

**Minutes**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
Monday, January 11, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference (Zoom).

In attendance were Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Larry Armstrong, Martin Kreger, Brent Helgeson, Neil Ivall and Pat White.

The minutes were recorded by Chief Administrative Officer Veldron Vogan.

**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**

No additions or deletions were presented.

**Motion #21-001 - Larry Armstrong – Pat White**

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

**Carried**

**Disclosure of Interest**

Councillor Kreger noted a disclosure conflict with regard to the finances, and the necessary paperwork was completed. Mayor Ewald reminded everyone that declarations could be made later in the meeting as necessary.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Council December 14, 2020

**Motion #21-002 - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong**

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 14, 2020 as presented.”

**Carried**

**Financials (as of December 31, 2020)**

Councillor Kreger abstained from the vote as he had declared a conflict with this item. Councillors Ivall and Helgeson both noted a conflict, as they were recipients of a fire board payment, and declared conflicts accordingly.

**Motion #21-003 - Pat White – Larry Armstrong**

“That approval be granted for the financial statements (as of December 31, 2020) along with the accounts payable for the month of December 2020 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$239,830.01
Water	\$ 58,003.35
Sewer	\$ 34,733.76
Cemetery	\$ 2,000.00
RRHCC	\$ 405.83

**Carried**

Councillor Armstrong requested a virtual finance committee meeting be set up for the first week of February to discuss some of the items within these financial reports.

All committees were informed that their 2021 capital requests needed to be submitted.

**Presentations/Delegations**

No delegations were in attendance.

**Reports from Unfinished Business**

The CAO noted that the auditors were scheduled to come starting Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, however, due to the current lockdown, and the number COVID-19 cases in the area, the decision was made to do a virtual audit. This process is already underway.

The Second Street engineering tender closes on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Rezoning of the Mill Yard has been proposed in anticipation of the school board build. Notices have been sent to the property owners within 200m of the rezoning area. A public meeting will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in this regard.

The fire board meeting scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> has been postponed.

**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

Resignation – Councillor Andrew Hartnell

**Motion #21-004** - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby accepts the resignation of Councillor Andrew Hartnell, effective January 1, 2021.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-005** - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“To move forward with seeking applicants for the vacant council position.”

**Carried**

A brief discussion took place regarding the notice posted to seek a council member.

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

2021 Water Financial Plan

**Motion #21-006** - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the 2021 Water Financial Plan.”

**Carried**

By-law 1761-21 Misc. User Fee By-law Amendment

The first reading of By-law 1761-21 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

**Verbal Motion #21-006A** – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1761-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-007** - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1761-21, being a by-law to amend By-law 1724-19 to establish miscellaneous user fees, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

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

Rainy River Future Development Corp. Per Capita Funding Request

**Motion #21-008** - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the payment of per capita funding for 2021-2022 year to the Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC) in the amount of \$5,649.00 (which represents a \$7.00 per capita contribution based on a population of 807).”

**Carried**

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald

RRDMA Annual General Meeting

**Motion #21-009** - Brent Helgeson – Neil Ivall

“That Mayor Ewald and Councillors Pat White, Martin Kreger, Larry Armstrong and Brent Helgeson and CAO Veldron Vogan attend the Rainy River District Municipal Association Annual General Virtual Meeting and Conference on January 16, 2021 with expenses paid as per policy.”

**Carried**

January Alzheimer Awareness Month Resolution

**Resolution #21-001** - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“BE IT RESOLVED that The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River proclaims January 2021 as “National Alzheimer Awareness Month” and that the Alzheimer Society flag be displayed at the municipal office in commemoration of this event.”

**Carried**

Nairn and Hyman Non-Essential Business Closures Resolution

**Resolution #21-002** - Brent Helgeson – Pat White

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Nairn and Hyman in calling upon the provincial government to stop the mandatory closures of small businesses, as these businesses are “essential” for taxes collected by municipalities and also for the mental health of the owners, employees and clients of these businesses, and that these small businesses have not been linked to the spread of the virus;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the provincial government be requested to address the inequity created between small businesses that are required to close and businesses that are permitted to open and continue sales.”

**Carried**

**Black River-Matheson Insurance Renewals Resolution**

**Resolution #21-003 - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall**

“WHEREAS a small survey of municipalities has shown insurance premium rate increases ranging from 2% to 53%;

AND WHEREAS many of these are smaller communities that will have great difficulty in managing such increases;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are dealing with a number of negative influences, as well as the difficulties brought about through COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS it is probable that factors at play in the insurance market will cause additional insurance rate increases in the coming years;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Black River-Matheson in requesting the assistance of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to urge the provincial government to deal with the matter of Joint and Several (in the area of liability) and to alleviate the issue of an ongoing rise in insurance rates.”

**Carried**

**Confirming By-law**

By-law 1762-21 – to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1762-21 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #21-009A – Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong**

“That By-law 1762-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

**Carried**

**Motion #21-010 - Martin Kreger – Pat White**

“That By-law 1762-21, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

**Next Meeting – Monday, February 8, 2021**

**Adjournment**

**Motion #21-011 - Larry Armstrong**

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:03 p.m.”

**Carried**

*Original Signed*  
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Mayor

*Original Signed*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer