

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, March 8, 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 #21-024 - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

The following Councillors declared a disclosure conflict with these agenda items:

Neil Ivall - the water rebate program

Martin Kreger - the curb appeal program and the accounts payable

Brent Helgeson - the curb appeal program

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council February 8, 2021

Motion #21-025 - Pat White – Neil Ivall

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

Carried

Financials (as of February 28, 2021)

Questions arose regarding the water and sewer transfers to taxes, the seniors grant and the RealTax Payment.

Motion #21-026 - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

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

Town General	\$214,933.22
Water	\$ 28,426.09
Sewer	\$ 1,689.25
RRHCC	\$ 1,042.98

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

Report on Anonymous Voting to Fill Council Vacancy from CAO and Announcement of Successful Applicant

Council had voted remotely and anonymously for the three candidates and Gerry Pasloski was the successful candidate and will be sworn in at the next regular council meeting.

OMTRA Membership

Motion #21-027 - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That the OMTRA Membership fees be approved in the amount of \$225.00 plus tax.”

Carried

Cemetery Workshop

Motion #21-028 - Brent Helgeson – Neil Ivall

“That Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Julie Tiboni attend the virtual Cemetery Workshop on April 19, 2021 in the amount of \$120.00 plus tax.”

Carried

By-law 1767-21 Electronic Payment of Invoices Policy Amendment

The first reading of By-law 1767-21 was given by Councillor Neil Ivall.

Verbal Motion #21-028A – Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“That By-law 1767-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #21-029 - Neil Ivall – Pat White

“That By-law 1767-21, 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

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

Water and Sewer COVID-19 Rebates

Motion #21-030 - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the Town of Rainy River Water and Sewer COVID-19 Rebate Program.”

Carried

By-law 1768-21 Transfer Payment Agreement ICIP Green Stream

The first reading of By-law 1768-21 was given by Councillor Brent Helgeson.

Verbal Motion #21-030A – Neil Ivall – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1768-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #21-031 - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1768-21, being a by-law to designate signing officers for, the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Green Stream – Transfer Payment Agreement, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1769-21 Enbridge Franchise Agreement

The first reading of By-law 1769-21 was given by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

Verbal Motion #21-031A – Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That By-law 1769-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Resolution #21-009 - Brent Helgeson – Neil Ivall

“BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Council approves the form of draft by-law and franchise agreement attached hereto and authorizes the submission thereof to the Ontario Energy Board for approval pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*.
2. This Council requests that the Ontario Energy Board make an Order declaring and directing that the assent of the municipal electors to the attached draft by-law and franchise agreement pertaining to the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River is not necessary pursuant to the provisions of Section 9(4) of the *Municipal Franchises Act*.”

Carried

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

Curb Appeal Program

Motion #21-032 - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the Town of Rainy River Curb Appeal Program.”

Carried

Greenhouse Feasibility Study

Motion #21-033 - Neil Ivall – Pat White

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby accepts the proposal from Outlook Market Research & Consulting, for the West Rainy River District Greenhouse Feasibility Study, in the amount of \$20,000 (taxes not included).”

Carried

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Mayor Deborah Ewald

2021 NOMA Conference & AGM Registration

Motion #21-034 - Pat White – Martin Kreger

“That Mayor Deb Ewald attend the virtual NOMA Conference and AGM on April 28-30, 2021 with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

Mayor Ewald noted that if anyone else was interested in going to this meeting that registration was still open.

The Archipelago Elections Act Resolution

Resolution #21-010 - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of The Archipelago in requesting that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, initiate a review of the Municipal Elections Act and make amendments to provide much clearer, stronger wording, to assist Municipal Clerks in addressing issues related to non-resident electors, and to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters’ list; and to ensure that there is a clear and accessible way to enforce the rules described in the *Municipal Elections Act*.”

Carried

St. Catharines Universal Paid Sick Days in Ontario Resolution

Resolution #21-011 - Neil Ivall – Brent Helgeson

Councillor Larry Armstrong spoke to the motion and commented on the good parts of the support resolution (provides salary for those that are sick); however, there were concerns over how the payment for these expenses would be administered. Further information will be sought from the City of St. Catharines as their intent and possible rewording of the resolution in the future. At this time council decided to table the resolution.

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the City of St. Catharines in endorsing legislated sick leave, and calls on the government of Ontario to permanently legislate universal paid sick days for all workers in Ontario during the pandemic, and beyond, regardless of workplace size, type of work or immigration status.”

TABLED

Perth County Current Value Assessments Resolution

Resolution #21-012 - Larry Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Perth County Council in requesting that the Premier, the Finance Minister, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture move forward with implementing property tax reassessment based on CVA.”

Carried

MP Marcus Powlowski Cross-Border Fishing Issue

Resolution #21-013 - Pat White – Larry Armstrong

“WHEREAS American fishing guides have been crossing into Canadian waters with tourists to fish;

AND WHEREAS a number of Canadian guides and resorts in, and around, the Rainy River District have expressed concern about this issue;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Public Safety has indicated that crossing the border to bring tourists to fish in Canadian waters is illegal if the guides do not have a work permit;

AND WHEREAS very few American guides have applied for these permits in the past couple of years according to the CBSA Superintendent;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports MP Marcus Powlowski in advocating the Federal Government for greater enforcement of the border laws on lakes in the Rainy River District in regards to this cross-border fishing issue as well as the broader issues of illegal crossings and smuggling;

AND FURTHER that the Federal Government makes it publicly clear to the American resorts that crossing these waters, to bring tourists, without a permit is illegal and that penalties will be incurred for such crossings;

AND FURTHER that a joint Federal/Provincial inter-agency should be established to patrol these lakes.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1770-21 – to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1770-21 was given by Mayor Deb Ewald.

Verbal Motion #21-035A – Larry Armstrong – Neil Ivall

“That By-law 1770-21 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #21-035 - Martin Kreger – Larry Armstrong

“That By-law 1770-21, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 8th day of March, 2021, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, April 12, 2021

It was noted that the next committee of the whole meeting would be on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Adjournment

Motion #21-036 - Neil Ivall

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:13 p.m.”

Carried

Original Signed
Mayor

Original Signed
Chief Administrative Officer