

Municipality of Jasper  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
 Tuesday, April 21, 2020 | 9:30 am

Electronic Meeting      The April 21, 2020 regular meeting was conducted virtually through Zoom. All meeting attendees participated or observed by electronic means.

Present      Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Helen Kelleher-Empey, Councillors Paul Butler, Bert Journault, Scott Wilson, 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  
 John Greathead, Director of Operations  
 Yvonne McNabb, Director of Culture and Recreation  
 Lorna Chisholm, Seton Healthcare Centre Site Manager  
 Sgt. Rick Bidaisee, Jasper RCMP  
 Fuchsia Dragon, Fitzhugh  
 32 staff members and observers

Call to order      Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Additions to the Agenda #113/20      MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council add the following items to today’s agenda:

- 8.2 Activity Centre Leases and Rent
- 11.1 Intergovernmental Revenue Opportunities

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Approval of agenda #114/20      MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the regular meeting of April 21, 2020 as amended.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Approval of regular minutes #115/20      MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 regular Council meeting as presented.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

ECC Update      The Director of Emergency Management, Greg Van Tighem, reiterated the ECC and municipal management staff remain focused on safe municipal operations, essential services, public works, public safety and any tactical response required to assist Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the community.

The ECC continues to be in frequent contact with the local Alberta Health Director and the AHS North Zone Operations Centre; and continues updating ECC objectives as necessary.

Council also received updates from local AHS and RCMP representatives.

Seton Healthcare Centre Site Manager, Lorna Chisholm, noted staff is prepared and will continue to prepare for the possibility of a COVID-19 peak in Jasper. As of April 21, there have been eight confirmed cases of the virus in Jasper. One case is active and one person has died.

For people experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, daily curbside swab testing is still being conducted at Seton Healthcare Centre. Emergency Services also remains open, at all hours, for anyone requiring immediate medical assistance.

Ms. Chisholm also said no COVID-19 cases have been reported at any of Jasper's seniors' facilities.

Jasper RCMP Sergeant Rick Bidaisee noted local officers have increased patrolling to ensure people are practicing physical distancing outdoors. Bidaisee said for the most part people are doing their part to help prevent the spread in Jasper.

Finance and  
Administration

The Director of Finance presented a financial report, summarizing month-end figures from the operating budget. Council should expect to receive the 2019 financial statements in May.

Bylaw Summary

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

C&R Capital  
project updates

Council received updates on the following Culture and Recreation capital projects:

Waterslide and stair replacement: Administration reiterated manufacturing and delivery delays for waterslide parts have delayed this project. A revised completion date is not yet known.

Arena ice slab, dasher boards and curling ice slab replacement: The tender period, which was advertised on the Alberta Purchasing Connection, closed on April 20, 2020, but has not yet been awarded. It was noted all bids came in over budget.

Ice plant replacement and relocation: A protracted planning and design phase has placed the project behind schedule; the hired contractor has also indicated this project won't be finished by its original completion date of October 2020.

Councillors expressed frustrations with delayed timelines and discussed how to best proceed with projects in a way that has the lowest impact to facility users. Administration reiterated it has been having issues with some contractors, but is working to resolve those issues.

Ongoing capital projects will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Recess

Mayor Ireland called a recess from 11:25 am until 11:32 am.

Municipal  
Tenants and  
Leases  
#116/20

MOTION by Councillor McGrath – BE IT RESOLVED that Council waive rent for tenants in all municipal facilities, which are closed due to COVID-19, from the date of the facility closure until the facility re-opens.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

RFD: COVID-19  
Economic  
Recovery Task  
Force  
#117/20

MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – 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 to be adopted by Council to help position the community, and its public, private, social and residential sectors to spur economic and social recovery following the COVID 19 pandemic.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Council noted terms of reference for the task force will have to be created prior to inviting other organizations to join.

RFD: COVID-19  
Budget  
Reductions and  
Required Service  
Reductions  
#118/20

MOTION by Councillor Butler – BE IT RESOLVED that Council strike an ad hoc Budget Review committee, composed of all Council members, to determine the service cuts required to decrease the municipal budget by \$982,000 and that the committee come back to Council for public debate as early as possible.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Correspondence:  
Reduced budget  
ask, 2020  
Operating Budget

The Jasper Municipal Library Board sent a letter regarding a reduced request for the 2020 operating budget. This item was addressed at the April 14, 2020 meeting.

Other New  
Business:  
Intergovernmental  
Revenue  
Opportunities

Councillors discussed the ongoing topic of lobbying governments for fixed land rent, alternative revenue options for Jasper, and the possibility of pursuing tourism community status.

Councillor  
Reports

Councillor McGrath noted Communities in Bloom has been cancelled for this year due to COVID-19; Community Conversations are now happening weekly through Zoom; and the Jasper Municipal Library Board is meeting regularly to discuss its budget.

Councillor Damota attended a Jasper Partnership Initiative meeting where the possibility of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force was discussed. Councillor Damota also commended the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce on its ongoing updates for local businesses.

Adjournment  
#119/20

MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that, there being no further business, the regular meeting of April 21, 2020 be adjourned at 12:33 pm.

FOR  
7 Councillors

AGAINST  
0 Councillors

CARRIED

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer