

DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

Date: August 8, 2023
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Courtoreille
Coun. Deck
Coun. MacDonald
Coun. Nelson
Coun. Smith
Coun. Wark
S. McLain, Chief Administrative officer
D. Ennis, Corporate Officer/HR Manager
K. Franson, Director of Financial Administration
D. LeBlanc, Director of Engineering & Public Works (left meeting @ 5:30 p.m.)
L. Wilfur, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Coun. Bassendowski

- 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. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for August 8, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED
- 3. Minutes**

M-1
Minutes of the
Regular
Council
Meeting

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Nelson

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 19, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED
- 4. Delegations & Presentations**

D-1
Jonathan
Brnjas, BC
Emergency
Health
Services re:
Update

Jonathan Brnjas, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) provided Council with an update as outlined below:

Two Priorities:

 - Provide timely and exceptional service to British Columbians when and where they need ambulance services.
 - Be an outstanding employer in supporting the wellness of call takers, dispatch, and paramedic staff.

Changes to BCEHS:

- BCEHS is enhancing emergency services capacity in rural and remote stations that serve your community and surrounding areas.
- Conducting a national and international recruitment campaign, and also bringing recruitment and training to rural and remote communities.

Different Staffing Models:

- Full-time and regular part-time
- On pager at home or in community (Kilo shifts)
- Staffing model is dependent upon call volume and population.
- Ground response is supplemented by the participation of approximately 275 agencies in the first responder program.

Recent Improvements:

- New three-year collective agreement with the union that represents paramedics and dispatch staff includes changes which will help:
 - Stabilize staffing;
 - Increase employee retention;
 - Improve employee wellness; and
 - Improve coverage and patient care particularly in rural and remote areas.
- General wage increases in each year of the agreement.
- A cost-of-living allowance in 2023 & 2024.
- Permanent increased shift premiums.
- Transitioning the on-call scheduling model in rural and remote areas to a more tailored approach to the community and station.
- Improved benefits coverage for mental health and other health-care provisions.

On-Call Pay & Shift Premiums:

- On-call pay:
 - \$12/hr (up from \$2) + paramedic pay when responding to/receiving a call.
- Enhanced shift premiums for all nights and weekends.

Staffing in Chetwynd:

- Staffing starting to stabilize – 75% full-time positions filled with the remainder anticipated to be filled in the next posting.
- Moved from 9 full-time employees (FTE) to 15 with the addition of a second full-time Bravo ambulance in late 2022.

Council thanked Mr. Brnjas for the presentation.

5. Bylaws

B-1
Bylaw No.
1163, 2023

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT Bylaw No. 1163, 2023 cited as the “District of Chetwynd Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Bylaw No. 1163, 2023” be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

6. Council Committee and Liaison Reports

CR-1
Regional
District Report

Nil

CR-2
Councillor
Reports

CAO Steve McLain read a letter he received from Councillor Bassendowski dated August 7, 2023:

“Please accept this as notice that effective Nov 1, 2023, I will be relinquishing my position of Councillor for the District of Chetwynd. The careers of my family and I have moved us away from Chetwynd and as a result, I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties in this role. I will fulfill my duties remotely until Nov 1, 2023. This hopefully will give time for a by-election.

I feel I’m leaving this position with the district having a strong balance sheet in terms of Cash, Reserves and Borrowing Power. Chetwynd has done a good job upgrading their infrastructure but there is still a lot of old pipes in the ground and the cost of upgrades are always increasing. Roads continue to deteriorate, and the cost of paving continues to increase. A municipalities main source of income is taxes and the cost of providing services continues to rise and the notion of zero tax increases is not realistic or financially responsible. Chetwynd is financially strong in my opinion but is facing reduced tax revenue and uncertain grant securement as well as aging infrastructure. Asset Management and Intense Financial Planning is going to be key moving forward.

I would like to encourage many people in town to consider running for my seat on Council and carry on with strong objectives of providing our taxpayers with a safe, productive, and prosperous community to raise families in.”

CR-3
Mayor's Report
0550.04

Mayor Courtoreille provided the following Mayor's report:

June 27, 2023:

- The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) was invited to attend a viewing of the Klinse-za Caribou Maternal Pen west of Chetwynd.
- In the pen were two Caribou (a mother and calf).
- Out of 22 Caribou 21 were pregnant.
- The Guardian members are from West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations. The Guardians are on site 24 hours 7 days a week until the caribou are released (2 months). Here in the South Peace, it's quite important for the First Nation and the rest of the Region to have a species being brought back from extirpation.

July 4, 2023:

- Council met with Northern Health and were introduced to the new Health Services Administrator Rebecca (Becky) Borton. We look forward to working with Becky and Northern Health in the future.

July 5, 2023:

- The PRRD met with Minister Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relation & Reconciliation. The Board meeting held on June 8 was discussed; there was some controversy over a land sharing delegation put on by ZION Strategies LTD Dale Bumstead. Refer to PRRD website for the meeting recording.

July 7, 8 & 9, 2023:

- Attended Pemmican Days
- Met the newly elected Chief Rudy Paquette and congratulated him on being elected.

July 28, 29 & 30, 2023:

- Attended West Moberly Days

Council requested staff send an invite to meet with the new Saulteau First Nations Council.

CR-4
Administrator's
Report

Nil

7. Discussion Items

DI-1
Tansi Friendship
Centre Society
re: Letters of
Support

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT the email from Tansi Friendship Centre Society dated July 6, 2023 re: Letters of Support, be received; and

THAT Council provide letters of support to the Tansi Friendship Centre Society for its grant applications to Northern Development Initiative Trust for three projects:

1. Employing a Program Director,
2. Fortifying Mental Health and Addiction Services and
3. Improving Front Desk Efficiency and Developing a Volunteer Management Program.

CARRIED

DI-2
Ovintiv Invite
re: Dawson
Creek Rodeo
Event

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. Smith

THAT the invite from Ovintiv re: Dawson Creek Rodeo Event, be received; and

THAT Council authorize Mayor Courtoreille to attend Ovintiv's Dawson Creek Rodeo Event at the Dawson Creek Exhibition & Stampede on August 9, 2023 in Dawson Creek, BC.

AMENDMENT:

THAT all Council members be authorized to attend Ovintiv's Dawson Creek Rodeo Event at the Dawson Creek Exhibition & Stampede on August 9, 2023 in Dawson Creek, BC.

CARRIED

DI-3
COPS
re: Magnetic
Door Signs

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Smith

THAT the email from Sgt. Wahnese Antonioni-Stevens dated June 8, 2023 re: Magnetic Door Signs – Citizens on Patrol (COPS), be received; and

THAT Council approve using the COPS program magnetic door sign layout with the District of Chetwynd's information.

CARRIED

8. Correspondence

C-1 MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald
UBCM re:
Provincial THAT the letter from Union of BC Municipalities dated July 17, 2023 re:
Response to Provincial Response to 2022 Resolutions, be received for information.
2022
Resolutions CARRIED

9. Information Items

II-1 MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. Wark
Information
Items THAT Information Items I-1 – I-24 be received for information.
I-1 – I-24
CARRIED

10. Reports for Action

RA-1 MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. Smith
Boulevard
Walkway Trail THAT the report dated June 20, 2023 re: Boulevard Walkway Trail prepared by
the Parks / Public Works & Engineering Departments, be received; and

THAT Council approve the award of the contract to Parallel Projects Inc. for
\$109,286.42 GST included for the walkway trail project located along Veterans
Way and South Access Boulevard.

CARRIED

RA-2 MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. Wark
Chetwynd
Society for THAT the report dated July 11, 2023 re: Chetwynd Society for Community
Community Living – Rotary Building Lease prepared by Administration, be received; and
Living –
Rotary THAT the Chetwynd Society for Community Living be granted an extension
Building Lease on their lease of the “Rotary Building” for a period of five (5) years,
commencing August 1, 2023.

CARRIED

RA-3
Support for
Non-Resident
Nurses

MOVED by Coun. MacDonald, SECONDED by Coun. Smith

THAT the report dated July 6, 2023 re: Support for Non-Resident Nurses prepared by the Finance Department, be received; and

THAT the District of Chetwynd purchase a hybrid all wheel drive vehicle to be made available to nurses working in Chetwynd on a short-term temporary basis; and

THAT the funds be allocated from the COVID-19 Reserve Fund; and

THAT the financial plan be amended accordingly.

AMENDMENT:

MOVED by Coun. MacDonald, SECONDED by Coun. Nelson

THAT the main motion be amended to see if the District of Chetwynd could get a hybrid all wheel drive vehicle donated before purchasing a vehicle.

OPPOSED: Councillor Wark

CARRIED

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

CARRIED

RA-4
A & W
Restaurant
Sign
Encroachment
Agreement

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the report dated July 12, 2023 re: A & W Restaurant Sign Encroachment Agreement prepared by Administration, be received; and

THAT Brock and Melissa Crothers, owners of the A & W Restaurant be granted an extension on their Sign Encroachment Agreement for a period of five (5) years, commencing June 18, 2023, with the same conditions as set forth in the original agreement.

CARRIED

RA-5
Illegal
Structure –
5209 44th
Street

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT the report dated July 26, 2023 re: Illegal Structure – 5209 44th Street prepared by Administration, be received; and

THAT Council authorize the owners of property at 5209 44 Street, Chetwynd BC be advised that Council intends to file a notice with the Land Title Office against the property located at 5209 44 Street, Chetwynd, BC for an illegal structure contrary to the District's Building Bylaw, and that the property owners be invited to address Council appealing this action at the Council Meeting to be held on August 21, 2023.

CARRIED

RA-6
Chetwynd
Library
Digitalization
Project

Councillor MacDonald declared a perceived conflict of interest with regards to her employment and left the Council Chambers at 5:29 p.m.

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Smith

THAT the report dated August 1, 2023 re: Chetwynd Library Digitalization Project prepared by Administration, be received; and

THAT Council approve the Peace River Regional District's request for \$24,529.56 for the digitalization of historic Chetwynd news publications.

CARRIED

Councillor MacDonald returned to Council Chambers at 5:34 p.m.

11. Reports for Information

RI-1
Street Light
Project Award
Report

MOVED by Coun. Deck, SECONDED by Coun. Smith

THAT the report dated July 12, 2023 re: Street Light Project Award Report prepared by Administration, be received for information.

CARRIED

RI-2
June Accounts
Payable
Cheque List

MOVED by Coun. Nelson, SECONDED by Coun. MacDonald

THAT the report dated July 18, 2023 re: June Accounts Payable Cheque List prepared by the Finance Department, be received for information.

CARRIED

RI-3
Property Tax
Report

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT the report dated July 11, 2023 re: Property Tax Report prepared by the Finance Department, be received for information.

CARRIED

12. New Business

Nil

13. Public Question Period

Nil

14. Adjournment

MOVED by Coun. Wark, SECONDED by Coun. Deck

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Deanne Ennis – Corporate Officer

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Allen Courtoreille - Mayor

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 8, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Deanne Ennis – Corporate Officer