

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
FOR THE VILLAGE OF HAY LAKES HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

AT THE HAY LAKES RECREATION CENTRE

PRESENT: Mayor Dave Vallee; Deputy Mayor Dawn Pauls; Councillor Megan Patten; Councillor Faye Leicht; and Councillor Ron These

ABSENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Debbie Noel; Jennifer and Kendall Grahm

MUNICIPAL RECORDER: Shannon Yearwood; Sherry Krozser

DELEGATES: Debbie Noel; Jennifer and Kendall Grahm

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Vallee at 7:01 p.m.

RES 096-2021: AGENDA: Moved by Deputy Mayor Pauls to accept the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

Delegations: Ms. Noel was asked to speak by Mayor Vallee regarding her appeal of the minimum tax rate increase. Mayor Vallee then invited the Grahm's to speak regarding the same issue. It was also noted that a third resident of the Village, Calvin Hill, had appealed his minimum tax rate increase.

CAO Yearwood was then asked to explain. In 2019 the Council had made a motion to charge a minimum tax rate on all vacant commercial lots in the Village. This was done to encourage the owners of this property to develop the lots. In 2019 the Tax Rate Bylaw was presented to Council but the wording of the bylaw regarding the minimum tax rate was wrong. To be clear Administration, reiterated that this was an administration mistake. The wording was: AND WHEREAS the Council of Hay Lakes has established a minimum tax levy of \$750.00 on any property within the Village of Hay Lakes.

This same wording appeared on the 2020 and the 2021 Tax Rate Bylaws. This was not the intention nor in the spirit of the 2019 resolution.

CAO Yearwood discussed this issue in detail with Municipal Affairs advisors and learned that the resolution from 2019 would not withstand moving into the 2020 and 2021 Tax seasons as each year a new Tax Rate Bylaw must be passed. To proceed Council could follow one of two paths to rectify this issue: the tax assessments and notices could be recalled. We would need to give extra time for people to pay the taxes and inform the Minister of Municipal Affairs; or council could pass a resolution to forgive the minimum tax rate levy on any property charged and discuss the issue with Council moving into the 2022 tax year. This issue effects 43 properties in the Village this year.

Administration recommended that Council make a resolution to forgive the minimum Tax Rate Levy from all properties charged this year. This seemed to be the fairest and most straight forward route moving forward to the residents of the Village. Moving forward this year, if the tax has been paid by any ratepayer the Village will issue a credit to the 2022 tax rate notice

RES 097-2021: Deputy Mayor Pauls moved that the minimum tax rate levy be removed for all properties that were charged this levy for the tax year 2021.

CARRIED

Mayor Vallee thanked all those that attended, and Debbie Noel, Jennifer and Kendall Grahn left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes:

Adoption of the June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes of Council.

RES 098-2021: Councillor Patten moved to adopt the Minutes of the June 21, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council as amended.

CARRIED

Adoption of the June 23, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes of Council.

RES 099-2021: Councillor These moved that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2021, be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

Public Works Report: Administration presents the Public Works Report. Cutting the green space between the drainage ditch and the lane facing the property on the southside of the Village was discussed. A resident had raised a concern for the migratory birds nesting in the area. This was discussed and although the green area will be mowed throughout the summer the habitat at the edge of the ditch will not be disturbed.

RES 100-2021: Deputy Mayor Pauls moved to have the Public Works Report accepted as information.

CARRIED

Administration Report:

Administration presents the CAO Report for consideration by Council.

RES 101-2021: Moved by Councillor These that the CAO report be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Financial Report: The Financial Reports were presented and because council had table the Financial Report from the last Regular Meeting these reports cover the period April through July.

RES 102-2021: Moved by Deputy Mayor Pauls to accept the Budgetary Control for January 1 to July 14, 2021; the General Ledger to date; Invoice Posting Audit Trail for the periods ending May 31, 2021, and June 30; the Invoice Posting Audit Trail for the period ending mid-July; the GL Posting Audit Trail for the periods ended June 30 and the period ended July 7, 2021; May-June MasterCard Statement.

CARRIED

Bylaws/Policies:

Administration was asked to put the Utility Bylaw on the next agenda and to obtain the cost of water in other municipalities.

