

Municipality of Jasper  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 | 9:30 am

Electronic Meeting	The May 5, 2020 regular meeting was conducted virtually through Zoom. All meeting attendees participated or observed by electronic means.
Present	Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Scott Wilson, Councillors Paul Butler, Bert Journault, Helen Kelleher-Empey, Jenna McGrath and Rico Damota
Also present	Mark Fercho, Chief Administrative Officer Christine Nadon, Legislative Services Manager Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance and Administration Kayla Byrne, Legislative Services Coordinator Greg Van Tighem, Director of Protective Services Gordon Hutton, Buildings and Asset Manager Lisa Daniel, Childcare Services Manager Peter Bridge, Arena Manager Jeff Alliston, Metrix Group Fuchsia Dragon, Fitzhugh 42 staff members and observers
Call to order	Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
Additions to the Agenda #124/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council add the following items to today’s agenda:  9.4 Wildflowers Childcare & OOSC – Penny Bayfield 9.5 Wildflowers Childcare – Cristin Murphy 9.6 Wildflowers Childcare & OOSC – Ashley Kliewer 9.7 Jasper Activity Centre – Alex Derksen 12.1 In Camera: Human Resources Matter, FOIP  FOR 5 Councillors  AGAINST 2 Councillors (Councillors Butler and Damota)  CARRIED
Approval of agenda #125/20	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the regular meeting of May 5, 2020 as amended.  FOR 7 Councillors  AGAINST 0 Councillors  CARRIED
Approval of regular minutes #126/20	MOTION by Councillor Journault – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 regular Council meeting as presented.  FOR 7 Councillors  AGAINST 0 Councillors  CARRIED
ECC Update	Following the announcement of the province’s COVID-19 relaunch strategy, the Director of Emergency Management reiterated the ECC is continuing to work with

community partners to monitor traffic in town, trailheads and other points of interest. As the province continues with its multi-stage relaunch plan, the ECC and its community partners will continue working together and provide updates as they become available.

Emergency Social Services (ESS) continues to focus on the social impact of the pandemic on the community through numerous programs. An ESS activity report from the past month was presented to Council.

Councillors asked follow-up questions and requested an update on sidewalk seating.

Municipality of Jasper 2019 Audit Jeff Alliston of Metrix Group gave a summary of the 2019 audit findings. The audit findings found no significant control deficiencies, no unusual accounting policies or estimates, no uncorrected misstatements and no significant difficulties.

Councillors asked follow-up questions. Mr. Alliston confirmed the Municipality of Jasper's finance records are in good standing.

Recess Mayor Ireland called a recess from 10:53 am until 11:01 am.

Bylaw Summary Council received a list of bylaws currently in force and those in various stages of readings.

Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Boards – waiver of notice #127/20 A waiver of notice was requested in order to start this project as soon as possible. MOTION by Councillor Wilson – BE IT RESOLVED that Council waive notice otherwise necessary to make a decision on capital funds for the curling slab, arena slab and boards project.

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Damota)	CARRIED

Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Boards Prior to making a decision on capital funding for the curling slab, arena slab and boards, councillors inquired about timelines and asked clarifying questions about the recommended contractor. Administration reiterated its recommendation to start this project while facilities are closed due to COVID-19.

Capital Project Deferral #128/20 MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council defer making a decision on the recommendations brought forward in today's agenda item 8.1 Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Boards.

FOR	AGAINST	
2 Councillors	5 Councillors (Mayor Ireland, Councillors Wilson, Kelleher-Empey, Butler and Damota)	DEFEATED

<p>Capital Project Deferral Decision until next Council Meeting #129/20</p>	<p>MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council defer making a decision on the recommendations brought forward in today’s agenda item 8.1 Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Boards until the May 12, 2020 Council meeting.</p>									
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<p>Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Board #130/20</p>	<p>MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the curling slab, arena slab and boards total capital project budget in the amount of \$2,705,255.</p>									
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		CARRIED								
<p>Capital Funds for Curling Slab, Arena Slab and Board: Contract #131/20</p>	<p>MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the award of the curling slab, arena slab and boards contract to Prologic Construction Ltd. with a total contract price of \$2,083,859.</p>									
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<p>Recess</p>	<p>Mayor Ireland called a recess from 12:40 pm until 12:48 pm.</p>									
<p>COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force Purpose Statement #132/20</p>	<p>Prior to making a decision, councillors confirmed representatives from small businesses should also be included in the task force.</p> <p>MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the statement of purpose for the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force as presented in today’s agenda.</p>									
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<p>Amendment to COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force #133/20</p>	<p>MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council amend motion #117/20, which approved the establishment of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force, to read as follows:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the establishment of a Task Force (provisionally titled the COVID 19 Economic Recovery Task Force) to study and report on strategies and actions for consideration by Council and others to help</p>									

position the community, and its public, private, social and residential sectors to spur economic and social recovery following the COVID 19 pandemic.

FOR 7 Councillors                      AGAINST 0 Councillors                      CARRIED

COVID-19 Budget Reductions and Required Service Reductions

The newly established Budget Review Committee, composed of all Council members, presented the following:

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have a severe negative impact of the tourism economy of Jasper; consequently the taxpayers of Jasper will have difficulty meeting financial obligations this year, including payment of taxes; Administration has recommended a 2020 operating budget resulting in a tax requisition of \$7,980,000; Council passed motion #95/20 on April 7, 2020 approving a 2020 operating budget resulting in a tax requisition of \$7-million; the Municipal Government Act requires municipalities to pass a balanced budget; Administration has recommended and implemented workforce reductions and service reductions resulting in budgetary savings of \$322,000; Administration has requested that Council provide direction in determining further municipal service reductions to achieve a balanced budget, which requires a further \$659,380 in reductions.

#134/20

MOTION by Councillor Butler – BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs Administration to implement workforce and service reductions as detailed in the following table:

	potential income loss	potential savings due to service reductions	NET reduction	savings already achieved
Fire	-\$25,000.00	\$80,756.00	\$55,756.00	
Bylaw	-\$54,500.00	\$194,500.00	\$140,000.00	
Prot Svc Combined				\$11,740.00
Fitness	-\$120,669.00	\$150,410.00	\$29,741.00	
Aquatic	-\$181,003.00	\$305,377.00	\$124,374.00	
Arena	-\$134,835.00	\$54,617.00	-\$80,218.00	
Washroom		\$29,242.00	\$29,242.00	
Ac. Ctr.	-\$115,568.00	\$129,476.00	\$13,908.00	
Getaway	-\$171,587.00	\$117,631.00	-\$53,956.00	
C&R Combined				\$133,297.00
CFS		\$113,058.00	\$113,058.00	
Daycare/OOSC		\$14,475.00	\$14,475.00	
Operations Combined				\$65,988.00
Reserves		\$273,000.00	\$273,000.00	
Administration				\$109,285.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$803,162.00</b>	<b>\$1,462,542.00</b>	<b>\$659,380.00</b>	<b>\$320,310.00</b>
Potential Savings less potential losses:		\$659,380.00		
Savings needed:		\$659,380.00		

Council hereby further directs Administration to implement service and workforce reductions as follows. As economic recovery progresses, any of these directives may be adjusted dependent on funds available.

- Reduce Protective Services workforce to achieve savings indicated
- Plan for the possibility of the fitness centre to be closed until the end of the year

- Plan for the possibility of the aquatic centre to be closed until the end of the year
- Plan for the possibility of the arena to be closed until the end of the year
- Plan for the closure of the Connaught washroom until the end of the year
- Plan for the possibility of the activity centre to be closed until the end of the year
- No getaway camps or tournaments this year
- Plan for the daycare to be closed until it can be opened safely and until demand is such that it can be operated on a basis of reasonable cost-recovery
- Continue implementation of previously identified reductions
- Reduce transfers to reserves by 25%

FOR

5 Councillors

AGAINST

2 Councillors (Mayor Ireland and Councillor Wilson)

CARRIED

Correspondence:  
FCSS Funding and  
Food Security

Council received a notice from Alberta Community and Social Services that it is temporarily relaxing funding restrictions on FCSS funding to help address local food security needs.

COVID-19 Alberta  
Relaunch  
Strategy

Council received the province's multi-phased relaunch strategy.

Alberta Relaunch  
Strategy,  
Childcare

Council received notice from Alberta Children's Services that all daycare and out of school care facilities will be allowed to open, with public health guidelines in place, starting as early as May 14.

Wildflowers  
Childcare & OOSC  
Correspondence

Council received three letters in support of continued funding for the Wildflowers Childcare daycare and Out of School Care to resume as normal when it safe to do so.

Jasper Arena

Council received a letter in support of re-opening the Jasper Activity Centre, if possible, when it safe to do so.

Other New  
Business

Councillors inquired about the summer busking program. Administration confirmed this is a Habitat for the Arts project that currently requires annual approval from Council; a request for the 2020 season should come from Habitat for the Arts.

Councillors thanked MP Soroka, who recently inquired if the federal government would provide land rent relief for Jasper this year due lost revenue caused by COVID-19.

Meeting Extension #135/20	MOTION by Councillor Journault – BE IRT RESOLVED that Council extend today’s meeting beyond four hours.						
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Councillor Reports	<p>Mayor Ireland has had numerous meetings with the mayors of Banff and Canmore, the Jasper National Park Superintendent, the West Yellowhead MLA and MP to discuss the COVID-19 situation and impact on the region. Mayor Ireland also participated in a West Yellowhead Mayors Business Support Event.</p> <p>Councillors Kelleher-Empey and Wilson will attend a Community Futures meeting.</p> <p>Councillor McGrath will attend a Jasper Community Team Society meeting; and will continue attending the weekly Community Conversations.</p>						
Upcoming Events	Council noted the Jasper Community Team is hosting weekly community conversations pertaining to COVID-19. The conversations take place at 1 pm on Wednesdays through Zoom.						
In Camera #136/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council move in camera at 1:52 pm to discuss agenda item 12.1 Human Resources Matter, FOIP.						
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Revert to open meeting #137/20	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey to revert to open meeting at 2:45 pm.						
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Councillors Wilson and Butler	Councillors Wilson and Butler left the meeting.						
Adjournment #138/20	MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that, there being no further business, the regular meeting of May 5, 2020 be adjourned at 2:50 pm.						
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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer