

Municipality of Jasper  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 | 9:30 am  
Quorum Room, Jasper Library & Cultural Centre

- Present Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Jenna McGrath, Councillors Paul Butler, Helen Kelleher-Empey, Scott Wilson, Rico Damota and Bert Journault
- Also Present Mark Fercho, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christine Nadon, Legislative Services Manager  
Kayla Byrne, Legislative Services Coordinator  
Lisa Riddell, Community Development Manager  
Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance and Administration  
John Greathead, Director of Operations  
Vidal Michaud, Acting Utilities Manager  
Nicolle Hodges, Fitzhugh
- Call to Order Deputy Mayor McGrath called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.
- Approval of Agenda MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey to approve the agenda for February 11, 2020 as presented. CARRIED
- Approval of Minutes MOTION by Mayor Ireland to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting as presented. CARRIED
- Measuring Inclusion Tool Follow-Up The Community Development Manager presented the results from the Measuring Inclusion survey, which suggested the Municipality could work towards more employee engagement and education and improving how residents interact with municipal facilities.
- It was noted the style of the survey presented a challenge as the multiple choice responses were restrictive.
- Using the results, Administration is developing an action plan which will be submitted to AUMA later this month.
- Councillor Journault Councillor Journault joined the meeting at 9:50 am.
- HI Jasper Property Tax Exemption Proposal Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of HI Jasper's recent tax exemption proposal.
- Some councillors noted that if Council granted a property tax exemption to HI Jasper it could lead to other businesses making similar requests. Councillors reiterated that there are many businesses in town that are generous community partners or sponsors, yet still pay property taxes.
- Council indicated a decision on this item would be made at the next regular meeting.

Assessment  
Growth and  
Inflation Summary

In response to questions from councillors at the last regular meeting, the Director of Finance and Administration presented a breakdown of the 2019 assessment, showcasing a total rural assessment and total urban assessment and a list of all tax exempt properties.

Councillors commended the Director of Finance and Administration on the charts and inquired if the presented information could be better communicated to residents.

Councillors requested the title of the “budget % increase” column of the last chart on page 15 of the agenda package be changed to “the tax supported portion of the budget”.

Councillors also noted the benefits of being able to show residents how their taxes compare to similarly valued properties in other communities. This information is available through the province of Alberta’s website.

External Budget  
Requests – 2020  
Budget

Administration highlighted the proposed increases from 2019 external budget requests and inquired if Council needs any more information regarding this year’s external budget requests.

Councillors reiterated the need to have a policy level discussion on the Jasper Library and Cultural Centre and its tenants. It was noted this item will be discussed at the upcoming Culture and Recreation facilities and services review meeting.

Habitat for the Arts: Councillors recognized the organization’s fiscal year is April to April, but indicated they would like more information on its business plan and its 2019 expenses.

Jasper Municipal Library: Councillors indicated they would like Administration to break down the discretionary and non-discretionary funding for the library.

Jasper Skate Park Committee: It was noted this request was presented as a placeholder for the 2021 budget. Prior to any decisions, councillors indicated they would like an update from the committee regarding raised funds. It was noted the skate park is also being discussed in the Culture and Recreation facilities and services review.

Jasper Artists Guilds: Administration suggested the three options proposed by JAG could be discussed at the upcoming Culture and Recreation facilities and services review meeting.

The operating budget, including external requests, will return for decision at a future meeting.

Councillors indicated they would like operating budget decisions to be broken down per respective external request rather than one decision on the overall budget.

Recess

Deputy Mayor McGrath called a recess from 11:04 am until 11:13 am.

Operations  
Department  
Capital Budget  
Parking Lot Items

Administration presented updated and separate requests for the Jasper Stage capital request (\$138,500) and the Commemoration Park electrical connections request (\$30,000). Administration noted the budget requests reflect the possibility of unexpected costs; money not spent will remain in reserves.

Administration also noted the intent of having a fully serviced stage is to attract bigger entertainment acts; attracting these acts will be discussed with other organizations in the future.

Councillors requested that the cost of the panel, which is currently reflected in the Jasper Stage request, be divided between the stage request and the Commemoration Park electrical servicing request as the panel would be needed for both projects.

In response to questions from councillors at the last regular meeting, the Director of Operations presented more information on the bulk water fill station request, which is proposed to be housed at the Environmental Services Building.

Councillors inquired about customer payment options, the project's design and accessibility.

These requests will return for decision at the next regular meeting.

Administration also noted the Municipality was awarded a grant of \$120,000 for the new snow blower. The total cost of the snow blower was \$123,900.

CN Place – Jim  
Vena Stage  
Project Costs

Following a request from Council at the last regular meeting, Administration provided a breakdown of 2019 costs for the Jim Vena Stage project.

Correspondence:  
Western States  
Hockey League

Council received a letter opposing the creation of a WSHL hockey team in Jasper.

Grants in Place of  
Taxes Update

Council received notice that the province will only pay 75 percent of its grants in place of taxes for provincial buildings this year; and is expected to only pay 50 percent next year. It was noted this will not have a significant impact on Jasper as many of the town's buildings are federally-owned.

Administration will return with a request for decision to approve write-offs for any remaining balances due for provincial building property taxes.

Councillor Reports

Councillor Journault participated in a teleconference meeting for the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association.

Councillor McGrath will attend the upcoming Community Conversations, a Jasper Municipal Library Board meeting and a Jasper Community Team Society meeting.

Mayor Ireland will attend a Jasper Yellowhead Museum meeting.

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|------------------------|---|---------|
| Upcoming Events        | Council received a list of upcoming events.   |         |
| In Camera              | MOTION by Councillor Wilson to move in camera at 12:01 pm to discuss agenda item 12.1<br>Deliberative Matter: Jasper SkyTram Redevelopment Plan – FOIP, S.29. | CARRIED |
| Revert to Open Meeting | MOTION by Mayor Ireland to revert to open meeting at 12:37 pm.  | CARRIED |
| Adjournment            | MOTION by Councillor Butler that, there being no further business, the meeting of<br>February 11, 2020 be adjourned at 12:38 pm.                              | CARRIED |