Verbal Motion #17-012 A – Larry Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1649-17 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #17-013 - Gordon Prost – Pat White

“That By-law 1649-17, to provide for an interim tax levy and to provide for the payment of taxes and to provide for penalty and interest, having been read the required number of times be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1650-17 – Infrastructure Ontario Loan

The first reading of By-law 1650-17 was given by Councillors Pat White, Ashley Stamler, Larry Armstrong, Gord Armstrong and Susan Carpenter.

Verbal Motion #17-013 A – Gord Armstrong – Ashley Stamler

“That By-law 1650-17 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #17-014 - Gordon Prost – Ashley Stamler

“That By-law 1650-17, to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$330,000.00 towards the cost of the Fourth Street water line project, having been read the required number of times be hereby approved.”

Carried

Tax Bill Minimum

Councillor Prost reminded council that discussion had previously taken place to determine what a minimum tax bill is i.e. policing costs are \$200/property and the DSSAB and Health Unit levies are based on assessments. We need to figure out how these are allocated. Is \$200 really indicative of a minimum bill cost? This issue will be referred to the finance committee for further consideration.

Health and Safety – Councillors Larry Armstrong and Susan Carpenter

The AED concerns have been addressed.

Mayor Ewald had submitted a monthly checklist from the Health Unit as an example for the town’s health and safety items.

Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Larry Armstrong (Chair), Gordon Prost and Ashley Stamler

A committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th at 12:30 p.m.

Property/By-laws/AMBIS – Councillors Gordon Prost (Chair), Susan Carpenter and Pat White

AMBIS Contract

Chair Prost provided an overview of the AMBIS contract negotiations. The current contract expires in June at an amount just under \$100,000. The Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services is proposing a new contract starting at approximately \$100,000 for the first year with a 4% increase each year over a five year period. A debate has taken place with the

municipal partners about whether to hire a new employee or to sign a new agreement with advisory services. No background information has been provided about the basis for these cost increases. A meeting is scheduled for Feb. 28th at 10 a.m. in Chapple to discuss this issue further.

By-law 1651-17 – Stan and Carol Wolanicki’s Request for Consolidation

The first reading of By-law 1651-17 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

Verbal Motion #17-014 A – Gordon Prost – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1651-17 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #17-015 - Pat White – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1651-17, to deem certain lands not to be within a registered plan of subdivision, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1652-17 – Stan and Carol Wolanicki’s Request for Consolidation

The first reading of By-law 1652-17 was given by Mayor Ewald.

Verbal Motion #17-015 A – Gordon Prost – Gord Armstrong

“That By-law 1652-17 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #17-016 - Gord Armstrong – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1652-17, to deem certain lands not to be within a registered plan of subdivision, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Economic Development/Tourism – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Gord Armstrong, Pat White and Susan Carpenter

Rainy River Future Development Financial Support Request

Motion #17-017 - Susan Carpenter – Pat White

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the payment of per capita funding for 2017-2018 to the Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC) in the amount of \$5,894.00 (which represents a \$7.00 per capita contribution based on a population of 842).”

Carried

Councillor Gord Armstrong had previously discussed with council a trip to Winkler, MB to look at their housing plant. He has discussed this matter with Geoff Gillon of the Rainy River Future Development Corporation. Other members of this organization may be interested in attending this trip and covering any costs.

Beautification/Cemetery/Hannam Park – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Ashley Stamler, Gord Armstrong, Pat White and Larry Armstrong

There was nothing further to report at this time.

Fire Board – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Susan Carpenter

The next fire board meeting is scheduled for April 12th. Council has been presented with a budget for 2017.

Recreation Board/Curling Club – Mayor Deb Ewald with Councillor Susan Carpenter as alternate

The Chair and Vice Chair of the board have resigned, along with another board member. In light of this occurrence the board had an emergency meeting on Wednesday Feb. 8th at which Gary Coleman was appointed as Chair and Kathleen Nault as Vice Chair for the interim until their annual general meeting takes place in April.

The bottle drop door has been replaced and a cleanup of the facility is taking place.

Library Board – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Gordon Prost

The board will be meeting later this week but everything is running well.

Locum House/Medical Centre – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Pat White

The tile flooring in the entry has been fixed in the locum house. A date will be set for a walk through house inspection. Councillors Pat White and Gord Armstrong and CAO Veldron Vogan will perform this task.

The medical centre lease has not been returned to the office yet.

DSSAB – Mayor Deborah Ewald

The DSSAB budget was passed - there is no other pressing business at this time.

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald

The AGM had good attendance and good comments have been received. An executive meeting is scheduled in April.

Communities Relations Liaison – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Gord Armstrong

There was nothing further to report at this time.

REDC – Councillors Gord Armstrong and Gordon Prost

The selection of focus groups is being completed. Once the groups have been finalized a meeting will take place to begin the next phase.

Committee of Adjustment

There was nothing to report at this time.

Other Business

Owen Sound Gas Tax Funding Resolution

Motion #17-018 - Gord Armstrong – Susan Carpenter

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the City of Owen Sound in their resolution to request that the Ministry of Transportation encourages the provincial government to review the gas tax funding formula recognizing that there has been no increase since 2006 and that with the implementation of Cap and Trade January 1, 2017 it is more expensive for municipalities consuming the fuel.”

Carried

Greater Napanee Accommodation Review Process Moratorium Resolution

Motion #17-019 - Gordon Prost – Susan Carpenter

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Greater Napanee in their resolution to request that the Minister of Education initiate an immediate moratorium on the Accommodation Review Process until such time as a review of the impacts on small rural communities can be studied, completed and the results and recommendations be considered.”

Carried

Bancroft Municipal Lotteries Resolution

Motion #17-020 - Susan Carpenter – Ashley Stamler

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Bancroft in their resolution to request that the Province of Ontario strongly consider allowing municipalities in Ontario to hold municipal lotteries for the purpose of generating funds for local infrastructure needs.”

Carried

Fort Frances Railway Right-of-Way’s Property Taxation Resolution

Motion #17-021 - Pat White – Gordon Prost

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Fort Frances in their resolution to call upon the Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario to implement a new system of municipal property taxation for railroad right-of-way properties based on utilizing a per ton-mile concept and that the new tax system when implemented, be reviewed on a regular basis similar to the MPAC four-year assessment cycle.”

Carried

Montague Internet Connectivity in Libraries Resolution

Motion #17-022 - Gord Armstrong – Susan Carpenter

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Montague in their resolution to request that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Southern Ontario Library Service maintains funding for libraries for internet connectivity.”

Carried

Heritage Buildings Bill C-323

Motion #17-023 - Larry Armstrong – Gord Armstrong

“**WHEREAS** Bill C-323 is a tax credit that will seek to limit the destruction of Canada’s heritage buildings, and encourage the rehabilitation of these culturally significant buildings; and

WHEREAS the Bill would also allow owners to write-off spending on heritage restoration at a faster rate than is currently the case; and

WHEREAS this Bill helps owners who are preserving heritage buildings with the cost of delivering this public benefit; and

WHEREAS the pilot program for this policy was very successful in encouraging investment from private individuals and businesses and saw tremendous growth in property values, occupancy rates, and profits for businesses in rehabilitated buildings; and

WHEREAS this Bill will help reconnect Canadians to their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS large rehabilitation projects often create many good paying jobs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby encourages Don Rusnak, MP for Thunder Bay – Rainy River to vote in favour of Private Member’s Bill C-323 as introduced by the Honourable Peter Van Loan, MP.”

Carried

Safe Communities Funding Support

Motion #17-024 - Gord Armstrong – Ashley Stamler

“That the Town Council of the Town of Rainy River hereby authorizes payment of the \$.50 per capita fee as requested by the Safe Communities Rainy River District for 2016/2017, based on a population of 842.”

Carried

New Gold EA Support Letter

Motion #17-025 - Gordon Prost – Gord Armstrong

“That a support letter be issued to The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change in regards to an amendment to Schedule 2 of the Metal Mining effluent Regulation for the New Gold project in Northwestern Ontario.”

Carried

Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Emo Health Centre Resolution

Motion #17-026 - Gord Armstrong – Susan Carpenter

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls in their resolution to petition Riverside Health Care to abide by the principals of the Canada Health Act and the Patients First Policy to reinstate the services lost to the Emo Health Centre; and direct the Riverside Health Care Board of Directors to review the existing service at the Emo Health Centre and implement a more effective service that meets individual and community needs; and that Riverside Health Care engage the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Health Canada to collaborate and appropriately resource an improved health system for the Emo Health Centre catchment area.”

Carried

Support for Expansion of Community Garden

Motion #17-027 - Larry Armstrong – Gord Armstrong

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Community Garden Planning Committee in their plans to expand the community garden by applying for an edible tree grant from Tree Canada in an amount up to \$4,000.”

Carried

Refugees from the United States

Concern has been expressed from communities in the provinces east and west of Ontario regarding refugees that are crossing the border into Canada. Discussion took place about whether Rainy River should have some kind of provisions if this becomes an issue here. A call was made to the local customs and immigration office. It was noted that they have holding facilities at the border crossing as well as a memorandum of understating with the local OPP station to detain individuals if necessary. If refugees do come into the community, people are instructed to call the OPP who will deal with them as necessary.

In Camera Session – Legal Matters

Motion #17-028 - Larry Armstrong – Gord Armstrong

“That Council move into an in camera session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss legal matters”

Carried

Motion #17-029 - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“That Council returns to regular session at 9:24 p.m.”

Carried

Adjournment

Motion #17-030 - Larry Armstrong – Ashley Stamler

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:25 p.m.”

Carried

Original Signed

Deputy Mayor

Original Signed

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer