

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

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

Giving regrets was Councillor Neil Ivall due to employment reasons.

Chief Administrative Officer Veldron Vogan 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

Add Motion #24-38A – OPP Board

Motion #24-031 - Gordon Prost – Joel Hagarty

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

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

Presentations/Delegations

No delegates were in attendance.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council February 12, 2024

Motion #24-032 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 12, 2024, as presented.”

Carried

Financials (as of February 29, 2024)

Motion #24-033 - Gordon Prost – Joel Hagarty

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of February 2024 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$224,442.31
Water	\$ 21,893.09
Sewer	\$ 1,536.26
Cemetery	\$ 36.19
RRHCC	\$ 778.10

Carried

Reports from Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business arising at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost, Neil Ivall and Joel Hagarty

Drainage – Second and Third Streets

Motion #24-034 - Joel Hagarty – Gordon Prost

“That the engineering fees to improve the drainage on Second Street and Third Street be paid to JML Engineering at a cost of \$21,800 plus HST.”

Carried

Mortuary Repairs

Motion #24-035 - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong

“That Greg Lundgren be hired to complete repairs to the cemetery mortuary building at a cost of \$10,941.99 including HST.”

Carried

WTP Intake Maintenance

Motion #24-036 - Martin Kreger – Gordon Prost

“That approval be granted to have certified divers from Big Lake Dive & Marine inspect and clean the freshwater intake for the water treatment plant at a cost of \$9,850.00 plus HST.”

Carried

Economic Development/Tourism – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Daniel Armstrong, Neil Ivall and Joel Hagarty

NOHFC Grant Application

Motion #24-037 - Gordon Prost – Joel Hagarty

“**WHEREAS** an application for funding has been submitted to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for the 2024 Railroad Daze Celebrations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports this funding application and hereby agrees to cover any cost overruns that may be incurred for the 2024 Railroad Daze Celebrations.”

Carried

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Councillor Martin Kreger

2024 NOMA Conference and AGM

Motion #24-038 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That Mayor Deb Ewald, Councillor Brent Helgeson and CAO Veldron Vogan attend the 2024 NOMA Conference and AGM on April 24-26, 2024, in Thunder Bay, with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

International Student Program Resolution

Resolution #24-004 - Martin Kreger – Joel Hagarty

“**WHEREAS** The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River recognizes the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recent announcement regarding major reforms to the International Student Program will likely have significant impacts to our economy, local communities, our labour market, and regional diversity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River endorses the appeals of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Confederation College, and

Lakehead University and NOMA regarding the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reforms to the International Student Program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River requests that the IRCC reconsider the current approach to the cap on international student permits and participate in open dialogue with NOMA, Lakehead University, Confederation College, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, and other key stakeholders to explore solutions that recognize the unique challenges faced by institutions in northern regions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Marc Miller, MP Patty Hajdu - Thunder Bay - Superior North, MP Marcus Powlowski – Thunder Bay - Rainy River, MP Eric Melillo – Kenora, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPP Greg Rickford Kenora – Rainy River, MPP Kevin Holland – Thunder Bay - Atikokan, MPP Lise Vaugeois - Thunder Bay -Superior North, Lakehead University, Confederation College, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario, and all Clerks and CAO’s of NOMA.”

Carried

Other Business

Lincoln Libraries and Museum Funding Resolution

Resolution #24-005 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Lincoln in urging the Provincial Government to support increased funding to both public libraries and community museums; and recognizing these institutions, as national assets, and strategically investing in their potential to contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being, and community resilience.”

Carried

Wawa Fire Apparatus and Equipment Resolution

Resolution #24-006 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Municipality of Wawa in requesting that the province enter into discussions regarding the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and to request the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities.”

Carried

Petrolia OGRA & ROMA Annual Conference Resolution

Resolution #24-007 - Martin Kreger – Joel Hagarty

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Petrolia in calling upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.”

Carried

NEMI Funding for Water and Wastewater Systems Resolution

Resolution #24-008 - Martin Kreger – Daniel Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) in making the provincial and federal levels of government aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and

THAT the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) examine the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs provincially and nationally; and

THAT the province of Ontario implements a funding stream for water and wastewater systems that primarily utilizes operational and financial need as a criterion.”

Carried

Motion #24-038A – Martin Kreger – Joel Hagarty

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the nomination of Mr. Lewis Kempf, Councillor for the Township of Dawson, as the representative for the municipalities of Chapple, Morley, Dawson, Lake of the Woods and Rainy River on the Joint Rainy River District OPP Detachment Board.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1876-24 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The reading of By-law 1876-24 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

Motion #24-039 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1876-24, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 11th day of March 2024, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, April 8, 2024

Adjournment

Motion #24-040 - Joel Hagarty

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:16 p.m.”

Carried

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer