

**Minutes**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
Monday, February 12, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

In attendance were Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Neil Ivall, Daniel Armstrong, Brent Helgeson, and Joel Hagarty. Also in attendance was EDO Gajith Jinadasa.

Giving regrets was Councillor Martin Kreger.

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**

No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

**Motion #24-011 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost**

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

**Carried**

**Disclosure of Interest**

Mayor Ewald disclosed a conflict regarding the building permit fee program extension (By-law 1872-24 and the associated motion). Councillor Hagarty disclosed a conflict regarding the hiring of Economic Development Intern Taya Hagarty (Motion 24-09). The necessary paperwork was completed for both.

**Presentations/Delegations**

Report – EDO Gajith Jinadasa

Mr. Jinadasa provided a summary of his activities as Economic Development Officer and requested again that council consider a \$500 donation towards the New Gold Youth Grant. A report and summary were presented to council for their information.

With nothing further to discuss the delegate left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Council January 8, 2024

**Motion #24-012** - Gordon Prost – Neil Ivall

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of January 8, 2024, as amended.”

**Carried**

Special Council February 5, 2024

**Motion #24-013** - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong

“To approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of February 5, 2024, as presented.”

**Carried**

**Financials (as of January 31, 2024)**

**Motion #24-014** - Brent Helgeson – Gordon Prost

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

Town General	\$247,934.97
Water	\$ 14,950.39
Sewer	\$ 1,475.57
Cemetery	\$ 61.34
RRHCC	\$ 12,091.84

**Carried**

**Reports from Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business arising at this time.

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

**Finance/Personnel** – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Neil Ivall, Martin Kreger and Daniel Armstrong

AMCTO Municipal Finance Forum

**Motion #24-015** - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“That CAO Veldron Vogan attend the AMCTO Municipal Finance Forum on Thursday, February 29, 2024, on Zoom at a cost of \$359.00 plus HST.”

**Carried**

By-law 1870-24 – Interim Tax Levy

The reading of By-law 1870-24 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

**Motion #24-016 - Neil Ivall – Gordon Prost**

“That By-law 1870-24, being a by-law to provide for an Interim Tax Levy and to provide for the payment of taxes and to provide for penalty and interest of 1.25 percent, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

RRFDC Per Capita Contribution

**Motion #24-017 - Neil Ivall – Daniel Armstrong**

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the payment of per capita funding for 2023-2024 to the Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC) in the amount of \$5,264.00 (which represents a \$7.00 per capita contribution based on a population of 752).”

**Carried**

By-law 1871-24 - NOHFC Internship Agreement

The reading of By-law 1871-24 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

**Motion #24-018 - Gordon Prost – Neil Ivall**

“That By-law 1871-24, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Internship Conditional Contribution Agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Hire Economic Development Intern

**Motion #24-019 - Daniel Armstrong – Brent Helgeson**

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the hiring of Taya Hagarty for the position of Economic Development Intern.”

**Carried**

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

Town Garage Roof Repairs

**Motion #24-020** - Brent Helgeson – Gordon Prost

“That T & M Renos be hired to complete repairs to the public works garage roof at a rate of \$75.00 per hour, plus the cost of materials, for an estimated two days of work time.”

**Carried**

**Property/By-laws/AMBIS** – Councillors Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost, and Joel Hagarty

Mayor Ewald removed herself as Chair of the meeting.

**Verbal Motion #24-020A** – Brent Helgeson – Daniel Armstrong

“To appoint Neil Ivall as Acting Mayor for this one topic of business.”

**Carried**

By-law 1872-24 – Building Permit Fee Program Extension

The reading of By-law 1872-24 was given by Acting Mayor Neil Ivall.

**Motion #24-021** - Gordon Prost – Neil Ivall

“That By-law 1872-24, being a by-law to extend the deadline of the Building Permit Fee Program for a Residential Property, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Acting Mayor Neil Ivall stepped down as Chair and Mayor Ewald resumed the Chair for the meeting.

By-law 1873-24 – Misc. User Fee Amendment

The reading of By-law 1873-24 was given by Councillor Daniel Armstrong.

**Motion #24-022** - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“That By-law 1873-24, being a by-law to make amendments to the miscellaneous user fees, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

By-law 1874-24 – RRAD Lease

The reading of By-law 1874-24 was given by Councillor Gordon Prost.

**Motion #24-023** - Joel Hagarty – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1874-24, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the lease agreement with the Rainy River Activity Depot, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

Beautification/Cemetery/Hannam Park – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Daniel Armstrong and Brent Helgeson

AMCTO Cemetery & Crematorium Approvals and Operations Workshop

**Motion #24-024** - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“That Julie Tiboni and Erika Rencher attend the AMCTO Cemetery & Crematorium Approvals and Operations Workshop on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, on Zoom at a cost of \$359.00 plus HST.”

**Carried**

**Fire Board** – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillor Martin Kreger

WRRDFS 2024 Budget

**Motion #24-025** - Brent Helgeson – Joel Hagarty

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the West Rainy River District Fire Services 2024 Operation Budget.”

**Carried**

**Library Board** – Councillor Gordon Prost

Renovation Approval

**Motion #24-026** - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the Library Main Floor Plan of February 5, 2024 (Option 2) as presented by Saulteaux Consulting & Engineering and grants authorization for work to proceed as outlined in the plans.”

**Carried**

**Rainy River District Municipal Association** – Councillor Martin Kreger

Riverside Health Care District Committee

**Motion #24-027** - Gordon Prost – Joel Hagarty

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby appoints Mayor Deborah Ewald to the Riverside Health Care West District Committee.”

**Carried**

**Other Business**

AMO Social & Economic Prosperity Review/Draft Resolution

**Resolution #24-002** - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“**WHEREAS** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and

**WHEREAS** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and

**WHEREAS** unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and

**WHEREAS** inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

**WHEREAS** property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can’t afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and

**WHEREAS** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)).

**Carried**

Greater Sudbury Definition of “Employer” Resolution

**Resolution #24-003** - Joel Hagarty – Gordon Prost

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the City of Greater Sudbury in requesting that the province amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project.”

**Carried**

Human Trafficking Forum in Fort Frances

**Motion #24-028** - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“That Mayor Deborah Ewald attend the Human Trafficking Dinner and Education Session in Fort Frances on February 22, 2024, with expenses paid as per policy.”

**Carried**

**Confirming By-law**

By-law 1875-24 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The reading of By-law 1875-24 was given by Councillor Joel Hagarty.

**Motion #24-029** - Brent Helgeson – Joel Hagarty

“That By-law 1875-24, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

**Carried**

**Next Meeting** – Monday, March 11, 2024

**Adjournment**

**Motion #24-030** - Daniel Armstrong

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:22 p.m.”

**Carried**

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer