

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
OF THE VILLAGE OF HAY LAKES IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023
IN THE HAY LAKES VILLAGE RECREATION CENTRE

PRESENT: Mayor Ron These; Deputy Mayor Cliff Heinz; Councillor Paige Berkholtz; and Councillor Levi Blanchard

ABSENT: Councillor Paul Patterson

MUNICIPAL RECORDER: Shannon Yearwood

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES: Rod Griffiths, Krystyn Pukanich

DELEGATES: Peggy Weinzierl, Gitzel & Company presenting Audit 2022

PUBLIC PRESENT: Faye Leicht and Dave Vallee

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor These called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Councillor Blanchard arrived at the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

RES 082-2023: Moved by Councillor Berkholtz to adopt the agenda as amended noting that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 05-2023 – 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw is not required under the *Municipal Government Act*.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS: Peggy Weinzierl of Gitzel & Company presented the findings of the 2022 Audit to all in attendance. The presentation was an exhaustive report highlighting the findings of the Village of Hay Lakes Financial Statements for the year 2022. The Financial Statements will be posted on the Village website as soon as possible. Ms. Weinzierl was very open to any questions brought forward by staff, council members or public present. Once the presentation was completed Council asked to go in camera with only Ms. Weinzierl present.

RES 083-2023: At 8:02 p.m. Mayor Ron These made the motion to go in camera.

CARRIED

Faye Leicht, Dave Vallee, Krystyn Pukanich, Rod Griffiths, and Shannon Yearwood left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

RES 084-2023: At 8:44 p.m. Mayor Ron These moved to come out of the camera and open the meeting to the public.

CARRIED

Resident's Faye Leicht and Dave Vallee along with staff members, Rod Griffiths, Krystyn Pukanich and Shannon Yearwood returned to the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

RES 085-2023: Moved by Councillor Berkholtz to accept the 2022 Audit as presented by Peggy Weinzierl of Gitzel & Company.

CARRIED

Mayor These and CAO Yearwood signed and accepted all the Audit Reports and Financial Statements presented.

Peggy Weinzierl of Gitzel & Company left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

OPERATING BUDGET 2023: Once the Audit presentation had been completed Council moved their attention to the Operating Budget of 2023. This discussion brought forward concerns and ideas from all present. Mr. Vallee discussed with council the importance of balancing the needs and wants of the current residents while not being punitive to them for only having a residential tax base on which to raise revenue. Council agreed with this assessment and through discussion it was acknowledged that the Village would need to raise the mill rate to generate the income required to operate the Village daily. As we are all aware all costs have gone up substantially and this is no different for the Village. After much discussion and debate it was decided by Council that the mill rate would be raised for both residential and commercial properties. A comparison of the surrounding municipalities showed that Hay Lakes had one of the lowest mill rates to date. Council is acutely aware of the effect that this might have for some of the residents but feels that in order for this community to move forward this is a necessary step.

Dave Vallee and Faye Leicht left the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023: Tabled to the Continuation Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023: Tabled to the Continuation Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK REPORT: The Public Works Report was presented by Public Works Manager, Krystyn Pukanich.

RES 086-2023: Moved by Deputy Mayor Heinz that the Public Works report be accepted as Information.

CARRIED

After receiving the public works report a discussion regarding the public works building was brought forward and led by Councillor Berkholtz. It was made very clear that Council was very concerned that public works staff was still using the building to recover tools and store large equipment. Councillor Berkholtz expressed that it was very concerning because if the building is deemed unsafe why are we allowing staff to access it? If something happens to any staff member entering a building that we know to be unsound the legal liability could potentially cripple this Village. It was agreed at this meeting that the CAO and Mayor will look at getting a used seacan delivered to the Ag Grounds at the Multi-Use building (on County Property) to store all Public Works Tools and some of the small equipment. A skid building will be priced out to bring onto the lot behind the Village Office which would provide Public Works Staff with a heated office space and lunch area as sharing the Village office for these functions is quite difficult as the office is already small. The Public Works staff will have access to the office through the back door to use the washroom at any time. The next step will be to provide council with quotes to demolish the present public works building. All these measures together will only be to provide the Village with some time to establish the finances needed to build a new public works building. Council through Councillor Berkholtz wanted to ensure that staff knew they were highly regarded, and that safety was paramount to them.

MANAGER'S REPORT AND RESOLUTION & ACTION LISTS: Tabled to the Continuation Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Tabled

05-2023 TAX RATE BYLAW:

On June 14, 2023, at a Special Meeting of Council, Councillor Patterson moved to have first reading completed on Bylaw 05-2023 – 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw.

RES 087-2023: Moved by Deputy Mayor Heinz that Bylaw 05-2023 – 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw be given second reading as amended.

CARRIED

RES 088-2023: Moved by Mayor These to have Bylaw 04-2023 – 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw be given third and final reading.

CARRIED

Bylaw 05-2023 – 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw in now is full force and effect.

BUSINESS: Tabled

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Tabled

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS: Tabled

INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE: Tabled


ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business of Council, Mayor These declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

A Continuation Meeting of Council will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hay Lakes Recreation Centre to conclude the business tabled from the Agenda of the Regular Meeting.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hay Lakes Recreation Centre.



Mayor These



K. Shannon Yearwood
Chief Administrative Officer