

**Special Council Meeting
Minutes**

April 24, 2023, 6:15 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 J. Wright

Council Absent: Councillor K. Tapper

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer, Fire Chief J. Guise, Finance Manager W. Peterson, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant C. Smirle

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:15 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.

2. PRESENTATION

Chief Financial Officer, Kerri Borne, provided a presentation reviewing the municipal budget and tax rates for the year.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mayor Atkinson welcomed members of the public to provide any comments or ask questions regarding the 2023 Budget.

Karen Chadda, resident, asked about lawn sweeping and costs to bring lawn sweepings to the dump. Mayor Atkinson replied that the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George manages this and to connect with their team as the District cannot make changes to this.

Ms. Chadda asked if there would be an extension for organizations located in the Ernie Bodin Community Centre if they could not find an alternative spot? Mayor

Atkinson replied that the decision was not about whether or not the services were valuable, the building was not safe anymore. The organizations were given two years and some of the groups are already working on finding a new location. Unfortunately, due to the loss of taxes and funds the District cannot provide this service anymore. The focus needs to be on our infrastructure and building a reserve to help with aging infrastructure. Terry Gilmer, Director of Recreation Services, added that there are life safety issues with the building and was concerned with the extension request.

Pia Penketh, Thrift Store Volunteer, expressed concerns over finding a new location and was not sure if a plan was in place yet for the Thrift Store. Ms. Penketh expressed frustration over the expense to pay to fix up another location suitable to move into. Mayor Atkinson replied that the District has been working hard with all organizations to find suitable locations for moving into and there are grant opportunities available through the South Peace Mackenzie Trust for the organizations to apply for.

Ms. Penketh asked about the assessed value of her house going up. Mayor Atkinson replied that BC Assessment is the one who determines that based on a number of factors and there is an opportunity to challenge the increase or decrease with BC Assessment.

4. ADJOURNMENT
Resolution: 32896

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 pm.

CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer