

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BONNYVILLE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Bill Rogers – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Renee Stoyles - General Manager of Corporate Services, Jeannine Chornohos – Finance Director, Robynne Henry – Communications Coordinator and Tracy Ghostkeeper – Executive Assistant

**GUESTS**

Jay Melvin, Bonnyville Regional Fire Chief

**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 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

- 231 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that the agenda for the September 14, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as amended with the addition of:

7g) Proclamation – Alberta Development Officers Week

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2021**

- 232 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**BYLAW**

**Bylaw No. 1519-21 – Local Improvement Tax – 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane Infrastructure, Local Improvement Project**

Bylaw No. 1519-21 is authorizing the Council of the Town of Bonnyville to borrow funds (which will be done from ourselves) and subsequently impose a local improvement tax on the properties adjacent to the Back Lane South of 48th Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Street. The local improvement is to be imposed for the repaving of this back lane.

This Bylaw was created with the provision that the construction costs would be done on a Local Improvement Tax basis and collected 20% back from the owners with 80% paid by the Town, in accordance with Policy No. 04-PW-040. We have recently sent letters to the adjacent property owners to gauge their support and believe more than 50% of them are in favor of completing the project; 13 (57%) responded positively; 4 (17%) responded negatively and 6 (26%) did not respond.

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**Bylaw No. 1519-21 – Local Improvement Tax – 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane Infrastructure, Local Improvement Project**

Under the proposed bylaw, \$181,450.40 is proposed to be borrowed and \$36,290.00 is to be charged back against the property owners annually at a unit rate of \$130.78 per metre for a period of 10 years at 1.751%.

Discussion ensued.

- 233 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council provide first reading to Bylaw No. 1519-21 for the borrowing and charging of the Local Improvement Tax for the 48th Avenue South Back Lane between 41st and 42nd Street - Local Improvement Project.

**CARRIED**

**Bylaw No. 1520-21- 2022 Residential Assessment and Supplementary Assessment Sub-Class Bylaw**

This bylaw has been prepared pursuant to Section 297(1)(2) of the Municipal Government Act which states:

“Section 297(1)(2): A council may by bylaw divide class 1 into sub-classes on any basis it considers appropriate, and if the council does so, the assessor may assign one or more sub-classes to property in class 1.”

If passed Bylaw No. 1520-21 will divide the Residential Assessment Class into the following sub-classes:

1. Single Family Residential;
2. Multi-Family Residential.

This was a Bylaw that was first passed in 2019. The rationale behind creating a residential sub-class for Multi-Family properties is based on the fluctuation of the assessments year over year as the economy fluctuates. Multi-Family Assessments are based on the valuation using an Income Approach; with fluctuations in the economy in the Lakeland Area in the past few years, the income and resulting assessment of these properties moves up and down significantly resulting in large tax dollar changes for these properties if no mill rate adjustment is made. By creating a residential sub-class for Multi-Family properties, Council has the option of adjusting the Mill Rate to lesson these fluctuations.

**Bylaw No. 1520-21- 2022 Residential Assessment and Supplementary Assessment Sub-Class Bylaw**

- 234 **Moved by Councillor Elisa Brosseau** that Council provide first reading for Bylaw No. 1520-21 – 2022 Residential Assessment and Supplementary Assessment Sub-Class Bylaw.

**CARRIED**



## BUSINESS

### ATCO Electric Revenue Forecast

Administration received a letter from Sharla McCullough, our Atco Electric Ltd. Customer Sales Representative, advising of our forecasted 2022 franchise fee based on estimated distribution revenues for the Town of Bonnyville.

The letter also outlines the procedure that must be undertaken to amend the distribution percentage franchise fee, which is currently at 6.8% of distribution revenue.

The franchise fee for 2022 is forecasted to be \$65,849 greater than what was budgeted for in 2021. In 2020 the Town received \$485,002 for the franchise fee and the 2021 franchise fee is expected to increase to \$513,134. In previous years, distribution revenue has steadily increased which attributes to the increase in the annual franchise revenue and this year we will again realize increased revenues from the electric franchise without a raise in the percentage rate being required.

- 235 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council advise ATCO Electric that we do not wish to amend the annual franchise fee percentage for 2022.

### CARRIED

### Grassroots Movement Committee- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Funding Request

Administration received an email and itinerary sent by Corita Vachon on behalf of the "Grassroots Movement Committee", requesting a donation to go towards costs of the planned National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events, to be held September 30th.

The Grassroots group is planning a day-long event to be held at Notre Dame High School, including workshops, music, dancing, an orange shirt walk, etc. They are asking for financial contributions to assist with the estimated costs of \$3,500.00. The group is also doing their own fundraising through T-shirt sales and other activities.

Although this type of event is not specifically covered by the Town of Bonnyville Donation Policy, this request could fit under "Promote Civic Pride and Sense of Place" – the event or activity will enhance entertainment, recreational, and cultural opportunities for Bonnyville residents and will help create a more varied, vibrant and interesting local flavour.

Accordingly, Administration suggests Council consider a level of funding that might be in line with event donations from the past, where the typical donation amount is in the range of \$250-\$500 dollars.

**Grassroots Movement  
Committee- National Day for  
Truth and Reconciliation  
Funding Request**

236 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that Council approve a donation of \$500.00 to support the Grassroots Movement Committee- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event being held on September 30, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**COVID-19 Considerations**

The Bonnyville Region has been particularly hard hit by increased Covid cases in recent weeks, with approximately 450 active cases in the entire M.D. of Bonnyville region as of September 10th. Compare this to such areas as St. Paul County at 101, Smoky Lake County at 85, or Strathcona County at 75 active cases as of the same date - and the Bonnyville situation becomes concerning.

Administration has been working with staff to stay abreast of current developments with regard to combatting the spread of COVID-19, as well as implementing best practices to protect staff and residents and plan for the continued provision of key services as we progress through this – again - challenging period of increased cases in our region.

There are several ongoing processes we have once again implemented to battle the spread of Covid in Town facilities which Council should be aware of, as well as matters that Administration would ask for Council direction regarding.

1. **Mandatory Masks:** Originally planned to be a subject of this discussion, with the Province having reinstated the requirements for Mandatory mask wearing, Administration has once again brought forward measures requiring that our staff wear masks in Town facilities, vehicles and common areas when not at their desks or individual work areas.
2. **Town facilities open to the public:** Since restrictions were removed earlier this year, Town facilities have once again been open to the public. That being said, sanitization of lobby areas, installation of protective barricades and other measures remain in place for protection of staff and visitors.
3. **Council meetings open to public attendance:** Council may wish to give direction regarding whether to continue with future Council meetings remaining open to public attendance, or to close the meetings to the public while continuing to livestream meetings as they happen, during this period of increased restrictions.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Councillor Colbourne requested a recorded vote.





## COVID-19 Considerations

237 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that Council close Council meetings to the Public and proceed with Delegations by Zoom.

### In Favour

Ray Prevost  
Rene Van Brabant  
Lorna Storoschuk  
Brian McEvoy  
Gene Sobolewski

### Opposed

Elisa Brosseau  
Chad Colbourne

## **CARRIED**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Councillor Brian McEvoy**

Councillor McEvoy attended the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising event and the Community Policing Committee meeting.

### **Councillor Lorna Storoschuk**

Councillor Storoschuk attended the St. Anne Chapel move to Bonnyville Museum, Kehewin Treaty Days, the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Historical Society Board Meeting, the Town Hall on Covid Immunization, a Bonnyville & District Daycare Board Meeting and the AUMA Summer Municipal Leaders Caucus. She also attended the Town of Bonnyville Special Council Meeting, an AB (Alberta) CARE meeting (Nisku), the Chamber of Commerce Golf Scramble, the RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities) Golf Tournament, a Muni-Corr Board Meeting (Smoky Lake), the Bonnyville & District Historical Society Board Meeting, the Bonnyville Golf and Country Club Recognition Event with Minister Orr, Minister Pon's Visit at the Seniors Drop In Centre, the Northern Lights Library System Board meeting (Zoom) and a Bonnyville & District Daycare Board meeting. Councillor Storoschuk also attended the Bonnyville & District Daycare Board Emergency meeting (Zoom), the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising, a Bonnyville Municipal Library Board meeting and a Muni-Corr Board meeting (Zoom).

### **Councillor Chad Colbourne**

Councillor Colbourne attended the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising event and a couple of quick meetings at the Centennial Centre.

### **Mayor Gene Sobolewski**

Mayor Sobolewski attended the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising event, spent time dealing with the cancellation of the AB Care Conference and several In-Camera issues that can not be mentioned.

### **Councillor Ray Prevost**

Councillor Prevost attended the Bonnyville Chamber of Commerce Annual General meeting, the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising event, and had the honor of coaching the

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**Councillor Ray Prevost**

Pontiacs White Team to victory at the Bonnyville Jr A Pontiacs Annual Milton Romanchuk Cup Tournament.

**Councillor Elisa Brosseau**

Councillor Brosseau attended Minister Pon's Visit at the Seniors Drop In Centre, the Bonnyville Gear Grabbers Drag Racing event, a Regional Economic Development Committee meeting with a branding consultant, the Town of Bonnyville Metis Flag Raising event, the Power Up conference at the Metis Crossing, an Alberta Bilingual Municipalities meeting and a Community Planning Association meeting.

**Councillor Rene Van Brabant**

Councillor Van Brabant attended a Bonnyville Agricultural Society meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

**Letter – M.D. of Bonnyville –  
M.D. Regional Recreation  
Committee Disbanded**

A letter was received from the M.D. of Bonnyville stating that the Regional Recreation Committee has been disbanded.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Letter – RCMP Regular  
Member Pay Raise**

A letter was received from the RCMP stating that a collective agreement has been reached for Regular Member Police Officers under the Municipal Policing Services Agreement (MPSA). The new collective agreement for Regular Members and Reservists covers a period of six years beginning on April 1, 2017 and includes economic increases and market adjustments.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Invitation – Bonnyville  
Friendship Centre – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Sisters in Spirit Vigil**

A letter of invitation was received from the Bonnyville Friendship Centre for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Bonnyville Centennial Centre Field House.

Council accepted this invitation for information.

**Report – Ronald McDonald  
House Charities Alberta  
Lakeland Golf Event Report**

A report was received from Ronald McDonald House Charities on the Lakeland Golf Tournament that was held on August 21, 2021.

Council accepted this report for information.

**Event – Royal Canadian  
Legion – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey  
Blast Challenge & community  
Supper**

Administration received a poster for the Royal Canadian Legion's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Blast Challenge and Community Supper on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Council accepted this poster for information.





**Proclamation – World  
Cerebral Palsy Day – October  
6, 2021**

Mayor Sobolewski proclaimed October 6, 2021 as World Cerebral Palsy Day in the Town of Bonnyville.

**Proclamation – Alberta  
Development Officers Week –  
September 19 - 25, 2021**

Mayor Sobolewski proclaimed September 19–25, 2021 as Alberta Development Officers Week in the Town of Bonnyville.

## **QUESTIONS**

Councillor Colbourne asked where the Bonnyville Friendship Centre was in relation to the information request from Council for their monetary request.

Renee Stoyles, General Manager of Corporate Services, stated that they are in the process of gathering the financial information Council requested

Bill Rogers, CAO, added that they have also started the permit applications.

Councillor Prevost asked if Public Works could look at the sidewalk at 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue running North and South. The end of the sidewalk has a large drop and he believes it would be dangerous in the winter.

CAO Bill Rogers stated that he will have someone take a look and advise.

In addition to all of Council present, Bill Rogers, CAO and Renee Stoyles, General Manager of Corporate Services attended the In-Camera session to provide Administrative and Procedural support.

## **IN CAMERA**

- 238 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council close the meeting to the public for Agenda item 9a) Legal and 9b) Legal as per Section 27, FOIP.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

## **OUT OF CAMERA**

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

Time: 7:47 p.m.

**CARRIED**


**ADJOURNMENT**

240 **Moved by Councillor Chad Colbourne** that the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned.

Time: 7:48 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Minutes read and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

  
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Mayor

  
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Chief Administrative Officer

