

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

In attendance were Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Daniel Armstrong, Brent Helgeson (by phone), Joel Hagarty Martin Kreger and Shara Lavallee.

Giving regrets was Councillor Neil Ivall due to employment.

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

Add Resolution #24-041 has a slight wording change
Motion #24-156A to approve attendees for the NOMA AGM

Motion #24-138 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Disclosure of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

Presentations/Delegations

No presentations were made, and no delegations were in attendance.

Adoption of Minutes

Regular Council November 12, 2024

Motion #24-139 - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“To approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 12, 2024, as presented.”

Carried

Financials (as of November 30, 2024)

There were some questions regarding the OPP billing, the Activity Depot refund to the ministry and the locum house cleaning.

Accounts Payable

Motion #24-140 - Joel Hagarty – Gordon Prost

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

Town General	\$372,995.70
Water	\$ 56,803.60
Sewer	\$ 36,600.06
Cemetery	\$ 5,000.00
RRHCC	\$ 1,825.65

Carried

Reports from Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

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

Utility and Tax Penalty and Interest Fees

Motion #24-141 - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“The Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby suspends, temporarily, the addition of penalty and interest fees on all utility and tax bills for the duration of the postal strike.”

Carried

120th Anniversary Staff Bonuses

Motion #24-142 - Gordon Prost – Martin Kreger

“The Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves a one-time payment in the amount of \$500.00 each to the four office staff and the four public works crew members who worked during the 120th Anniversary Celebration this summer.”

Carried

By-law 1897-24 Appointment of CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

The reading of By-law 1897-24 was given by Councillor Daniel Armstrong.

Motion #24-143 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1897-24, being a by-law to appoint Shara Lavallee as Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk-Treasurer for the Town of Rainy River, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1898-24 Designation of Municipal Corp. Head for MFIPPA

The reading of By-law 1898-24 was given by Councillor Gordon Prost.

Motion #24-144 - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong

“That By-law 1898-24, being a by-law to designate a head of the Municipal Corporation for the purposes of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Signing Authority

Motion #24-145 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“That retiring CAO Veldron Vogan be removed as a signing officer for the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River, effective January 1, 2025.”

Carried

Motion #24-146 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“That incoming CAO Shara Lavallee be added as a signing officer for the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River, effective January 1, 2025.”

Carried

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

By-law 1899-24 – Municipal Planning Services Contract for 2025

The reading of By-law 1899-24 was given by Councillor Joel Hagarty.

Motion #24-147 - Gordon Prost – Joel Hagarty

“That By-law 1899-24, being a by-law to establish signing authority for the Municipal Planning Services Contract with Robert Miller of Heritage and Land Use Planning Services, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Robert Miller Proposal for Revisions to Official Plan & Zoning By-law

Motion #24-148 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“The Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the proposal from Planning Consultant Robert Miller to carry out revisions to the Rainy River Official Plan and Zoning By-law in the amount of \$2,500.”

Carried

By-law 1900-24 – Misc. User Fees

The reading of By-law 1900-24 was given by Councillor Martin Kreger.

Motion #24-149 - Daniel Armstrong – Gordon Prost

“That By-law 1900-24, being a by-law to establish Miscellaneous User Fees for the Town of Rainy River, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

2024-2029 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan

Motion #24-150 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the Town of Rainy River Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan for 2024-2029.”

Carried

Revised Snowmobile Trail Map

Motion #24-151 - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby accepts the revised Snowmobile Trail Map which redirects traffic through the Second Street boat launch and proceeding north on Second Street to the alley, then east along the alley and then north along the alley between First Street and Second Street to Broadway Avenue and then connecting to existing trail system.”

Carried

Economic Development/Tourism – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Daniel Armstrong, Neil Ivall and Joel Hagarty

2025 Vacation Guide Map Ad

Motion #24-152 - Martin Kreger – Gordon Prost

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the placement of an updated advertisement in the Fort Frances Times 2025 Vacation Guide Map in the amount of \$814 plus tax.”

Carried

Rainy River House/Medical Centre – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Neil Ivall and Daniel Armstrong

By-law 1901-24 – Clinic Lease

The reading of By-law 1901-24 was given by Councillor Daniel Armstrong.

Motion #24-153 - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“That By-law 1901-24, being a by-law to authorize the municipality to enter into, and designate signing officers for, the Rainy River Clinic Leasing of Property Agreement, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

By-law 1902-24 – Locum House Lease

The reading of By-law 1902-24 was given by Councillor Joel Hagarty.

Motion #24-154 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“That By-law 1902-24, being a by-law to authorize the municipality to enter into, and designate signing officers for, the Rainy River House Leasing of Property Agreement, having been read the required number of times, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Councillor Kreger indicated that he needed to leave the meeting at 6:15 p.m. for personal reasons.

Rainy River District Municipal Association – Councillor Martin Kreger

AGM Meeting Expenses

Motion #24-155 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“That Deborah Ewald, Gordon Prost, Martin Kreger and Shara Lavallee attend the RRDMA AGM in Fort Frances on January 11, 2025, with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

Other Business

McGarry – Land Transfer Tax Resolution

Resolution #24-038 - Martin Kreger – Daniel Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of McGarry Resolution No. 333/2024 regarding the redistribution to municipalities of a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions; and the reallocation to municipalities of a percentage of the GST collected on property sales.”

Carried

Parry Sound – Rural Road Safety Program Resolution

Resolution #24-039 - Joel Hagarty – Daniel Armstrong

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Parry Sound Resolution No. 2024-178 regarding the implementation of the rural road safety program.”

Carried

Papineau-Cameron – Ontario Building Code Resolution

Resolution #24-040 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Papineau-Cameron Resolution No. 2024-328 regarding amendments to the Ontario Building Code.”

Carried

OPP Detachment Billing Increases Resolution

Resolution #24-041 - Martin Kreger – Daniel Armstrong

“WHEREAS current police services within the Town of Rainy River (hereinafter referred to as the “Municipality”) are provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (hereinafter referred to as the “OPP”);

AND WHEREAS the Municipality and the local OPP detachment have worked in a positive, collaborative, and effective manner for decades;

AND WHEREAS the OPP submitted their 2025 Annual Billing Statement to the Municipality on October 4, 2024, that identifies an approximate \$26,130 (13.09%) increase from 2024 to 2025 that will translate to an approximate 2.63% tax rate increase;

AND WHEREAS the Solicitor General on November 29, 2024, has adjusted the 2025 billing calculations;

AND WHEREAS the annual OPP Billing represents 23%-25% of the Town of Rainy River’s annual tax revenues even after the adjustment;

AND WHEREAS Provincial support to municipalities does not increase comparatively to this and other downloaded items;

AND WHEREAS many of the calls for service across the Province are the result of the actions and behaviours from those typically residing outside of the municipal boundaries where the calls are initiated;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Rainy River encourages the Province to consider uploading OPP costs in order to provide some stability to municipal budgets;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, and MPP Greg Rickford.”

Carried

Puslinch – Excess Soil Regulation Resolution

Resolution #24-042 - Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Puslinch Resolution No. 2024-415 in formally objecting to the proposed amendments to the Excess Soil Regulation.”

Carried

Holiday Hours

Motion #24-156 - Daniel Armstrong – Martin Kreger

“Whereas all municipal staff have agreed to take a vacation day on December 27, 2024, the Town Council hereby approves the closure of municipal services on that date.”

Carried

NOMA Meeting Expenses

Motion #24-156A – Daniel Armstrong – Joel Hagarty

“That Deborah Ewald, Brent Helgeson, Daniel Armstrong, Gordon Prost and Shara Lavallee attend the NOMA AGM in Thunder Bay on April 23-25, 2025, with expenses paid as per policy.”

Carried

Confirming By-law

By-law 1903-24 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

The reading of By-law 1903-24 was given by Councillor Gordon Prost.

Motion #24-157 - Martin Kreger – Daniel Armstrong

“That By-law 1903-24, being a by-law of the Town of Rainy River to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12th day of November 2024, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.”

Carried

Next Meeting – Monday, January 13, 2024

Adjournment

Motion #24-158 - Joel Hagarty

“There being no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:45 p.m.”

Carried

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer