

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, January 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

In attendance were Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Florence Newman and Daniel Armstrong.

Giving regrets were Councillors Martin Kreger, Joel Hagarty and Brent Helgeson.

Chief Administrative Officer Shara Lavallee recorded the minutes.

**MINUTES**

- 1) Opening Ceremonies, Moment of Silence, and Salute to the King.

Mayor Deborah Ewald opened the meeting at 5:40 p.m. with a moment of silence and a salute to the King.

- 2) Additions, Deletions or Amendments.

**Motion #26-001** - Gordon Prost – Florence Newman

**THAT the agenda be accepted as presented.**

**Carried**

- 3) Disclosure of Interest.

No conflicts were declared.

- 4) Presentations/Delegations.

No delegations were present.

- 5) Adoption of Minutes.

Regular Council December 8, 2025

**Motion #26-002** - Florence Newman – Gordon Prost

**THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 8, 2025, be approved as presented.**

**Carried**

6) Financials (as of December 31, 2025)

Accounts Payable Reports

Y-T-D Financial Statements

(available at the end of each quarter)

Town	(pg. 10-26)	Town General	(pg. 38-63)
Water	(pg. 27-30)	Water	(pg. 64-66)
Sewer	(pg. 31-33)	Sewer	(pg. 67-69)
Cemetery	(pg. 34-35)	Cemetery	(pg. 70-71)
RRHCC	(pg. 36-37)	Cemetery Perpetual	(pg. 72)
		RRHCC	(pg. 73-74)

**Motion #26-003** - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong

**THAT approval be granted for the year-to-date financial statements (as of December 31, 2025) along with the accounts payable for the month of December 2025 which have been paid in the following amounts:**

<b>Town General</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>470,201.85</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>52,226.91</b>
<b>Sewer</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,340.72</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34.57</b>
<b>RRHCC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>590.39</b>

**Carried**

7) Reports from Unfinished Business.

There was no unfinished business to report.

8) New Business – Committee Reports (as needed).

- a. Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost and Joel Hagarty

The Public Works Committee has approved the purchase of new tires for the grader in the amount of \$16,000.

Memorial Bench/Tree

**Motion #26-004** - Florence Newman – Gordon Prost

**THAT the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will hereby authorize the purchase of a memorial bench/tree in memory of the former Town Foreman Bob Jenson.**

**Carried**

9) Other Business

a. Fort Frances – OINP Letter from Mayor Hallikas

**Resolution #26-001 - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports Mayor Andrew Hallikas of the Town of Fort Frances by issuing a letter to the Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development (David Piccini), regarding rebuilding the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) to better align with rural and northern labour market needs.**

**Carried**

b. Smith Falls – OCIF Resolution

**Resolution #26-002 - Florence Newman – Gordon Prost**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Town of Smith Falls in their resolution to:**

- 1. Call upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.**
- 2. Request the Province to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.**
- 3. Ask that the Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.**
- 4. Ask that the Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations.**

5. **Set up a dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.**
6. **Ask the Ministry of Infrastructure to publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.**

**Carried**

- c. St. Charles – Fire Certification Resolution

**Resolution #26-003 - Florence Newman – Gordon Prost**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Municipality of St. Charles Resolution 2025-284 in regard to extending the deadline for Fire Certification.**

**Carried**

- d. Rec. Board – Carnival Donation Request

**Motion #26-005 - Gordon Prost – Daniel Armstrong**

**THAT the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River will hereby issue a donation of \$250 in gift certificates to the Rainy River Recreation Board Winter Carnival event.**

**Carried**

- e. NOMA Conference and AGM

**Motion #26-006 - Florence Newman – Daniel Armstrong**

**THAT Mayor Deborah Ewald, Councillor Florence Newman and CAO Shara Lavallee attend the NOMA Conference & AGM in Thunder Bay on April 22–24, 2026 in Thunder Bay, with expenses paid as per policy.**

**Carried**

- 10) Confirming By-law.

By-law 1953-26 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

**Motion #26-007** - Daniel Armstrong – Florence Newman

**THAT By-law 1953-26, to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, having been read in open council, be hereby approved.**

**Carried**

- 11) Next Meeting – Monday, February 9, 2026.
- 12) Adjournment.

**Motion #26-008** - Florence Newman – Daniel Armstrong

**THAT there being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:10 p.m.**

**Carried**

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer