

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via video conference (Zoom).

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

Chief Administrative Officer Veldron Vogan recorded the minutes.

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

Add In Person Meetings (to resume)
Amendment Add Brent Helgeson as an attendee at the NOMA Conference in April

Motion #22-023 - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

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

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council February 14, 2022

Motion #22-024 - Larry Armstrong – Gerry Pasloski

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 14, 2022, as presented.”

Carried

Financials (as of February 28, 2022)

Questions were asked regarding the fuel expense; the lottery license refund, and the planning consultant fees.

Motion #22-025 - Pat White – Brent Helgeson

“That approval be granted for the accounts payable for the month of February 2022 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$130,692.70
Water	\$ 18,889.58
Sewer	\$ 840.78
RRHCC	\$ 608.49

Carried

Presentations/Delegations

No delegations were in attendance.

Reports from Unfinished Business

There were no reports from unfinished business.

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

RRFDC Per Capita Funding

Motion #22-026 - Martin Kreger – Neil Ivall

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the payment of per capita funding for 2021-2022 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 1803-22 - NORDS Transfer Payment Agreement

The first reading of By-law 1803-22 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

Verbal Motion #22-026A – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1803-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-027 - Neil Ivall – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1803-22, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR), having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1804-22 - Electronic Payment of Invoices Policy Amendment for Payroll Remittance (CPP, EI, Tax, WSIB)

The first reading of By-law 1804-22 was given by Councillor Gerry Pasloski.

Verbal Motion #22-027A – Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1804-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-028 - Pat White – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1804-22, being a by-law to amend By-law 1742-20 to establish a policy for electronic payment of invoices for the Town of Rainy River, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

AMCTO Zone 9 Conference

Motion #22-029 - Martin Kreger – Gerry Pasloski

“That CAO Veldron Vogan attends the AMCTO Zone 9 Spring Meeting and Conference in Thunder Bay on April 12 - 13, 2022 with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

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

By-law 1805-22 - CBO Revised Agreement

The first reading of By-law 1805-22 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

Verbal Motion #22-029A – Neil Ivall – Pat White

“That By-law 1805-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-030 - Gerry Pasloski – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1805-22, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Addendum to the Employment Agreement made April 19, 2018, with Chief Building Official Henry Van Ael, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1806-22 - Appointment of Deputy CBO

The first reading of By-law 1806-22 was given by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

Verbal Motion #22-030A – Gerry Pasloski – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1806-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-031 - Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall

“That By-law 1806-22, being a by-law to revoke Alain Tanguay’s appointment as Deputy Chief Building Official and to appoint Richard Hallam as Deputy Chief Building Official for the Town of Rainy River, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Beautification/Cemetery/Hannam Park – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Larry Armstrong and Martin Kreger

By-law 1807-22 – Amend Cemetery By-law

The first reading of By-law 1807-22 was given by Councillor Pat White.

This by-law will be referred to the Committee.

Motion #22-032 -

“That By-law 1807-22, being a by-law to amend By-law 1622-15 to establish rules and regulations to be used in connection with Forest Lawn Cemetery, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

TABLED

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald

2022 NOMA Conference Registration

Motion #22-033 - Neil Ivall – Larry Armstrong

“That Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillor Brent Helgeson attend the NOMA Conference on April 27-29, 2022, in Fort Frances with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

Proclamation – Year of the Garden 2022

Resolution #22-006 - Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong

“**WHEREAS** the Year of the Garden 2022 celebrates the Centennial of Canada's horticulture sector; and

WHEREAS gardens and gardening contribute to the quality of life of our municipality and create safe and healthy places where people can come together; and

WHEREAS the Year of the Garden 2022 will highlight and celebrate the important contribution of gardeners, our local gardening organizations, horticultural professionals, and local horticultural businesses which contribute to garden culture and the experience garden of our municipality; and

WHEREAS gardens and gardening have helped us face the challenges of the COVID pandemic; and

WHEREAS Communities in Bloom in collaboration with the Canadian Garden Council, invites all municipalities to celebrate the Year of the Garden;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That I, Mayor Deborah Ewald, on behalf of the Town of Rainy River do hereby proclaim 2022 as the Year of the Garden in celebration of the contribution of gardens and gardening to the development of our country, our municipality, and the lives of our citizens in terms of health, quality of life and environmental challenges; and

THAT the Saturday before Father's Day, June 18, 2022, be recognized as Garden Day in the Town of Rainy River as a legacy of Canada's Year of the Garden 2022; and

THAT the Town of Rainy River is committed to be a Garden Friendly Township supporting the development of its garden culture.”

Carried

Council would like to see this resolution posted on the town website and on the next water and sewer bill insert.

Resolution – Re-examining the Local Funding of Provincial Hospitals

Resolution #22-007 - Pat White – Brent Helgeson

“WHEREAS healthcare funding is a provincial and federal responsibility;

AND WHEREAS from 2009 to 2020 a total of \$415.4 million has been transferred from municipal operations to fund and build provincial hospitals;

AND WHEREAS remaining long-term commitments to hospitals stand at \$117.5 million (as of 2020), which will also be financed from municipal operations;

AND WHEREAS a hospital is one of many public services that contributes to healthy communities;

AND WHEREAS municipal contributions to provincial hospitals takes away from the resources available for other municipal services that contribute to the health and well-being of residents;

AND WHEREAS a community’s total contribution to local hospitals also includes the donations made by benevolent individuals, groups, and businesses along with municipal contributions;

AND WHEREAS a community’s required local share is to pay 10% of capital construction costs and 100% of the cost of equipment, furniture, and fixtures, which includes medical equipment with big ticket prices: MRI machines, CT scanners, and x-ray machines;

AND WHEREAS this translates to a 70% provincial share and 30% local share (individuals, groups, businesses, and municipalities) of the overall cost of provincial hospital operations and capital projects;

AND WHEREAS the adoption of the “design-build-finance” hospital construction model (also known as alternative financing and procurement or P3 projects), has increased local share amounts because they now include the costs of long-term financing;

AND WHEREAS equipment replacement needs are increasingly frequent and increasingly expensive with average equipment lifespan of just ten years;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has highlighted the “local share” of hospital capital contributions as a major issue in its 2022 Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of The Town of Rainy River does hereby call for a provincial re-examination of the “local share” hospital capital calculation methodology, to better reflect the limited fiscal capacity of municipalities, and the contributions to health care services they already provide to a community;

AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be hereby circulated to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.”

Carried

Resolution – Request to Dissolve Ontario Land Tribunal (Aurora)

Resolution #22-008 - Martin Kreger – Gerry Pasloski

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Aurora in requesting that the Government of Ontario be requested to immediately engage municipalities to determine an alternative land use planning appeals process in order to dissolve the OLT and eliminate one of the most significant sources of red tape delaying the development of more attainable housing in Ontario.”

Carried

In Person Meetings

It was the consensus of Council that in-person town meetings should resume with a Zoom option for those not comfortable with in-person meetings.

In Camera Session

Verbal Motion #22-033A – Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

“That the council meeting moves in camera at 6:30 p.m. to discuss potential property sale and legal matters.”

Carried

Verbal Motion #22-033B – Brent Helgeson – Larry Armstrong

“That the council meeting moves back into regular session at 6:45 p.m.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1808-22 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1808-22 was given by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

Verbal Motion #22-033C – Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“That By-law 1808-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-034 - Martin Kreger – Pat White

“That By-law 1808-22, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 14th day of March 2022, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2022

Adjournment

Motion #22-035 - Martin Kreger

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:50 p.m.”

Carried

Original Signed

Mayor

Original Signed

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer