

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers and via video conference (Zoom).

In attendance were Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Brent Helgeson, Larry Armstrong, Gerry Pasloski and Martin Kreger.

Giving regrets were Councillors Neil Ivall (for work) and Pat White (medical reasons).

Chief Administrative Officer Veldron Vogan recorded the minutes.

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

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

Presentations/Delegations

No delegates were in attendance.

Additions, Deletions or Amendments

Add Curling Club Report

Motion #22-097 - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Kreger disclosed a conflict regarding the accounts payable, and the necessary paperwork was completed.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council August 8, 2022

Motion #22-098 - Martin Kreger – Brent Helgeson

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 8, 2022, as presented.”

Carried

Special Council August 18, 2022

Motion #22-099 - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong

“To approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of August 18, 2022, as presented.”

Carried

Financials (as of August 31, 2022)

Motion #22-100 - Larry Armstrong – Gerry Pasloski

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of August 2022 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$967,048.66
Water	\$ 36,562.50
Sewer	\$ 8,612.60
Cemetery	\$ 71.38
RRHCC	\$ 3,648.84

Carried

Reports from Unfinished Business

There were no reports from unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

Finance/Personnel – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Neil Ivall (Finance Chair), Pat White (Personnel Chair), Martin Kreger and Larry Armstrong

AMCTO Zone 9 Fall Meeting and Conference

Motion #22-101 - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Julie Tiboni attend the AMCTO Zone 9 Fall Meeting and Conference in Thunder Bay on September 26-28, 2022, with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

By-law 1827-22 – Connecting Links Contribution Agreement

By-law 1827-22 was read by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

Motion #22-102 - Brent Helgeson – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1827-22, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Connecting Links Program Contribution Agreement with the Minister of Transportation, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1828-22 – Expense Policy

By-law 1828-22 was read by Councillor Martin Kreger.

Motion #22-103 - Brent Helgeson – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1828-22, being a by-law to amend the expense policy for the Town of Rainy River, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Larry Armstrong (Chair), Brent Helgeson and Martin Kreger

Call2Recycle Drop-in Box

Motion #22-104 - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves participation in the Call2Recycle Drop-in Box battery recycling program.”

Carried

Economic Development/Tourism – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Pat White and Neil Ivall

By-law 1829-22 – FedNor ECDO Program

By-law 1829-22 was read by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

Motion #22-105 - Gerry Pasloski – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1829-22, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the FedNor Economic Development Officer Contribution Agreement, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Resolution – Proposed Redistribution of the Electoral Boundaries in Northern Ontario

Changes Made Specific to Thunder Bay-Rainy River

Resolution #22-014 - Martin Kreger – Gerry Pasloski

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River has been represented since 2004 by the MP for Thunder Bay-Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River has a rough length by road of 440km, measured from the intersection of the Harbour Expressway and Fort William Road in Thunder Bay to the Rainy River-Baudette Border Crossing in the Town of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River currently contains 16 municipalities and 10 First Nations;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario has proposed the elimination of the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River and the creation of a Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding;

AND WHEREAS the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding would contain 20 municipalities and 21 First Nations, with a rough length by road of 541km, measured from the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Island Drive in Thunder Bay to the intersection of Shoal Lake Road and Highway 17 near Kenora;

AND WHEREAS this expansion in size and number of communities would dilute the representation of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding would dramatically limit the amount of time it's Member of Parliament could spend in the Town of Rainy River due to the extraordinary scale of the riding and distance between communities, potentially harming the community's access to federal services;

AND WHEREAS the MP for Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding will have to manage the complex and unique urban interests of Thunder Bay with the complex and unique interests of an equally important, but dramatically expanded, rural region composed of smaller communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council urges the Federal Electoral Commission to withdraw its proposal to eliminate the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding and replace it with the Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding;

AND FURTHER THAT the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding be kept geographically similar to its current boundaries within the Rainy River District and the Thunder Bay District, so as to protect the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River's representation and access to federal services.”

Carried

Changes Made Specific to Northern Ontario as a Whole

Resolution #22-015 - Gerry Pasloski – Martin Kreger

WHEREAS, the proposed Electoral Boundary Commission has proposed to remove one electoral district from Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, the proposal to diminish Northern Ontario's voice in Parliament will have a detrimental effect on participatory democracy and regional development as the issues in Northern Ontario are significantly different than the issues facing the urban south;

AND WHEREAS, the Federal Boundary Commission proposal to cut representation in the north is contrary to the 2017 electoral boundary changes for Ontario that recognized the need to add two seats to ensure fair participation for northern residents;

AND WHEREAS, many of the existing ridings in Northern Ontario are already larger than many European countries, a situation that will only be worsened by the addition of massively new regions to service;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed new super ridings will force municipalities to compete for a limited amount of riding funding which will further exacerbate inequities in the north;

AND WHEREAS, Northern Ontario's population per riding is already much higher than many other rural and isolated regions in Canada's north;

AND WHEREAS, any changes to electoral boundaries should be based on the principles of maintaining communities of interest within boundaries that are equitable in terms of population and geography;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council calls on the Electoral Boundary Commission to maintain the electoral representation of Northern Ontario and ensure that any boundary changes are done in a manner that responds to regional and local need.

Carried

Curling Club

A report was made by Mayor Ewald and Councillors Armstrong and Helgeson regarding their meeting with the Curling Club Board. In attendance from the Curling Club Board were Alicia Anderson, Krista Brusven, Dawn Beyak and Missy Jenson. Discussion took place about options for the curling club considering their financial difficulties. Some ideas were suggested on how to re-vamp the curling club. The board will have an annual general meeting at the end of the month and are moving forward with the dinner at the Walleye Tournament.

Confirming By-law

By-law 1830-22 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

By-law 1830-22 was read by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

Motion #22-106 - Martin Kreger – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1830-22, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12th day of September 2022, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Adjournment

Motion #22-107 - Martin Kreger

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:25 p.m.”

Carried

Original Signed
Mayor

Original Signed
Chief Administrative Officer