



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bentley  
September 28, 2021**

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**Date & Place:** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bentley held Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:45 pm, in the Bentley Municipal Office.

**In Attendance:** Mayor Greg Rathjen  
Deputy Mayor Joan Dickau  
Councillor Cora Knutson  
Councillor Neil Maki  
Councillor Doug Talsma  
CAO, Marc Fortais

**Call to Order:** Mayor Greg Rathjen called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Agenda:** **Motion 153/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, "THAT the Agenda of the September 28, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be amended to include one additional item as other business:

1. Canada Post Door Hours Change to be open from 6am to 9pm.

**Carried**

**Motion 154/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, "THAT the amended Agenda of the September 28, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be accepted."

**Carried**

**Previous Minutes:**

**Motion 155/2021** Moved by Councillor Maki, "THAT the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, be confirmed."

**Carried**

**Financial:** **Accounts Payable Cheque Listing Cheques No. 20210659 to 20210705**

**Motion 156/2021** Moved by Deputy Mayor Dickau that the Accounts Payable Cheque Listing – Cheques #20210659 to #20210705, excluding cheque #20210692 due to a potential conflict of interest, be received for information.

**Carried**

**Motion 157/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, "THAT Cheque #20210692 be received for information."

**Carried**

**New Business a) Mayor and Council Remuneration**

"CAO Fortais presented the council report and comparative analysis of compensation for Mayor and Council in other communities."

A discussion took place amongst council to consider the findings and provide recommendations to the CAO.

- Mayor Rathjen state that there should be no increase for the mayor but that there should be a separate amount for Deputy Mayor.
- Councillor Maki suggested to consider a 30% increase based on the tax implications that had occurred and that when the CRA implemented taxes on council remuneration, no correction was made to offset those taxes.
- Deputy Mayor Dickau did not concur with a 30% increase and suggested that any increase to offset taxation should have been considered at that time, however she was in favor of a technology amount to offset the increased requirement to operate remotely because of the pandemic and changing times.
- Councillor Knutson suggested that there should be a separate rate for the Deputy Mayor (\$250.00 per month) based on their responsibilities in the mayor's absence, this is in alignment with other communities, and she also agreed that there should be a technology increase. She stated that people do not join Council for the money they join to make a difference in their community.
- Councillor Talsma stated that he would support a little extra for a technology offset of cost.

**Motion 158/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, "THAT Mayor and Council direct CAO Marc Fortais to amend policy #140/2011 Council Remuneration & Expenses to include a separate base rate for the Deputy Mayor at \$250.00 per month to be in alignment with the analysis undertaken through the 2021 Council Remuneration Review: AND



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THAT all members of Council, receive an additional \$50.00 per month as a technology allowance to offset the costs of ensuring that each members technology is up to date; AND

THAT the amendment is to take effect beginning January 1, 2022; AND

THAT ii be brought back to Mayor and Council for consideration at the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regular meeting of Council.”

**Carried**

## **Correspondence**

### **a) Lacombe County Council Highlights, September 9, 2021**

**Motion 159/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, “THAT correspondence item a be received as information.”

**Carried**

## **Other Business**

### **a) COVID-19 Town of Bentley Response – recent government changes**

CAO Marc Fortais provided a summary of the emergency management procedures that are currently being followed within the community related to the COVID-19 response.

- Currently the Bentley Arena is operating at 1/3 capacity restriction with screening using the app.
- We will be moving to the REP program after thanksgiving if Adult Hockey is operating to ensure that we are in alignment with all Alberta Health Orders related to preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- The REP program will include all those utilizing the facility including the Curling Club.
- Currently the Senior’s drop in is closed.
- The town community room is operating, and all participants must meet Alberta Health regulations including masking and social distancing as well as vaccination screening as required.
- The Town Office door is again closed to the public and staff are masking as required. We are still able to open the slide door to support and assist the public with payments and transactions.

**No motion was needed, and Mayor and Council were supportive of The procedures and protocol in place**

### **b) Canada Post Door Hours Open from 6am to 9pm**

Councillor Knutson brought up the fact that residents have been concerned with the access to the local post office and that there was a common sentiment in the community to have the door access open from 6am to 9pm.

**Motion 160/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, "THAT administration request that Canada Post open their exterior door to the public in Bentley from 6am to 9pm; AND

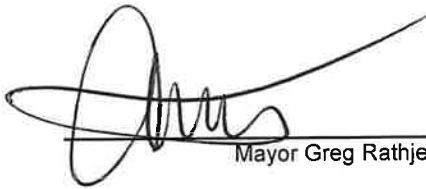
In the event, they will not, that a letter be sent to the Regional Supervisor in Red Deer from Mayor and Council with a formal request to have the door hours changed as outlined above."

**Carried**

**Adjournment**

**Motion 161/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, "THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m."

**Carried**



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Mayor Greg Rathjen



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CAO Marc Fortais