

**TOWN OF VERMILION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

IN PERSON:

Mayor Gregory Thronson
Deputy Mayor Paul Conlon
Councillor Kevin Martin
Councillor Robert Snow
Councillor Joshua Rayment
Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Lucas
Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services Benjamin McPhee
Director of Corporate Services Brian Leibel
Manager Economic Development Mary Lee Prior
Executive Assistant Andrea Wilkinson

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

Councillor Kirby Whitlock

REGRETS:

Councillor Robert Pulyk
Director of Community Services Michael van der Torre

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gregory Thronson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Joshua Rayment "That the Agenda be accepted as amended."
CARRIED.

Addition of
'5.3. Emergency Preparedness' and
'5.4. Utility Account Write-Offs' under 5. NEW BUSINESS

3. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Council – December 19, 2023

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of December 19, 2023 be accepted as presented." **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. 6:05pm – Alberta Broadband – Mr. Ken Spangler

Mayor Gregory Thronson welcomed Mr. Ken Spangler to the meeting.

Mr. Ken Spangler provided an overview of Alberta Broadband Networks current take rate statistics, take rate milestones, Primus/Bell marketing promotion, and a year one review.

Take rate statistics for single family homes has a lower uptake than commercial and is projecting approximately 5 months behind schedule. Bell partnering with Primus will be offering a competitive satellite TV package to bundle with other packages under new marketing promotion to follow in coming weeks.

Mitigation strategies to address local concerns with shortfalls such as customer service were presented. Primus/Bell has removed the previous leadership team and introduced a new group that A-Net meets with weekly. There have been updates to the training program for customer service teams. A revised marketing strategy for 2024 is forthcoming.

Mayor Gregory Thronson thanked Mr. Ken Spangler for attending the meeting. The information presented was accepted as information.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1. Public Commentary

Mayor Gregory Thronson opened the public commentary session at 6:27 p.m.

There was no one in attendance that wished to speak, and no written submissions were received.

Mayor Gregory Thronson declared the public commentary session closed at 6:28 p.m.

5.2. Invoice from Northern Lights Library System – Staff Recommendation

Moved by Councillor Joshua Rayment “That Council for the Town of Vermilion accepts the presented Northern Lights Library System Levy charge invoice at a cost of \$22,368.50.”

CARRIED.

Motion # 24/01/01

5.3. Emergency Preparedness

Update requested on the local Emergency Preparedness Plan.

5.4. Utility Account Write-Offs – Staff Recommendation

Moved by Councillor Paul Conlon “That Council for the Town of Vermilion approve the write-off of \$11,271.46 consistent with the Collections & Bad Debts Policy for the Town of Vermilion.” **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/01/02

6. **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

6.1. Chief Administrative Officer Report

- Two separate land development discussions regarding industrial lots
- Grand opening of Mi Casa Restaurant
- Several business engagements

6.2. Director of Community Services Report

- Live Barn install
- Chicken bylaw ready for Council's review
- Unused ice time; staff are keeping documentation

6.3. Director of Corporate Services Report

- New IT intern for 8-month contract
- Outstanding Property Tax of \$172,798.40
- Small increase in residents accessing accounts online

6.4. Manager Economic Development Report

- Progress with industrial lots
- Received email to clarify questions in grant application for the Pylon sign
- Discussion around Town swag being sold well at Underground Treasures and also available at Town Hall
- Race of Vermilion - Saturday, March 16, 2024

6.5. Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services Report

- Manager of Operations Erika Power resigned with the Town of Vermilion
- Maintenance projects ongoing with the lack of snow
- Garbage truck experiencing break downs in extreme cold weather

7. **FINANCIAL**

7.1. Accounts Payable for the period of December 20, 2023 – January 16, 2024

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow “That Council for the Town of Vermilion accept as information, the listing of accounts payable for the period December 20, 2023 – January 16, 2024, for \$779,357.88.” **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/01/03

8. **COUNCIL ROUND TABLE**

8.1. The Mayor and Councillors held a round table on recent activities since the last meeting, including:

- Finance and Governance Committee Meeting – January 9, 2024
- Joint Pool Committee Meeting
- MLA Rowswell Open House
- Two Mayor/Deputy Mayor/CAO Meetings – January 9 and January 16, 2024
- Mi Casa Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – January 9, 2024
- Prairie Vision Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – January 19, 2024
- RCMP Town Hall Meeting – January 25, 2024
- Intermunicipal Liaison Committee Meeting – January 4, 2024
- Fire Services Team Meetings
- Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting – January 10, 2024

The Mayor and Councillors highlighted the following upcoming meetings and events, including:

- Economic Development Committee Meeting – January 25, 2024
- Vermilion District Housing Foundation Board Meeting – January 25, 2024
- Vermilion District Housing Foundation Strategic Planning Meeting – January 26, 2024
- Rotary Breakfast – January 18, 2024
- Farm Curl – January 18-20, 2024
- Christmas Supper – Vermilion Valley Lodge - January 28, 2024
- Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast - March 15, 2024

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1. Vermilion Airport Regionalization - Innisfree

9.2. Impact of Drought and Water Management – Letter from Minister of Environment

9.3. County of Vermilion River – Agenda of January 9, 2024

9.4. County of Vermilion River – Minutes of December 12, 2023

9.5. County of Vermilion River – Minutes of November 14, 2023

9.6. County of Vermilion River – Minutes of October 24, 2023

Correspondence was accepted as information.

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

10.1 Pursuant to Part 1, Division 2, Section 17 (2) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
Personnel

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow “That Council for the Town of Vermilion go in closed session at 7:21 p.m.” **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/01/04

Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Lucas, Manager Economic Development Mary Lee Prior, Director of Corporate Services Brian Leibel, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services Benjamin McPhee, and Executive Assistant Andrea Wilkinson left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow "That Council for the Town of Vermilion revert back to the Regular Meeting of Council at 9:04 p.m." **CARRIED.**
MOTION #24/01/05

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being the Agenda matters concluded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

READ AND CONFIRMED ON THIS 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024 A.D.



Chief Administrative Officer



Mayor