- LUB – Review Part 6 & 7 – Tabled
- Development Authority Discretion – Tabled
- Telegraph Park – Prohibiting disposal of Human Ashes – Tabled
- Drug & Alcohol Policy – This policy was discussed in full and Mayor Vallee expressed his concern that by not having such a policy in place the Village could become liable for any damage or destruction caused by an employee or a contractor under the influence of a drug or alcohol. Administration will provide the policy to each staff member and once they read, understand and sign the policy the copy will be placed in the employees personnel file. If a contractor is hired to complete work on behalf of the Village the policy will be presented to the contractor also.

RES 103-2021: Moved by Mayor Vallee that the Village of Hay Lakes Drug and Alcohol Policy be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Mayor Vallee called for a break at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Vallee called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

Business:

- COVID-19: Councillor Patten updated Council.
- Lagoon Wrap-Up: Council was very happy with the conclusion of this project and with the drone footage taken by Public Works Foreman, Aaron Benoit.
- Local Food Week Proclamation:

RES 104-2021: Moved by Council Leicht to proclaim August 8 – 15, 2021 Local Food Week and have Mayor Vallee sign the proclamation.

CARRIED

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- Pigeon Racing: Councillor Patten confirmed that she messaged the organizer of the complaints received. She informed them also that around 3 of the pigeons were still in the area. She has not had a response that is clear, but it is noted that this group has not visited the village in several weeks now.
 - All business was discussed in full.

Committee Reports:

- Infrastructure: Lagoon Project completed.
- Protective Services: Councillor Patten reported that there is nothing of significance to report.
- Fire Department Report: Sherry Krozser reported that for the most part the fire calls have been quiet. During the extreme heat they did receive 4 calls back-to-back on a Sunday.
- Development: Labyrinth Contracting is completing the clean up at the property east of town.
- Mayor Vallee asked administration to write to the Rec Committee asking about having the Rec allow for a committee to be formed under the Recreation Committee to begin moving forward with a playground on Main Street on old UFA Property. Administration to follow up with UFA asking for the donation of \$50,000 towards the playground so that the new committee can start to look for matching grants. Administration to also request Clarence

Hastings attend and speak to the new committee regarding the steps required to build a successful playground. Councillor Leicht also reminded Administration that Lucy Ernst is a great resource to access grants.

- HARRB: Nothing to report
- Ag Society: Planning for a ball tournament weekend and providing a Sunday Breakfast as a fund raiser.
- Library: The library has reopened with some limitations.
- Telegraph Park: Next meeting moved to Wednesday, July 21 at the Rec Centre.
- Recreation Centre: waiting on CFEP Grant to proceed with renovation.
- School Council: Nothing to report.
- Rural Crime Watch: No meeting scheduled at this time but Councillor These will contact.
- CRSWSC – Water Commission: next meeting on Thursday, September 16th.

RES 105-2021: Moved by Councillor Patten to accept the Committee Reports as presented.

CARRIED

Information and Correspondence:

RES-106-2021: Moved by Councillor These to have the Information and Correspondence accepted as information.

Sherry Krozser informed Council that she is attending a two-day workshop for ASIST Training and a 2-day workshop for Mental Health First Aid in the last week in July. These two courses will go towards her Rural Mental Health Certification.

Other Business:

Council acknowledged the new owners of Hay Lakes Super Mart and Liquor Store, Henry and Amy. The residents of Hay Lakes will surely welcome them and appreciate the contributions they will be making to the Community.

Administration also reported to council that communications with the owner of the 3 corner lots on Main Street has been made. The owner offered to talk to the Village regarding the purchase of the lots from him. Mayor Vallee expressed interest in going forward and keeping the lines of communication open with the owner.

Next Meeting of Council:

The next Regular Meeting of Council will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021 in person at the Rec Centre. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Before the meeting adjourned the meeting Deputy Mayor Pauls informed Council that because she sold her home in town and is no longer living in the Village she is stepping off council and will not be attending the last two meetings. She thanked all for their dedication to the Village and for the support and trust she received from her fellow councillors. Each member of Council and Administration thank Deputy Mayor Pauls for her service to the community and her sense of dignity and diligence to her position on Council over the past years.

Adjournment:

The being no further business to discuss Mayor Vallee adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.



Mayor Dave Vallee



K. Shannon Yearwood
Chief Administrative Officer