

**Minutes**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
Monday, December 13, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference (Zoom).

In attendance were Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Larry Armstrong, Pat White, Brent Helgeson, Neil Ivall and Gerry Pasloski. Councillor Martin Kreger arrived later in the meeting.

The minutes were recorded by Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Julie Tiboni.

**Opening Ceremonies, Moment of Silence and Salute to the Queen**

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

**Additions, Deletions or Amendments**

Amendments were made to correct motion numbers and the dates need to be changed on By-law 1784-21.

**Motion #21-127** - Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

**Carried**

**Disclosure of Interest**

Disclosures of interest were declared as follows and the necessary paperwork was completed:

Neil Ivall with the financial reports (Motion #21-130), Motion #21-131 (Deputy Mayor) and Motion #21-146 (Fire Department)

Deb Ewald with motion #21-141 regarding By-law 1790-21

Martin Kreger with Motion #21-147 (Recreation Board)

Brent Helgeson with Motion #21-146 (Fire Department)

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Council November 8, 2021

**Motion #21-128** - Gerry Pasloski – Pat White

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 8, 2021 as presented.”

**Carried**

Special Council November 30, 2021

**Motion #21-129** - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall

“To approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of November 30, 2021 as presented.”

**Carried**

**Financials (as of November 30, 2021)**

**Motion #21-130** - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of November 2021 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$719,567.00
Water	\$ 21,507.08
Sewer	\$ 19,671.08
RRHCC	\$ 568.36

**Carried**

**Presentations/Delegations**

No delegations were in attendance.

**Reports from Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)**

**Deputy Mayor/Signing Authority**

The first reading of By-law 1784-21 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #21-130A** – Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1784-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

By-law 1784-21 – Appointment of Deputy Mayor

**Motion #21-131** - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1784-21, being a by-law to appoint a Deputy Mayor for the Town of Rainy River, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Change of Signing Authority

**Motion #21-132** - Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“That former Deputy Mayor Martin Kreger be removed as a signing officer for the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-133** - Gerry Pasloski – Pat White

“That Deputy Mayor Neil Ivall be added as a signing officer for the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River.”

**Carried**

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

By-law 1785-21 – CAO Contract Renewal

The first reading of By-law 1785-21 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

**Verbal Motion #21-133A** – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1785-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-134** - Brent Helgeson – Neil Ivall

“That By-law 1785-21, being a by-law to renew the appointment of Veldron Vogan as Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Rainy River, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

By-law 1786-21 – Foreman/Overall Responsible Operator (Water Treatment)

The first reading of By-law 1786-21 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

**Verbal Motion #21-134A** – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1786-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-135** - Brent Helgeson – Neil Ivall

“That By-law 1786-21, being a by-law to appoint the Public Works Foreman, Weed Control Inspector, and Overall Responsible Operator for the Town of Rainy River, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Grand Council Treaty#3 - Chiefs & Mayors Roundtable

**Motion #21-136** - Pat White – Gerry Pasloski

“That Mayor Ewald attend the Grand Council Treaty#3 - Chiefs & Mayors Roundtable meeting on December 14, 2021 at the Yellowbird Lodge in Sioux Narrows with expenses paid as per policy.”

**Carried**

By-law 1787-21 – Amend the Tax Rate By-law

The first reading of By-law 1787-21 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #21-136A** – Neil Ivall – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1787-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-137** - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1787-21, being a by-law to amend the tax rates By-law 1778-21, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

POA 2022 Budget Approval

**Motion #21-138** - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the 2022 Provincial Offences budget.”

**Carried**

**Property/By-laws/AMBIS – Councillors Pat White, Neil Ivall and Brent Helgeson**

By-law 1788-21 – Municipal Planning Services Contract for 2022

The first reading of By-law 1788-21 was given by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

**Verbal Motion #21-138A – Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson**

“That By-law 1788-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-139 - Gerry Pasloski – Pat White**

“That By-law 1788-21, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Municipal Planning Services Contract with Robert Miller of Heritage and Land Use Planning Services, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

By-law 1789-21 – Miscellaneous User Fees By-law Amendments

The first reading of By-law 1789-21 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

**Verbal Motion #21-139A – Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong**

“That By-law 1789-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-140 - Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski**

“That By-law 1789-21, being a by-law to amend the miscellaneous user fee by-law, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

By-law 1790-21 – Disposition/Sale of Municipal Property

The first reading of By-law 1790-21 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

**Verbal Motion #21-140A** – Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That By-law 1790-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-141** - Larry Armstrong – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1790-21, being a by-law to authorize the sale/disposition of a municipal property, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

By-law 1791-21 – Amendment to Community Improvement Plan

The first reading of By-law 1791-21 was given by Councillor Gerry Pasloski.

**Verbal Motion #21-141A** – Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1791-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-142** - Neil Ivall – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1791-21, being a by-law to authorize amendments to the Community Improvement Plan, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Best for Kitty Donation

**Motion #21-143** - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves a donation to the local chapter of Best for Kitty in the amount of \$1,000 in support for the work they have done regarding the stray and feral cat population.”

**Carried**

**Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald**

**Resolution #21-042** - Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“**WHEREAS** the west end of the District of Rainy River is located on a major traffic thoroughfare (Hwy. 11) and border crossing;

**AND WHEREAS** many drivers and passengers are in need of a place to rest, eat, or refuel;

**AND WHEREAS** there are currently no wayside rest areas available to travelers in the entire west end of the Rainy River District;

**AND WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have highlighted the need for public rest areas to accommodate travelers (as these services may no longer be available to the public at other venues);

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby calls on the Minister of Transportation for the installation of public wayside rest area(s) in the west end of the Rainy River District;

**AND FURTHER** that this resolution be forwarded to the Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA), Greg Rickford - MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, and all municipalities in the Rainy River District.”

**Carried**

#### **Chatham-Kent – Homelessness Task Force Resolution**

**Resolution #21-043** - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in requesting that the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada identify homelessness as a “Provincial” and “National Crisis” across the Province of Ontario and Canada and that they acknowledge the lack of resources to support addiction and mental health programs to be a leading cause of homelessness and that they provide financial support for housing and homelessness programs as well as increased funding to mental health and addiction services.”

**Carried**

#### **Chatham-Kent – Vaccine Passport Program Resolution**

**Resolution #21-044** - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in urging the Province to provide financial supports for businesses to cover capital and human resource costs necessary to execute the Vaccine Passport Program.”

**Carried**

#### **Lake of Bays – Additional COVID-19 Funding Resolution**

**Resolution #21-045 - Gerry Pasloski – Brent Helgeson**

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Lake of Bays in requesting additional COVID-19 funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.”

**Carried**

**Mattice-Val Côté – Province-wide Assessment Update Resolution**

**Resolution #21-046 - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall**

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté in urging the government of Ontario to reconsider its decision and to direct MPAC to proceed with a province-wide assessment update in order for Ontario Municipalities to be able to collect property taxes based upon actual property values.”

**Carried**

**CUPE – Independent Review of OMERS' Investment Performance**

**Resolution #21-047 - Larry Armstrong – Gerry Pasloski**

1. The Town of Rainy River Council is calling for an immediate, comprehensive and independent third-party expert review of OMERS' investment performance and practices over the past ten years, conducted by the OMERS Pension Plan's sponsors and stakeholders.
2. Such a review would, at a minimum:
  - a) Compare OMERS plan-level, and asset class-level performance to other comparable defined benefit pension plans and funds, OMERS internal benchmarks, and market-based benchmarks.
  - b) Examine OMERS decision-making processes around the timing of various investment decisions.
  - c) Assess the risk management policies and protocols that were in place and determine if they were followed and/or if they were sufficient to protect the plan from undue risk.
  - d) Assess whether the disclosures provided to the OMERS Administrative and Sponsorship Boards were sufficient evidence to allow the Boards to respond appropriately and in a timely manner.



- e) Examine executive compensation, investment fees and investment costs at OMERS in comparison to other major defined benefit pension plans and funds.
  - f) Examine other relevant issues identified by the third-party expert review.
  - g) Make recommendations for changes at OMERS to ensure stronger returns moving forward.
  - h) Issue their final report and recommendations in a timely manner.
  - i) Publicly release its full report and recommendations to ensure that it is available to OMERS sponsors, stakeholders, and plan members.
3. The Town of Rainy River Council further calls on the OMERS Administrative Corporation to:
- a) Provide all requested data, documentation and information required of the review panel to fulfill its mandate.
  - b) Establish a step-by-step plan, with OMERS sponsors and stakeholders, to implement any recommendations set out in the review report.

**Carried**

### **St. Catharines – National Childcare Program Resolution**

**Resolution #21-048 - Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong**

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the City of St. Catharines in requesting that the provincial government take the necessary steps to work with the federal government on a bi-lateral agreement to ensure the new national child care program be made available to Ontarians, and that it focuses on increased access, affordability, quality and responsiveness, all of which are essential to the COVID-19 pandemic response and that staff actively monitor federal developments and engage in provincial and regional discussions.”

**Carried**

### **Alzheimer Awareness Month**

**Resolution #21-049 - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall**

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby proclaims January 2022 as “National Alzheimer Awareness Month” and that the Alzheimer Society flag be displayed at the municipal office in commemoration of this event.”

**Carried**

**Holiday Staff Appreciation**

**Motion #21-144** - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will hereby issue a \$50 gift certificate to each permanent employee of the Town of Rainy River, and a \$25 gift certificate to the four independent contractors, as a Christmas gift.”

**Carried**

**Christmas Donations**

**Motion #21-145** - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the Rainy River Public Library Board for their holiday celebrations.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-146** - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the West Rainy River District Fire Department for their holiday celebrations.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-147** - Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will contribute \$150.00 towards the Rainy River Recreation Board for their holiday celebrations.”

**Carried**

**Holiday Hours**

**Motion #21-148** - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

“That municipal services will operate until 1:00 p.m. on December 24, 2021 and December 31, 2021.”

**Carried**

**Confirming By-law**

By-law 1792-21 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1792-21 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

**Verbal Motion #21-148A** – Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That By-law 1792-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-149** - Gerry Pasloski – Pat White

“That By-law 1792-21, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

**Next Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022**

**Adjournment**

**Motion #21-150** - Martin Kreger

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:53 p.m.”

**Carried**

Original Signed  
Mayor

Original Signed  
Chief Administrative Officer