

**TOWN OF VERMILION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

IN PERSON:

Mayor Gregory Thronkson
Councillor Kevin Martin
Councillor Robert Snow
Councillor Joshua Rayment
Councillor Robert Pulyk
Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Lucas
Director of Community Services Michael van der Torre
Director of Corporate Services Brian Leibel
Manager Economic Development Mary Lee Prior
Executive Assistant Andrea Wilkinson

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

Councillor Kirby Whitlock

REGRETS:

Deputy Mayor Paul Conlon

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That the Agenda be accepted as amended." **CARRIED.**

Revision numbering of
'8.1. Economic Development' under 8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
and renumber remaining items.

Addition of
'6.5. FOCUS Letter of Support' under 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That the Agenda be accepted as amended." **CARRIED.**

Addition of
'6.6. Conference Attendance' under 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Addition of
'12.2. Pursuant to Part 1, Division 2, Section 17 (2) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personnel' under 12. **CLOSED SESSION**

3. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Council – February 6, 2024

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow "That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of February 6, 2024 be accepted as presented." **CARRIED.**

4. OATH OF OFFICE

4.1. Oath of Office - Councillor Kevin Martin - Deputy Mayor - March to June 2024

Moved by Councillor Robert Pulyk "That Council for the Town of Vermilion appoint Councillor Kevin Martin as Deputy Mayor for the months of March to June 2024."
CARRIED.

Motion # 24/02/10

5. **DELEGATIONS**

5.1. 6:05 pm - Vermilion RCMP Detachment - Sgt. Buckingham

Mayor Gregory Thronson welcomed Sgt. Buckingham to the meeting.

Sgt. Buckingham gave an overview about current technological endeavours such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to support specialized units. These drones help give police a more accurate picture in certain situations. The body worn cameras initial contract didn't meet requirements so moving onto a different company with testing underway.

Sgt. Buckingham reviewed the three community priorities as follows.

Crime Reduction: curfew checks; monitoring offenders

Communicate Effectively: Completed two Town Halls - one held in Minburn and other in Vermilion; media releases, detachment updates, RAVE Alert, monthly alerts to media

Enhancing Road Safety/Improve Police Visibility: 332 documented vehicle stops (warnings, tickets, apprehension of impaired drivers, etc.)

Sgt Buckingham then went on to review stats and % change year over year. Property crime is trending down. Persons crimes have been trending up. MVC are down 24% and other criminal code are up 17%. Sgt Buckingham asks residents to be sure to report crimes via online crime reporting or RCMP App.

Council requested additional information on fraud to provide to public. This information will be provided to administration for circulation. Sgt Buckingham answered questions regarding the RAVE alert and mental health calls. He provided information around voluntary program where RCMP can access video footage from resident's security cameras that allows access to footage that may help assist RCMP.

Appreciation was expressed to RCMP. Sgt. Buckingham answered all questions from Council.

Sgt. Buckingham left the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The information presented was accepted as information.

5.2. 6:20 pm - Airport Advisory Committee Update

Mayor Gregory Thronson welcomed Mr. Geoff Hancock to the meeting.

Mr. Geoff Hancock gave an overview of the Airport Advisory Committee quarterly report. Mr. Hancock indicated that the Vermilion Airport is critical infrastructure and fixed airwing is of high importance to the town. Investors rate a paved, lighted airport very highly and uses it as criteria for investment in the community. Mr. Hancock provided some ideas for increasing viability of airport such as hangar homes subdivision, drone delivery, increased aviation businesses, aircraft storage hangars, aircraft component overhaul. Information on a GPS approach report was provided. Discussion around the maintenance of the runway surface. If the crack sealing is maintained, the runway can be kept in usable condition.

The information presented was accepted as information.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1. Public Commentary

Mayor Gregory Thronson opened the public commentary session at 6:53 p.m.

Mayor Thronson welcomed Mr. Erwin Warkentin into the public commentary session. Mr. Erwin Warkentin addressed Council and commented on the good service at the arena. Mr. Warkentin voiced concerns about the lack of signage at public skate times and the lack of advertising about the public skate dates and times.

No emails or written correspondence received.

Mayor Gregory Thronson declared the public commentary session closed at 6:58 p.m.

6.2. Fire Services Agreement - 2024 Firefighter Rates - Staff Recommendation

Councillor Robert Snow and Councillor Kevin Martin left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Div 6, Sec 170 (2) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26, Pecuniary Interest of Councillors.

Moved by Councillor Robert Pulyk "That Council for the Town of Vermilion increase the firefighter honorarium for practice hours by \$0.56/hr. Standby Duty increased by \$1.45/day. Show up rate increased by \$0.73/hr." **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/02/11

Councillor Robert Snow and Councillor Kevin Martin returned to the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

6.3. Fire Services Agreement - 2024 Firefighter Rates

6.4. Bylaw 4.18 Code of Conduct - For Review

6.5. FOCUS Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Joshua Rayment "That Council for the Town of Vermilion support the development of a letter of support for Rural Transit Solution Fund (RTSF) for the FOCUS Society providing that all supporting documentation is provided." **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/02/12

6.6. Conference Attendance – For discussion

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

7.1. Chief Administrative Officer Report

- Attended ICSC Conference late January; made new contacts and attended meetings
- Currently interviewing for Director of Infrastructure and Planning position

7.2. Director of Community Services Report

- Agland Zamboni wrap – 5-year agreement
- Joint pool meeting with Lakeland College; ongoing renos of pool
- Current Recreation Services Agreement to be reviewed at the ILC Committee Meeting
- Livebarn installed and online as of February 14, 2024

7.3. Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services Report

- Garbage truck insurance claim ongoing; campaign on community education regarding what should go into garbage to prevent future incidents
- MSR redesignation being worked on

7.4. Director of Corporate Services Report

- Councillors receiving increased calls from residents re: utility bill increases
- Discussion around media release outlining the increases in utility bills
- ERP software implementation
- Discussion around rebate program for purchasing rain barrels locally; credit utility bill

7.5. Manager Economic Development

- Housing Analysis RFP deadline February 28, 2024
- ICSC effective use of time; numerous meetings with investors; follow up emails
- HUB Meeting with two parliamentary secretaries

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8.1.1. Minutes of February 14, 2024 – Accepted as Information.

8.1.2. The Good Life Institute - Minutes of January 17, 2024 – Accepted as Information.

8.2. **LIBRARY**

8.2.1. Minutes of December 6, 2023 – Accepted as Information.

8.2.2. Recommendation for Library Board Appointment - Committee Recommendation

Moved by Councillor Joshua Rayment “That Council for the Town of Vermilion appoint Richard Yaceyko to the Vermilion Library Board for a 3-year term expiring February 20, 2027.” **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/02/13

8.2.3. Minutes of January 31, 2024 – Accepted as Information.

8.2.4. Recommendation for Library Board Appointment - Committee Recommendation

Moved by Councillor Kirby Whitlock “That Council for the Town of Vermilion appoint Brad Gallamore to the Vermilion Library Board for a 2-year term expiring February 20, 2026.” **CARRIED.**

Motion # 24/02/14

8.3. **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ATTRACTION & RETENTION**

8.3.1. Minutes of October 16, 2023 – Accepted as Information.

9. **FINANCIAL**

9.1. Accounts Payable for the period of February 7 - 20, 2024 – Accepted as Information.

10. **COUNCIL ROUND TABLE**

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

- Vermilion District Health Care Providers Attraction & Retention Committee Meeting – February 12, 2024
- Roles and Responsibilities/Effective Meetings Workshop – February 8, 2024
- Finance and Governance Committee Meeting – February 13, 2024
- Economic Development Committee Meeting – February 14, 2024
- Emerging Trends in Municipal Law Webinar – February 15, 2024
- Alberta Municipalities Sustainability and Environment Meeting
- Northeast Alberta Alliance for Growth & Opportunity Board Meeting – February 7, 2024
- Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting – February 7, 2024
- Yellowhead East Health Zoom Meeting – February 8, 2024
- Vermilion & District Housing Foundation Board Meeting – January 25, 2024

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

- Northern Lights Library System Board Meeting – February 23, 2024
- Library Board Meeting – February 21, 2024
- J & J Pinoy Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – February 27, 2024
- Nicols Towing Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – February 28, 2024
- Alberta Municipal Budget Review
- Alberta Health Transition Review
- Vermilion River Regional Waste Management Commission Meeting
- Vermilion & District Housing Foundation Board Meeting – February 22, 2024
- Alberta Central East Water Corporation
- East Central 911 Call Answer Society Board Meeting

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1. County of Vermilion River – Minutes of January 9, 2024

11.2. County of Vermilion River – Agenda of February 13, 2024

Correspondence was accepted as information.

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That Council for the Town of Vermilion go to recess at 8:20 p.m."

Director of Corporate Services Brian Leibel, Director of Community Services Michael van der Torre left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow "That Council for the Town of Vermilion reconvene at 8:26 p.m."

12. **CLOSED SESSION**

- 12.1 Pursuant to Part 1, Division 2, Section 16 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
Legal Contract

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That Council for the Town of Vermilion go in closed session at 8:27 p.m." **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/02/15

Moved by Councillor Robert Pulyk "That Council for the Town of Vermilion revert back to the Regular Meeting of Council at 9:15 p.m." **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/02/16

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That Council for the Town of Vermilion move forward with the sale of Block 3, Lots 14 & 15 for the sum of \$400,000 including the Town's acquisition of Lots 20 & 21, Block 12, Plan 66475 from 614658AB LTD subject to developer meeting requirements within purchase agreement." **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/02/17

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

Moved by Councillor Kevin Martin "That Council for the Town of Vermilion go in closed session at 9:19 p.m." **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/02/18

Manager Economic Development Mary Lee Prior left the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Robert Snow "That Council for the Town of Vermilion revert back to the Regular Meeting of Council at 9:45 p.m." **CARRIED.**

MOTION #24/02/19

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being the Agenda matters concluded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

READ AND CONFIRMED ON THIS 5TH DAY OF MARCH, 2024 A.D.


Chief Administrative Officer


Mayor