

## DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

### *Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting*

**Date:** August 4, 2020  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers

**Present:** Mayor Courtoreille  
Coun. Bassendowski  
Coun. Deck  
Coun. Galbraith  
Coun. Wark  
Coun. Weisgerber  
C. Newsom, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Redpath, Fire Chief  
D. LeBlanc, Manager of Engineering & Public Works  
E. McAvany, Economic Development Officer  
D. Way, Deputy Director of Corporate Administration/HR  
Manager (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** Coun. Disher

1. **Call to Order** Mayor Courtoreille called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and an opening statement was read.
  
2. **Adoption of Agenda** MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck  
THAT the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for August 4, 2020 be adopted as circulated.  
  
CARRIED
  
3. **Minutes**  
M-1  
Minutes of the  
Regular  
Council  
Meeting  
MOVED by Coun. Galbraith, SECONDED by Coun. Deck  
THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 20, 2020 be adopted as circulated.  
  
CARRIED

#### 4. Delegations & Presentations

D-1 Naomi Larsen, Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce Manager provided Council with an overview as outlined below:

Good afternoon. My last presentation to council was in March, just prior to the pandemic shutdown and, as we know, things have changed quite a bit. The Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce closed their office March 15 and moved operations to my home. We opened our doors again on June 1. The majority of this work now has been the dissemination of information to our members and our community as well as the Shop Local economic boost.

In May, the Chamber put together a Chetwynd Economic Recovery Task Force which includes District of Chetwynd representatives, Work BC representatives, myself, Community Futures representatives as well as provincial MLA and our Federal MP. All of these folks are already on numerous daily and weekly committees and virtual calls regarding economic recovery (On average, I'm on 2/day) so my goal locally is to simply touch base, network and share information every once and while with each other.

Advocacy through the Chamber has taken a step up. Covid 19 has brought to the forefront several issues that affect business quite a bit including two big ones: access to health care and connectivity (high speed internet and cell service) in the north. The NEBC and NWBC Chambers have been working very closely together over the past several months with each other and with the BC Chamber of Commerce to have these issues brought to the forefront of the Provincial Economic Recovery Task Force on which the BC Chamber has a seat on. A third issue that we have been working on has been surrounding re-opening regulations. In fact, the biggest complaint I (and almost all of my provincial colleagues) hear is surrounding the ease of reopening in terms of the clarity of health and safety requirements – something we as the local chamber of commerce and with the BC Chamber of Commerce are asking for. The complaint is that the rules for WorkSafe BC, the Health Region and other governing bodies that overlook business such as salons or restaurants, all differ.

We have also been utilizing the BC Mindreader program and sending out Covid Pulse Checks specific to Northern British Columbia and to our areas (Chetwynd). The responses have been plentiful with on average more than 200 businesses from around Northern BC responding to these surveys, making up approximately 15 percent of the provincial data. The biggest responses come from Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Terrace. The results of these surveys are sent out to our membership and posted on our social media and webpage. For those not familiar, the BC Mindreader program gives us the the data and insight to be able to make wellpositioned, data-driven recommendations to the provincial government. This platform also allows our members to have a more timely, impactful conversation which allows them to share their views on issues throughout the province. To join MindReader, log onto [www.bcmindreader.com](http://www.bcmindreader.com)

The most recent Pulse Check definitely gave us a look into our businesses' challenges surrounding Covid. One of the biggest challenges our businesses told us has been the cost of implementing measures to adhere to those health and safety requirements I touched on a few minutes ago with 28 per cent of our businesses sitting stating it was quite expensive with small businesses (between 5 and 49 employees) taking the biggest cost hit.

Another insight from the survey showed that 54% of Northern BC businesses are using government support programs to assist them such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy; Canadian Emergency Response Benefit; the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance; the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility, the Canadian Emergency Business Account, the Business Credit Availability program or tax deferrals.

When asked about a provincial recovery/rebuilding plan and their confidences that the plan will help their businesses success through Covid, more than 52% said they were NOT confident – which is concerning. So we then asked what additional government support or programs would be most helpful to assist you in recovery and the top three answers were 1. Greater tax relief (45%) 2. More support for wages (37%) and more effective cash flow relief at 25%.

At the end of the day what we're finding is that locally, the majority of Chetwynd businesses are faring well – which is wonderful. I really believe in smaller towns like ours, shopping and supporting local is becoming more the norm. As residents we want to help support our local businesses which are owned by and employ many of our friends and family. However, the fear is should a second wave hit and should another shut down occur -- the opposite could very well be true and we could see businesses close their doors forever which we can all agree we don't want. This is why we at the Chamber are big advocates of the term "flatten the curve"; or "Bend the Curve, not the Rules" or "Less Faces Bigger Spaces" etc. etc. (Thank you Dr. Henry). And of course SHOP LOCAL. We need to do everything we can to help our economy thrive and survive. Coincidentally, this brings us to the Chamber – the province has mentioned several times that Chambers of Commerce are ESSENTIAL to the economic recovery of the province. However, if a Chamber can't survive, how can we advocate and help our members do the same?

The Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce is a membership driven organization. And while our local businesses are stabilizing following the reopening, the Chamber may not. We are facing some financial worries with the lack of dollars coming in due to the cancellation of all 2020 events, including the Trade Show (hitting us with around an \$18,000 - \$20,000 loss); Harvest Fest (\$3,000 loss), our luncheons (\$1,000 loss) and our annual Community Christmas Party (\$1500 loss). Currently, we have \$0 event income coming into us and (let's not bury our heads in the sand) its not looking like 2021 will be much better. This is worrisome for us financially because as you know, more money going out than coming in doesn't work for long! Having said that, membership renewals are coming up and we are urging folks to remember to support their local

Chamber! We want to continue to help you!

But it's not all doom and gloom! There have been some highlights in all of this!!

- In better news, the Chamber has touched base with Fran Haughian who has been hired by Community Futures as the Regional Business Liaison for NEBC. We connected last week and we will be meeting on a regular basis. I'm excited to work with Fran and am confident she will be a great asset to us and our community and our businesses! She has already jumped on board to help us with this year's Business Walks which will take place in September.
- The Chetwynd Chamber was also able to secure one of our local businesses with a \$10,000 Canadian Business Resiliency Network grant from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. I was so happy to announce the grant to the Coffee Talk/Pencil Box Express. They were one of only 62 businesses across Canada who won.
- Also, Community Futures partnered with us and gave us \$5000 to spend and give away gift certificates. Averaging two contests/ week. It has been an absolute blast and so much fun! And I get to chat with our business owners
- We participated in a shop local initiative called The Big Spend along with chambers across Canada. The Big Spend was a one-day, buy local event designed to help revive Canada's economy. On July 25, people took action & helped the nation's post COVID-19 rebuilding process. Check it out at [thebigspend.com](http://thebigspend.com).
- A final highlight in all of this is that some of our businesses have expanded in the sense they have created and built websites to complement their brick and mortar business. These websites now open them to the world allowing them to take orders from all over the globe.

Council thanked Ms. Larsen for the presentation.

## 5. Bylaws

B-1  
Bylaw No.  
1117, 2020

MOVED by Coun. Weisgerber, SECONDED by Coun. Galbraith

THAT Bylaw No. 1117, 2020 cited as the "District of Chetwynd Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1117, 2020" be given third reading and adoption.

CARRIED

B-2  
Bylaw No.  
1118, 2020

Councillor Wark declared a perceived conflict of interest with regard to her family relationship with the property owners and left Council Chambers at 4:45 p.m.

Councillor Galbraith declared a perceived conflict of interest with regard to her family relationship with the property owners and left Council Chambers at 4:45 p.m.

MOVED by Coun. Bassendowski, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT Bylaw No. 1118, 2020 cited as the “District of Chetwynd Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1118, 2020” be given third reading and adoption.

CARRIED

Councillor Wark returned to Council Chambers at 4:46 p.m.

Councillor Galbraith returned to Council Chambers at 4:46 p.m.

B-3  
Bylaw No.  
1120, 2020

MOVED by Coun. Weisgerber, SECONDED by Coun. Galbraith

THAT Bylaw No. 1120, 2020 cited as the “District of Chetwynd Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw No. 1120, 2020” be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

B-4  
Bylaw No.  
1121, 2020

MOVED by Coun. Weisgerber, SECONDED by Coun. Galbraith

THAT Bylaw No. 1121, 2020 cited as the “District of Chetwynd Sewer Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1121, 2020” be amended from “3.) BULK SEWER DUMP STATION per cubic meter \$7.00” to “3.) BULK SEWER DUMP STATION per cubic meter \$12.00” and that it be given first, second and third readings as amended.

Opposed: Councillors Weisgerber and Wark

CARRIED

## 6. Council Committee and Liaison Reports

CR-1 Regional District Report Mayor Courtoreille reported that the Peace River Regional District is trying to set up meetings with Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations re: Treaty Land Entitlement.

CR-2 Councillor Reports Coun. Galbraith reported that installation of the indoor playground at the Rec Centre is on schedule; the sound system Request For Proposal has now closed; and the plan around protocols to safely reopen are still continuing.

## 7. Discussion Items

Nil

## 8. Correspondence

Nil

**9. Information Items**

II-1                    MOVED by Coun. Weisgerber, SECONDED by Coun. Wark  
Information  
Items                    THAT Information Items I-1 – I-4 be received for information.  
I-1 – I-4  
0550.02                CARRIED

**10. Reports for Action**

RA-1                    MOVED by Coun. Weisgerber, SECONDED by Coun. Deck  
  
                              THAT the report dated July 23, 2020 re: Budget Revisions – Flood Recovery  
                              and Aerial Photography prepared by the Parks Department, be received; and  
  
                              THAT Council authorize the District of Chetwynd’s portion of expenditures for  
                              flood recovery to be reallocated from capital projects for 2020 and from the  
                              Peace River Agreement funds, for a total amount of up to \$100,000; and that  
                              \$25,000 be allocated to aerial photography from 2020 Capital Projects.  
  
                              CARRIED

RA-2                    MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck  
  
                              THAT the report dated July 23, 2020 re: COVID-19 Safety Plan – Fire  
                              Department prepared by the Fire Department, be received; and  
  
                              THAT Council endorse the safety plan for the Chetwynd Fire Department  
                              during the COVID-19 pandemic, included with the report dated July 23, 2020.  
  
                              CARRIED

**11. Reports for Information**

Nil

**12. New Business**

Nil

**13. Public Question Period**

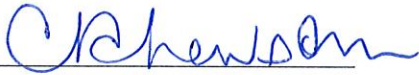
Nil

**14. Adjournment** MOVED by Coun. Galbraith, SECONDED by Coun. Wark

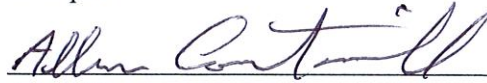
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.



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Carol Newsom  
Corporate Officer



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Allen Courtoreille  
Mayor

Certified a true and correct copy of the  
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting  
held on August 4, 2020 in the Council  
Chambers.



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Carol Newsom  
Corporate Officer