

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**

held on Monday, April 13, 2021 at the Town Office Large Boardroom

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| Present: | Mayor Chichak; Deputy Mayor Connell; Councillors Chauvet, Hilts, McAree, Pickard and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant. |
| Call to Order: | The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm. Mayor Chichak presiding. |
| 2021 Budget Public Input Summary: | <p>The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Council typically hosts a public information open house to gain feedback on the budget from members of the public; however, due to COVID-19 public health restrictions the event could not be held. Community members were asked to submit written comments on the 2021 Interim Budget to Council, and comments received were summarized for Council's information.</p> <p>Councillor Pickard joined the meeting 4:02 p.m.</p> <p><u>21-128 Moved by Councillor McAree</u></p> <p>That Council accept the 2021 Budget Public Input Summary as information.</p> <p>- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| COVID-19 Factor – Financial Impact: | <p>The Chief Administrative Officer stated that an updated forecast for the financial impact of COVID-19 on 2020 operations was prepared for Council's information. The Director of Corporate Services noted that the net financial impact for the pandemic to the end of 2020 was a deficit of \$185,705; and, reviewed revenue losses incurred, and other savings and service level adjustments made in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic.</p> <p><u>21-129 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council accept the COVID-19 Factor – Financial Impact as information.</p> <p>- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| Woodlands County 2020 and 2021 Cost Sharing Contribution Impact: | <p>The Chief Administrative Officer noted correspondence was received from Woodlands County outlining its funding contribution commitments for 2020 and 2021 cost shared services. It was noted that as a result of Woodlands County's payment decision, the Town would be front ending approximately \$3.3 million for 2020 and 2021 services provided to County residents, with an estimated carrying cost of \$76,250 due to reduced investment revenues.</p> <p>Council discussed the impact Woodlands County's contribution amounts would have on Town operations throughout 2021.</p> <p><u>21-130 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council accept the Woodlands County 2020 and 2021 Cost Sharing Contribution Impact as information.</p> <p>- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| 2021 Final Budget: | The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the final amendments were made to the 2021 budget, and resulted in a proposed final budget tax rate increase of 1.99%. The Director of Corporate Services noted that 41 amendments were made to reflect the |

current grant amounts, year-end project updates, Council direction, strategic planning and updated costs to provide services.

Council discussed the ongoing pandemic and current state of the economy, and how the proposed tax rate increase of 1.99% would impact the average resident per year and the community overall.

21-131 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council forward the 2021 amended budget to the next Regular Meeting of Council for adoption.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Chichak, Deputy Mayor Connell, Councillors Chauvet, McAree, Pickard and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Hilts

- MOTION CARRIED.

2021 Final Budget
(Closed Meeting):

21-132 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council defer discussion on the 2021 Final Budget Closed Meeting items to Closed Meeting.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2020 Estimated
Operating Surplus:

The Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Corporate Services provided information on the 2020 Estimated Operating Surplus. It was recommended that the \$769,367 operating surplus be contributed to the COVID-19 Sustainability Reserve to offset the impact of COVID-19 in 2021.

21-133 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the 2020 estimated operating surplus item as information and recommend that the surplus funds be allocated to the COVID-19 Sustainability Reserve for \$769,367.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2021 Final Budget
(Closed Meeting):

21-134 Moved by Deputy Mayor Connell

That the Special Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for 2021 Final Budget per Sections 16, 17, 21 and 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 5:20 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-135 Moved by Mayor Chichak

That Council revert to the Special Meeting. Time: 5:40 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-136 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council include the 2021 Closed Meeting Budget Amendments in the 2021 Budget Amendments, and forward to Council for adoption at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

21-136 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Special Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:41 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer