

Municipality of Jasper
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, June 30, 2020 | 9:30 am

Electronic Meeting	The June 30, 2020 regular meeting was conducted virtually through Zoom. All meeting attendees participated or observed by electronic means.		
Present	Mayor Richard Ireland, Councillors Paul Butler, Bert Journault, Helen Kelleher-Empey, Jenna McGrath and Rico Damota		
Absent	Deputy Mayor Scott Wilson		
Also present	Mark Fercho, Chief Administrative Officer Kayla Byrne, Legislative Services Coordinator Christine Nadon, Legislative Services Manager Lisa Riddell, Community Development Manager Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance and Administration Joanne McQuarrie, Fitzhugh Bob Covey, the Jasper Local 18 staff members and observers		
Call to order	Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.		
Additions to the agenda	MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council add the following item to today’s agenda: 12.1 Non-medical masks in public indoor spaces		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of agenda #184/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath– BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the regular meeting of June 30, 2020 as amended.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of regular minutes #185/20	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 regular Council meeting as presented.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of special minutes #186/20	MOTION by Councillor Butler – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 special Council meeting provided the details regarding Council direction on commercial use in public space as outlined in the Council Highlights from that meeting are included in the minutes.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED

As per best practice, minutes should be structured to facilitate ease of reference by recording a simple and brief form of sequential events. A more detailed account of decisions and discussions is published on the municipal website on the [Council Highlights](#) page.

Business arising from the minutes	<p>Councillors inquired about updates to the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) grant. Wildflowers Childcare has received confirmation from the Government of Alberta that the centre can continue offering \$25/day care until the end of July, utilizing grant funding that went unspent while the daycare was closed.</p> <p>More updates on this item could become available in the future.</p>
Bylaw Summary	<p>Council received a list of bylaws currently in force and those in various stages of readings.</p>
Measuring Municipal Inclusion Grant update	<p>Council received an update on the status of the Municipality's Measuring Municipal Inclusion Grant. Staff have put in a request to have funding extended by one year to help realize the project's goals.</p> <p>Councillors inquired about the scope of this grant and its relevance to items outside of the municipal scope such as proposed changes to the Local Authorities Election Act. Staff confirmed the project has more of an inward focus, however, the future Municipal Inclusion Committee could identify external inclusion topics.</p> <p>Council will also further discuss, with AUMA and the provincial government, its position on proposed changes to the Local Authorities Election Act.</p>
Audit 101 Presentation	<p>Administration inquired if Council would like a workshop on how to make audit presentations more effective.</p> <p>Councillors indicated they are interested in this workshop. Staff will arrange a date and asked councillors to prepare a list of topics they would like addressed in the workshop.</p>
50 Minute Parking Downtown	<p>Following some discussion Council decided not move forward with a proposal to reduce parking limits in the downtown core from two hours to 50 minutes.</p> <p>No motion was put forward, therefore, parking limits downtown will remain at two hours between 9 am – 5pm.</p> <p>Council received several letters opposing the 50 minute parking proposal. Those letters were included in today's agenda package.</p>
Notice: Reopening of the Fitness Centre	<p>Councillors expressed public health and fiscal responsibility concerns over a proposal to reopen the facility starting July 13 with reduced hours and increased sanitation.</p>

Some councillors indicated, prior to any decisions, they would like to wait for possible relaunch strategy updates and would like to continue monitoring COVID-19 case numbers in Alberta. In response to this discussion, the following motion was put forward:

#187/20 MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that a report on the reopening of the Fitness Centre return as an information item, for consideration, at the August 4, 2020 Council meeting.

FOR	AGAINST	
3 Councillors	3 Councillors	
	(Mayor Ireland, Councillors Butler & Journault)	DEFEATED

#188/20 MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council review the reopening of the Fitness Centre at the July 28, 2020 Council meeting.

FOR	AGAINST	
1 Councillor (Councillor Damota)	5 Councillors	
		DEFEATED

Council gave notice that it may make a decision on the reopening of the Fitness Centre and climbing wall at the July 7 meeting. Council will also consider alternative reopening dates at its next meeting.

Prior to the July 7 meeting, councillors requested more information on potential additional costs if the reopening of facilities is delayed and requested more information on funds saved since the closures. Councillors also requested more information on the proposed booking of time slots for the gym and how that would work for visitors.

Recess Mayor Ireland called a recess from 11:25 am until 11:33 am.

Notice: CMHC Seed Funding for Affordable Housing Units Council gave notice that it could make a decision on CMHC seed funding for affordable housing units at its July 21 meeting.

Councillors inquired about debt limits and suggested discussing borrowing limits with provincial representatives.

This item will return for further discussion at the July 7 meeting.

Council Meetings Schedule and Format Council agreed to revert to its original meeting schedule of regular meetings held every first and third Tuesday of the month, and committee meetings held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Waiver of notice #189/20 MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council waive the necessary notice required to make a decision on Council meeting format.

	FOR	AGAINST	
	6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED
Zoom meetings #190/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council continue to hold regularly scheduled meetings using Zoom until the Council chambers at the Library and Cultural Centre are equipped to livestream in-person meetings, at which time in-person meetings will take place with an opportunity for the public to livestream the meeting.		
	6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Administration anticipates the Council Chambers will be properly equipped by mid-July.		
	Council also discussed changing the format of its committee of the whole meetings to provide more opportunities to focus on policy and governance items.		
Correspondence: Electronic vehicle charging station	Earlier this year, Tesla proposed the installation of up to 16 Tesla owned and operated electric vehicle chargers on municipal lands. More recently Tesla pitched an alternate proposal contingent on grant funding, which would also have Tesla fund several generic charging connectors for all brands.		
	Since Tesla’s first proposal, councillors have discussed how this proposal fits with the Municipality’s practices on commercial use of public spaces.		
	This item will return for further discussion and consideration at the next Council meeting.		
Northwest Alberta Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network	Council received a copy of a letter from the Town of Edson to Community Futures West Yellowhead regarding the endorsement of a regional collaborative initiative for a Northwest Alberta Electric Vehicle Charging Network.		
	Mayor Ireland will write to the mayor of Edson to get more information on the proposal.		
Environmental stewardship initiative	Council received a letter from a resident regarding an initiative to keep cigarette butts off the streets. Council directed staff to look into this item and return with more information at a future committee of the whole meeting.		
Public awareness for Bylaw #126, S. 4	Council received a letter from a resident encouraging more public awareness of section 4.1 of the Domestic Animal Bylaw. This was sent in reference to pet cats killing birds in town.		
	Councillors indicated their favour for raising public awareness through municipal social media.		

Administration also noted bylaw officers have recently been responding to numerous calls regarding wandering felines.

Meeting extension #191/20

MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that today’s meeting go beyond four hours.

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

50 minute parking

Council received several letters regarding a proposal to reduce the parking limit downtown from two hours to 50 minutes. This item was also discussed earlier in the meeting.

Patricia Circle ice rink

Council received notice from Trans Mountain regarding the removal of the ice rink located at Patricia Circle.

Ongoing concerns

Council received a letter from a resident regarding town maintenance.

Councillors indicated it would like to discuss the municipal procurement policy and a correspondence policy at a future meeting.

Other new business: Non-medical masks in public indoor spaces

Councillors inquired about the possibility of mandatory mask-wearing in indoor and outdoor public spaces. Councillors suggested mask awareness could be spread with the help of community partners; and indicated they would like to further discuss other methods that could be implemented to accommodate physical distancing in the downtown core.

Staff will look into municipal authorities for mandatory masking.

Councillor reports

Councillor McGrath noted the COVID-19 related Community Conversations will no longer be held weekly. The next scheduled Community Conversation is July 29. Councillor McGrath also noted she is unable to attend an upcoming Library Board meeting.

Councillor Kelleher-Empey attended a Community Futures meeting. It was noted Community Futures has introduced a new loan to help businesses that are having trouble paying rent on account of COVID-19 circumstances.

Councillor Journault noted the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway Association is hoping to reschedule its AGM, which was postponed due to COVID-19.

Councillor Damota requested an update on the Environmental Responsibility Committee and other committees that may be paused.

Upcoming events

Council received a short list of events.

Adjournment
#192/20

MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that, there being no further business, the regular meeting of June 30, 2020 be adjourned at 1:56 pm.

FOR
6 Councillors

AGAINST
0 Councillors

CARRIED

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer