

Municipality of Jasper
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, April 7, 2020 | 9:30 am

Electronic Meeting	The April 7, 2020 regular meeting was conducted electronically through Zoom. All meeting attendees participated or observed by electronic means.		
Present	Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Helen Kelleher-Empy, Councillors Scott Wilson, Paul Butler, Bert Journault, Jenna McGrath and Rico Damota		
Also present	Mark Fercho, Chief Administrative Officer Kathleen Waxer, Community and Family Services Manager Christine Nadon, Legislative Services Manager Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance and Administration Kayla Byrne, Legislative Services Coordinator Lisa Daniel, Child Services Manager Greg Van Tighem, Director of Protective Services Fuchsia Dragon, Fitzhugh 24 staff members and observers		
Call to order	Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.		
Additions to the Agenda #91/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council add the following item to today’s agenda: - 14.2 In Camera: Legal Matter		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of agenda #92/90	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empy – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the regular meeting of April 7, 2020 as amended.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of regular minutes #93/20	MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the March 17, 2020 regular Council meeting as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Approval of special regular minutes #94/20	MOTION by Councillor Wilson – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the March 31, 2020 special regular Council meeting as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Community & Family Services Report	The Director of Community and Family Services presented a departmental report, noting that the department is still waiting for news regarding its Family Resource Report		

Network funding application. Mrs. Waxer also highlighted work being done by Emergency Social Services (ESS) in regards to COVID-19.

Councillors asked clarifying questions and commended the CFS department for its services during the pandemic.

Information Report: COVID-19 Service Cuts and Cost Saving Measures
Administration presented a list of deferred or cancelled capital projects for 2020; service cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic; a list of additional cost saving measures, including service impacts to residents and businesses. Discussions on workforce reductions will continue, with announcements to affected staff scheduled for later in the week.

Councillors inquired and made various remarks about provincial budget deadlines, further cost reduction measures, departmental budgets, external tax requisitions and the deferral of 2020 capital projects.

Recess
Mayor Ireland called a recess at 10:52 am until 11:01 am.

RFD: Operating Budget 2020 #95/20
Prior to making a decision on the operating budget, Council considered numerous items like further cost reductions, maintaining essential services and community recovery assistance.

MOTION by Councillor Butler – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve a 2020 operating budget resulting in a tax requisition of \$7-million.

FOR	AGAINST
4 Councillors	3 Councillors (Mayor Ireland, Councillor Wilson & Councillor Damota)
	CARRIED

Council gave notice that it will make a decision regarding budget requests from external groups at the next regular meeting.

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

Utility Fees Levy and Collection Bylaw 2020 A #96/20
This revised bylaw was brought forward to capture Council's request to defer utility bill payments without penalties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empy – BE IT RESOLVED that Council read for the first time, Bylaw #226: Utility Fees Levy and Collection Bylaw 2020 A, being a bylaw of the Specialized Municipality of Jasper in the province of Alberta to provide for the levying and collection of fees for the provision of water, sewer, solid waste and recycling services in 2020.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

MOTION by Councillor Journault – BE IT RESOLVED that Council read for the second time, Bylaw #226: Utility Fees Levy and Collection Bylaw 2020 A, being a bylaw of the Specialized Municipality of Jasper in the province of Alberta to provide for the levying and collection of fees for the provision of water, sewer, solid waste and recycling services in 2020.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Correspondence: Support for Businesses Re: COVID-19

In partnership with the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures West Yellowhead, the Municipality of Jasper wrote a letter to the local businesses community regarding support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Business

Council directed Administration to include the following message in further communications regarding the municipal response to COVID-19: “Council encourages all tenants and landlords in Jasper to find ways to work together during this time.” It was also requested this statement be included in the April 7 Council meeting highlights.

Council requested that Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) updates be included on the upcoming agendas. Administration noted the ECC it is striving to meet the following objectives:

- Keeping staff safe and healthy
- Providing and maintaining essential services
- Collaborating with Alberta Health Services when necessary
- Minimizing costs

Councillor Reports

Councillor McGrath will attend a Jasper Municipal Library board meeting and will participate in the Community Conversations.

Councillors Kelleher-Empey and Wilson attended a Community Futures directors meeting.

Mayor Ireland had a telephone discussion with Senator Simons regarding the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Mayor Ireland also had a conference call with MLA Long and other local mayors regarding COVID-19 in the region.

Councillor Butler reported that the Evergreens Foundation does not, as of this meeting, have any cases of COVID-19 in any of its facilities. Councillor Butler commended the foundation for all its hard work during the pandemic.

Meeting extension #97/20

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

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

In Camera
#98/20

MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council move in camera at 1:23 pm to discuss agenda item 14.1 Human Resources Matter - FOIP s.24 and agenda item 14.2 Legal Matter.

FOR
7 Councillors

AGAINST
0 Councillors

CARRIED

Revert to public
meeting
#99/20

MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council move out of camera at 3:25 pm.

FOR
7 Councillors

AGAINST
0 Councillors

CARRIED

Summary of in
camera meeting

During the in camera session, Council further discussed municipal work force reductions and the legal ramifications of managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adjournment
#100/20

MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that, there being no further business, the regular meeting of April 7, 2020 be adjourned at 3:34 pm.

FOR
7 Councillors

AGAINST
0 Councillors

CARRIED

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer