

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference (Zoom).

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

Councillor Neil Ivall was absent due to work.

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

Add Resolution #2022-04 Regarding the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund application

Motion #22-001 - Brent Helgeson – Gerry Pasloski

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Martin Kreger declared a conflict regarding the accounts payable.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council December 13, 2021

Corrections will be made as indicated on page 5 and Councillor Larry Armstrong was in attendance at this meeting but was missing from the attendee list.

Motion #22-002 - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 13, 2021 as amended.”

Carried

Financials (as of December 31, 2021)

There were questions regarding some of the locum and ASP expenses.

Motion #22-003 - Larry Armstrong – Gerry Pasloski

“That approval be granted for the financial statements (as of December 31, 2021) along with the accounts payable for the month of December 2021 which have been paid in the following amounts:”

Town General	\$164,855.05
Water	\$170,783.50
Sewer	\$ 69,263.57
Cemetery	\$ 9,000.00
RRHCC	\$ 554.19

Carried

Presentations/Delegations

No delegations were in attendance.

Reports from Unfinished Business

Councillor Helgeson asked what the result was for the question that arose during the Committee of the Whole meeting with regard to combining the recreation and curling club boards. It was noted that Council had given their approval based on each board determining any legal ramifications which may be necessary.

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

Vacation Day Carry Over

Motion #22-004 - Brent Helgeson – Pat White

“That Foreman Leroy Hancharyk and Sub-Forman Mike Scott are authorized to carry over unused vacation days from 2021, with the condition that they are used by March 31, 2022.”

Carried

Call to Action – Joint and Several Liability

Resolution #22-001 - Martin Kreger – Gerry Pasloski

WHEREAS the current joint and several liability regime as set out in the *Negligence Act* financially impacts all municipalities across the province whether or not a claim occurred within a municipality's borders; and

WHEREAS municipalities are often added to claims as they are seen as having significant resources with the backing of taxpayers; and

WHEREAS insurance companies ultimately recover their losses by way of, among other things, increased annual premiums from their insureds; and

WHEREAS the Municipality's total annual cost of all insurance premiums has grown over the last 5 years; and

WHEREAS higher insurance costs diverts property tax dollars from delivering public services to the Municipality's residents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River supports the recommendations proposed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("AMO") to address joint and several liability reform and rising insurance costs more generally, which recommendations include:

1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability.
2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10-day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations, and whether a 1-year limitation period may be beneficial.
3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards.
4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third-party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans.
5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as non-profit insurance reciprocals.
6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims, and deductible limit changes which support it, and municipal arguments as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability.
7. Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General.

Carried

Call to Action – CN Rail and Drainage

Resolution #22-002 - Brent Helgeson – Martin Kreger

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("AMO") in their call to action in addressing CN Rail and Drainage issues, and that a letter will be issued accordingly.”

Carried

Sarnia “Catch and Release” Justice Resolution

Resolution #22-003 - Larry Armstrong – Pat White

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the City of Sarnia in asking that the Federal and Provincial Governments request meaningful improvements to the current state of the “catch and release” justice policies in the Ontario legal system.”

Carried

Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund Application Resolution

Resolution #22-004 - Larry Armstrong – Brent Helgeson

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River submits an application under the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund Program (NORDS) to assist with overage costs related to road rehabilitation along Second Street for the funding years 2021-2022 and 2022-23.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1793-22 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The first reading of By-law 1793-22 was given by Councillor Larry Armstrong.

Verbal Motion #22-004A – Brent Helgeson – Pat White

“That By-law 1793-22 be taken as read a second and third time.”

Carried

Motion #22-005 - Brent Helgeson – Martin Kreger

“That By-law 1793-22, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 10th day of January, 2022, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, February 14, 2022

Adjournment

Motion #22-006 - Martin Kreger

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 5:58 p.m.”

Carried

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer