

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BONNYVILLE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT**

Mayor Gene Sobolewski: Councillors Ray Prevost, Rene Van Brabant, Lorna Storoschuk, Brian McEvoy, Elisa Brosseau and Chad Colbourne

**STAFF**

Bill Rogers – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Katherine Currie – General Manager of Planning and Community Services, and Tracy Ghostkeeper (virtually) – Executive Assistant

**GUESTS**

Oreen Skiba, Ronald McDonald House Charities

**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Gene Sobolewski called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

- 034 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that the agenda for the February 9, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 26, 2021**

- 035 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATION**

**Winterland Invitational Changes – Oreen Skiba, Stakeholder Relations Manager, Lakeland Region**

Oreen Skiba stated that in the past the Winterland Invitational has been a Pee wee and Novice Hockey Tournament hosted in the Lakeland Region and that the restrictions surrounding Covid-19 have presented an opportunity to re-imagine their two biggest winter fundraising events. This year they will be including all types of winter activities which include Hockey on a community rink or pond with your cohorts, dedicate one of your regular scheduled Curling games with cohorts and Winter Activities, such as skating, skiing, snowshoeing and even building a snowman with your cohorts.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Sobolewski thanked Oreen Skiba for her update and she left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.



**MUNICIPAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

See Separate Minutes

- 036 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council adjourn the Regular Council Meeting and go into the Municipal Planning Commission meeting.

Time: 6:04 p.m.

**CARRIED**

- 037 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council adjourn the Municipal Planning Commission meeting and return to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Time 6:06 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS**

**Western Canadian Municipal  
Advocacy**

Administration received a letter from the MD of Bonnyville Reeve, expressing their desire to explore the creation a 'Western Canadian Municipalities Association' or entity that better represents Western interests than the current involvement in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

In January of this year, Council discussed recent news articles on this subject, as well as whether to continue the Town's membership in the FCM. At that time, Council passed a motion to continue membership in the FCM for 2021, but not to attend the annual conference.

At this point, the MD of Bonnyville is requesting feedback from Council on the idea of whether an additional federal voice representing Western Canadian Municipalities might be needed or desired.

Extensive discussion ensued.

- 038 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council approve sending a Letter in Principle to the M.D. of Bonnyville to support their idea of a Western Canadian Municipal Advocacy association.

**CARRIED**

**Covid-19 Loss Program with  
M.D. of Bonnyville**

At the January 26, 2021 Council meeting, the possibility of working with the M.D., through our Regional Economic Development Committee, of creating a program that could provide assistance to area businesses that have been



**Covid-19 Loss Program with  
M.D. of Bonnyville**

adversely affected by Covid-19 was discussed, and to bring the subject forward at the next Council meeting.

A program is currently being developed by Town and M.D. staff that would provide assistance to small and medium-sized businesses and non-profit groups that would see assistance provided to those that either have suffered losses to due Covid-19, wish to implement Covid-related programs, purchase PPE, or other measures regarding combatting the virus.

Details are still being fine-tuned with both Administrations, the Regional Economic Development Committee and potential Agency partners.

It is the intention that the program be as broad and inclusive as possible.

At this time, the intent is to recommend that funds be allocated by the Town of Bonnyville from the Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST) grant funds, previously provided to us by the Province. It is anticipated that the funding amount proposed, \$30,000.00, would also be matched by the M.D. as part of this program, and the program would be administered by the M.D.

As M.O.S.T. funds need to be allocated for expenses incurred prior to the end of March, time is of the essence to launch the planned program. It is anticipated that the program could be finalized and running before the end of February.

- 039 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council approve the proposed Covid-19 relief program with the MD of Bonnyville, including the allocation of \$30,000.00 for the program, with funding to come from the M.O.S.T. (Municipal Operating Support Transfer) program funds.

**CARRIED**

**Ronald McDonald House  
Charities – Winterland  
Invitational**

A request has been received to sponsor the Ronald McDonald House Charities Winterland Invitational being held this year for the entire month of March.

The Winterland Invitational has become the premier Family Day weekend event in the Lakeland. In 2020, \$138,000.00 was raised from the Tournament.

Because of Covid-19, this year's event is planned as an entire month of favorite Winter activities in support of families who need to stay at Ronald McDonald House, rather than the usual sporting tournament.



**Ronald McDonald House  
Charities – Winterland  
Invitational**

In previous years, Council has approved an “Ice Level” sponsorship package of \$8,000.00. Approving the same level of funding for the 2021 event would provide the Town of Bonnyville with an “Ambassador” level sponsorship package, with similar benefits.

- 040 **Moved by Councillor Chad Colbourne** that Council provide the Ronald McDonald House Charities 2021 Winterland Invitational with an \$8,000.00 Sponsor package as in previous years.

**CARRIED**

**Bonnyville Curling Club –  
Request for Letter of Support**

Administration received an email from the Bonnyville Curling Club who are in the process of applying for funding from the Alberta Government under the Stabilize Program for Amateur sport.

The Stabilize Program provides one-time funding support to rodeos, sports, arts and other venue-based organizations. Funding will enable organizations to maintain their operations to support the live experience sector in Alberta.

The goal of the Stabilize Program is to support Alberta-based professional sport teams, non-profit elite amateur sport leagues and teams, rodeos and art performance venues that have a long-standing history and are part of the Alberta cultural and sporting identity.

- 041 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council provide a Letter of Support to the Bonnyville Curling Club for their Application to the Alberta Government for funding under the Stabilize Program funding for amateur sport.

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councillor Brian McEvoy**

Councillor McEvoy attended the Community Policing Committee meeting, the AUMA Policing Town Hall Part 1, the Town Hall regarding Covid-19 and the Elected Officials Webinar.

**Councillor Lorna Storoschuk**

Councillor Storoschuk attended the Bonnyville & District Historical Society meeting, the Elected Officials Webinar, the FCSS (Family & Community Support Services) Board meeting and the Bonnyville Municipal Library Board meeting. She also attended the Town Hall regarding Covid-19, the AUMA Policing Town Hall Part 1, the NE Muni-Corr meeting and a Ask Me Anything Webinar with Doug Griffith.



**Councillor Chad Colbourne**

Councillor Colbourne attended the Elected Officials Webinar, the Community Policing Committee meeting, the Downtown Revitalization Committee Zoom meeting and a meeting at the Centennial Centre.

**Mayor Gene Sobolewski**

Mayor Sobolewski attended a discussion with M.D. of Bonnyville Reeve Greg Sawchuk, the Town Hall regarding Covid-19, Law Day with Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP and a Covid Session with Dr. Hinshaw.

**Councillor Ray Prevost**

Councillor Prevost attended the Town Hall regarding Covid-19, the AUMA Policing Town Hall Part 1, a Town Hall with the Premier and Dr. Hinshaw and the NE Muni-Corr meeting.

**Councillor Elisa Brosseau**

Councillor Brosseau attended the FCSS Board meeting, the Steps to Reconciliation for Libraries Webinar, the Bonnyville Municipal Library Board meeting, the Downtown Revitalization Committee meeting and a Town Hall with the Premier and Dr. Hinshaw. She also attended the AUMA Policing Town Hall Part 1, made a presentation to the City of Canmore on behalf of the ABMA (Alberta Bilingual Municipalities Association), a meeting to review the wage grid for the Library, the Canada Day Committee meeting and the Ask Me Anything Webinar with Doug Griffith.

**Councillor Rene Van Brabant**

Councillor Van Brabant attended the Annual General Meeting for the Bonnyville & District Agricultural Society and the Town Hall with the Premier and Dr. Hinshaw.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

**Letter – Covenant Health – Alberta's Top 70 Employers for 2021**

A letter was received from Covenant Health informing the Town that Covenant Health has been recognized as one of Alberta's Top 70 Employers for 2021.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Email – Mayor Craig Snodgrass, High River – Re: Reinstatement of the 1976 Coal Development Policy**

A letter was received from High River Mayor Craig Snodgrass outlining their request to the Government of Alberta to reverse the rescinding of the Coal Development Policy (Coal Policy). The letter states that the Policy was rescinded without adequate consultation with First Nations, environmental groups, residents, property owners and local governments.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**QUESTIONS**

No questions asked.



**IN CAMERA**

- 042 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council close the meeting to the public for Agenda items 10a) Land as per Section 27, FOIP.

Time: 6:45 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**OUT OF CAMERA**

- 043 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council adjourn In Camera and return to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Time: 6:59 p.m.

**CARRIED**

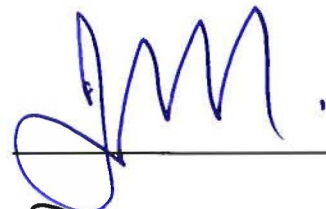
**ADJOURNMENT**


- 044 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Minutes read and adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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Mayor

  
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Chief Administrative Officer