

**Regular Council Meeting
Minutes**

January 8, 2024, 7:15 p.m.

**Council Chambers of the Municipal Office
1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC**

Council Present: Mayor J. Atkinson, Councillor A. Barnes, Councillor V. Brumovsky, Councillor A. Hipkiss, Councillor R. McMeeken, Councillor K. Tapper, Councillor J. Wright

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer, Director of Operations J. Murray, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant C. Smirle

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:25 PM.

Mayor Atkinson acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

1.1 Defer to Closed Meeting

Resolution: 33203

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the Special Closed meeting be deferred until after the regular meeting;

AND THAT the basis of the Special Closed Meeting relates to Section 90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting - December 11, 2023

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2023 were adopted as presented.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Resolution: 33204

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT the following late items be added to the agenda:

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.11 DOM 23-10 B Garbage Truck Replacement

THAT Council awards the DOM 23-10B Garbage Truck Replacement to Rollins Machinery in the amount of \$499,077 plus GST;
AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the contract and any related documentation.

8.12 2024 Water, Sewer and Garbage Proposed Rates

THAT Council directs staff on the proposed 2024 bylaw rate increases for water, sewer and garbage services.

8.13 Council Travel – NCLGA, UBCM, LGLA Costs and Policy

THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution: 33205

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Jim Wiens, Mackenzie Museum Curator, spoke to Mayor and Council regarding the Ernie Bodin Community Centre lease extension Council report. Mr. Wiens noted that he provided a presentation to Council in November stating the Museum's plans and that they have been working with an Architect on a new building to host the Museum. He added that there have been delays with communication and they will be looking for a new architect. Mr. Wiens asked for clarification of the \$150,000 maintenance costs to extend the lease mentioned in the Council report. Mr. Wiens noted that the suggested space in the Rec Centre as a temporary location would not be big enough to hold all of the Museum's

belongings and care would need to be taken to ensure appropriate storage space would be designated. Mr. Wiens also noted that the Museum has been successful in raising over \$60,000 in donations for a new space. Mayor Atkinson asked if the Museum had applied for the Canada Cultural Museum Fund? Mr. Wiens replied that a majority of the grants require a plan to be in place before you can apply. Mayor Atkinson asked if the Museum plans to find a new architect? Mr. Wiens responded that yes they were hoping to find one as soon as possible and want to make sure they can find a respectable place for the Museum. Councillor Hipkiss noted that she would love it if the Museum could work with the Chamber of Commerce and have both under the same building.

Kathryn Cowie, Museum Board President, expressed her concerns for the Mackenzie Museum and requested that Council please give them some more time as the issues they have been faced with have out of their control.

6. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Presentation
Committee Members Elizabeth Blackburn, Chair, David Schindler, Cassandra Carter and Kimberly Grywinski, will presented a year in review of the committee's activities and their recommendations to Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution: 33206

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT the Correspondence listed on the Agenda be received.

CARRIED

7.1 For Action:

7.1.1 Mackenzie Community Services - Ski Hill Use Request
Councillor Wright declared a conflict on this item. (Councillor Wright left the room and returned after the discussion and vote. ;)

Resolution: 33207

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT employees from Mackenzie Community Services be authorized to use Little Mac Ski Hill free of charge during their regular hours of operation when working with a client as part of their programming.

CARRIED

7.1.2 District of Mackenzie Bursary

Resolution: 33208

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT Council approve a \$500 bursary to School District No. 57 towards their District awards program in 2024.

CARRIED

7.2 For Consideration:

7.2.1 Support Letter - BC License Plate Program

Resolution: 33209

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District of Mackenzie share the BC Licence Plate Program survey link on social media.

CARRIED

7.2.2 Letter to Minister Farnworth Regarding the Community Safety Act

Resolution: 33210

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT the District of Mackenzie send a letter to Minister Farnworth requesting the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act be brought into force in support of the letter received from the City of Fort St. John regarding the crime residents are being exposed to.

CARRIED

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.1 AIAC - 3rd and 4th Quarter Activity Report

Resolution: 33211

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED

8.2 Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan

Resolution: 33212

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT Council defer the decision to receive the Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan until all final edits are made.

CARRIED

8.3 Ernie Bodin Community Centre (EBCC) – Lease Extensions

Resolution: 33213

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT Council does not extend the lease at the Ernie Bodin Community Centre for the Arts Centre and Museum.

Opposed (3): Councillor Brumovsky, Councillor Tapper, and Councillor Wright

CARRIED (4 to 3)

8.4 Short Term Rentals

Resolution: 33214

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT Council directs staff to proceed with the process for developing short-term rental regulations in Mackenzie.

CARRIED

- 8.5 Complete Communities Grant Application
Resolution: 33215
Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky
THAT Council supports the application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the Complete Communities Grant for up to \$150,000 towards a community sustainability review;
- AND THAT Councils authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the grant application and any related documentation.
- CARRIED**
- 8.6 Dental Equipment Use Agreement
Resolution: 33216
Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss
THAT Council authorize Administration to enter an equipment use partnering agreement with Dr. Johannes Yliruusi for the proposed operation of a dental clinic in the District of Mackenzie.
- CARRIED**
- 8.7 RDFFG Building Inspection Agreement
Resolution: 33217
Moved by: Councillor Barnes
THAT Council authorize the District to enter into the attached Building Inspection Agreement with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George from January 2, 2024 to April 30, 2024;
- AND THAT, for the term of the agreement, the Building Inspectors for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George be designated as building inspectors for the municipality and as persons to enforce the District's Building Bylaw as authorized agents under Section 16 of the *Community Charter*.
- CARRIED**
- 8.8 Council Remuneration Bylaw Amendment
Resolution: 33218
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT Council receives this report for information.
- CARRIED**

- 8.9 Contract Disclosure – Chrysalid Tech & Print
Councillor Hipkiss declared a conflict on this item. (Councillor Hipkiss left the room and returned after the discussion and vote.)

Resolution: 33219

Moved by: Councillor Tapper

THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED

- 8.10 Contract Disclosure – Garden House Bed & Breakfast

Resolution: 33220

Moved by: Councillor Tapper

THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED

- 8.11 DOM 23-10B Garbage Truck Replacement

Resolution: 33221

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT Council awards the DOM 23-10B Garbage Truck Replacement to Rollins Machinery in the amount of \$499,077 plus GST;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the contract and any related documentation.

CARRIED

- 8.12 2024 Water, Sewer and Garbage Proposed Rates

Resolution: 33222

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT Council approve a 2024 water rate increase of 12%.

Opposed (1): Councillor Brumovsky

CARRIED (6 to 1)

Resolution: 33223

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT Council approve a 2024 sewer rate increase of 7%.

Opposed (5): Mayor Atkinson, Councillor Barnes, Councillor McMeeken, Councillor Tapper, and Councillor Wright

DEFEATED (2 to 5)

Resolution: 33224

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council approve a 2024 sewer rate of 9%.

Opposed (2): Councillor Brumovsky, and Councillor Hipkiss

CARRIED (5 to 2)

Resolution: 33225

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT Council approve a 2024 residential garbage rate increase of 6.5%.

CARRIED

Resolution: 33226

Moved by: Councillor Tapper

THAT Council approve a 2024 commercial garbage rate increase of 7%.

CARRIED

8.13 Council Travel – NCLGA, UBCM, LGLA Costs and Policy

Resolution: 33227

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT all Councilor's be approved to attend the annual NCLGA, UBCM and LGLA conferences without the expense included in their yearly budget;

AND THAT Council's annual training and travel budget be reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000.

CARRIED

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1 Mayor's Report
N/A

9.2 Council Reports

9.2.1 Councillor Wright
Councillor Wright provided a written report.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

11. NEW BUSINESS

N/A

12. BYLAWS

12.1 Bylaw No. 1511 Annual Mayor and Council Remuneration Amendment

Resolution: 33228

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT Bylaw No. 1511 cited as "Annual Mayor and Councillor Remuneration and Expenses Amendment Bylaw No. 1511, 2024" be given the first three readings.

CARRIED

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

N/A

14. COMING EVENTS

14.1 "How Do I..." Speaker Series

Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Mackenzie Community Services

Speaker: Wendy Chambers

15. INQUIRIES

Michelle Bobrel, President of the Mackenzie Community Arts Council, thanked Council for reaching a decision regarding the extension of the lease on the Ernie Bodin Community Centre. She added that now the Arts Centre can progress and move forward with their initiatives.

Shannon Bezo, resident, asked if day passes were still available for Little Mac Ski Hill? Terry Gilmer, Director of Recreation Services, replied that when COVID-19 hit we updated the bylaw to add in day passes in addition to seasons passes. We are just waiting for snow and to open the Hill.

Ms. Bezo expressed disappointment with the motion not to renew the lease for the Ernie Bodin Community Centre. A comment was made suggesting that the Museum and the Chamber of Commerce be housed in the same building, as President of the Chamber it is concerning that is an expectation. Ms. Bezo asked how long the suggested temporary location is sustainable? Mr. Gilmer replied

that storage should not be an issue as the Rec Centre has been decluttering. It was suggested that the groups moving into the Rec Centre try to de-clutter as much as possible as well.

Ms. Bezo asked if there will be a plan to advertise for developers to come to our community, regarding the short term rentals? Mayor Atkinson replied that the plan to bring short term rentals to the community would be a separate initiative. Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services, added that we currently actively try to recruit new development in Mackenzie.

Ms. Bezo expressed appreciation for Councillor Brumovsky's stance on exercising caution with the proposed rate increase for water, sewer, and garbage services. She emphasized the existence of community members relying on food banks, underscoring their potential challenges in coping with heightened rates. Inquiring about potential assistance, Ms. Bezo asked if there were any available grants to support those who might struggle with the proposed increases. In response, Ms. Borne conveyed that the District actively seeks grants, utilizing every opportunity to maximize resources. She stressed the significance of accumulating reserves to address aging infrastructure without resorting to borrowing. Ms. Bezo then raised the possibility of a northern economic benefits agreement, prompting Mayor Atkinson to respond that, to her knowledge, such an agreement was not currently available.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: 33229

Moved by: Councillor Hipkiss

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 pm.

CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer