

**MACKENZIE COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers  
Fort Vermilion, AB**

**PRESENT:**

Josh Knelsen	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
Jacque Bateman	Councillor (virtual)
Peter F. Braun	Councillor
Cameron Cardinal	Councillor (in-person and joined the meeting virtually at 1:01 p.m.)
David Driedger	Councillor
Eric Jorgensen	Councillor (virtual)
Anthony Peters	Councillor
Ernest Peters	Councillor
Lisa Wardley	Councillor

**REGRETS:**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Len Racher	Chief Administrative Officer
Carol Gabriel	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/ Recording Secretary
Fred Wiebe	Director of Utilities
Don Roberts	Director of Community Services
Jennifer Batt	Director of Finance
Byron Peters	Director of Projects and Infrastructure (virtual)
Caitlin Smith	Manager of Planning and Development (virtual)
Grant Smith	Agricultural Fieldman
Willie Schmidt	Fleet Maintenance Manager (virtual)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Adam Harrison, O2 Planning and Design  
Members of the public

Minutes of the Regular Council meeting for Mackenzie County held on January 12, 2021 in the Council Chambers at the Fort Vermilion County Office.

**CALL TO ORDER: 1. a) Call to Order**

Reeve Knelsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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**AGENDA: 2. a) Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION 21-01-001 MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That the agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: 3. a) Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting**

**MOTION 21-01-002 MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: 3. b) Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Budget Council Meeting**

**MOTION 21-01-003 MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That the minutes of the December 16, 2020 Budget Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: 3. c) Business Arising out of the Minutes**

**MOTION 21-01-004 MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That a Notice of Motion be presented to Council at the next meeting for consideration of a minimum tax of \$50.00 for agricultural leases.

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6. a) None**

**GENERAL REPORTS: 7. a) CAO & Director Reports for December 2020**

**MOTION 21-01-005 MOVED** by Councillor Braun

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That the CAO & Director reports for December 2020 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**GENERAL  
REPORTS:**

**7. b) Disaster Recovery Update – 2020 Overland Flood**

**MOTION 21-01-006**

**MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That Council move into a closed meeting at 10:20 a.m. to discuss disaster recovery (*FOIP, Div. 2, Part 1, s. 23, 24, 25*).

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-007**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Council move out of a closed meeting at 10:46 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-008**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That administration continue to work with provincial government departments and agencies for the disaster recovery process.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

**AGRICULTURE  
SERVICES:**

**8. a) None**

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES:**

**9. a) Policy EMR004 Level of Fire Service**

**MOTION 21-01-009**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Policy EMR004 Level of Fire Service be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**TENDERS:**

**5. a) Agricultural Land Lease Proposal for SW 6-109-19-W5**

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**MOTION 21-01-010**      **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the Agricultural Land Lease Proposals for SW 6-109-19-W5M be opened.

**CARRIED**

Proposals Received:

Frank Penner	\$5,000.00 per year
Willie T. Dyck	\$3,000.00 per year
Ray Scoular	\$1,000.00 per year

**MOTION 21-01-011**      **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the Agricultural Land Lease for & SW 6-109-19-W5M be awarded to the highest bidder.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**      **4. a) O2 Planning and Design – Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and Fort Vermilion Area Redevelopment Plan Project Update**

**MOTION 21-01-012**      **MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and Fort Vermilion Area Redevelopment Plan project update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**      **9. b) Policy UT003 Solid Waste Transfer Station Collection of Refuse**

**MOTION 21-01-013**      **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Policy UT003 Solid Waste Transfer Station Collection of Refuse be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. with all members present

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with the exception of Councillor Jorgensen and Councillor Cardinal.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

**9. c) Appointment of La Crete Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief**

**MOTION 21-01-014**

**MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That Peter Wiebe be appointed as the La Crete Fire Chief for a two-year term effective January 12, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-015**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That Philip Krahn be appointed as the La Crete Deputy Fire Chief for a two-year term effective January 12, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

**9. d) Alberta Recreation & Parks Association – Alberta Regional Recreation Meetings**

**MOTION 21-01-016**

**MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That Councillor Wardley and Councillor Braun be authorized to attend the virtual Alberta Recreation & Parks Association Alberta Regional Recreation Meeting on January 21, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. a) Bistcho Lake Cabin Tax Assessments**

Councillor Jorgensen rejoined the meeting virtually at 12:45 p.m.

**MOTION 21-01-017**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the penalties for Tax Roll #410955 be written off in the amount of \$62.97, and that the 2020 penalties be reversed.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-018**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That Tax Rolls #082172, #410952, #410953, and #410955 be reduced to the \$50 minimum tax under Limited Access Seasonal

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Residential for 2019 and 2020 and that \$867.98 in taxes be written off.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. b) Land Purchase Outstanding Taxes - Tax Roll # 075317**

**MOTION 21-01-019**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the 2019 levies and penalties for Tax Roll # 075317 in the total amount of \$293.85 be written off in 2020, as part of the La Crete Southeast Drainage Ditch (Part of NE 3-106-15-W5M) project land purchase.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. c) Expense Claims – Councillors**

**MOTION 21-01-020**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Councillor Jorgensen's expense claim for October 2020 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-021**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the Councillor expense claims for November and December 2020 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. d) Expense Claims – Members at Large**

**MOTION 21-01-022**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the Member at Large Expense Claims for November and December 2020 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. e) Cheque Registers – December 7, 2020 – January 8, 2021**

Councillor Cardinal rejoined the meeting virtually at 1:01 p.m.

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**MOTION 21-01-023**      **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the cheque registers from December 7, 2020 – January 8, 2021 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**OPERATIONS:**      **11. a) None**

**UTILITIES:**      **12. a) La Crete Utility Servicing Plan & La Crete Sanitary  
Sewer Expansion – Request for Additional Funds**

**MOTION 21-01-024**      **MOVED** by Councillor Braun  
Requires 2/3

That the budget be amended to include an additional \$13,000 for the La Crete Sanitary Sewer Expansion project with funds coming from the General Operating Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 21-01-025**      **MOVED** by Councillor Braun  
Requires 2/3

That the budget be amended to include an additional \$17,000 for the La Crete Utility Servicing Plan project with funds coming from General Operating Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**      **13. a) Bylaw 1208-21 Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Rezone  
Part of SE 33-105-15-W5M from Agricultural “A” to  
Direct Control 2 “DC2”**

Councillor Driedger declared himself in conflict and left his seat at council table 1:15 p.m.

**MOTION 21-01-026**      **MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That first reading be given to Bylaw 1208-21 being a Land Use Bylaw Amendment to rezone Part of SE 11-105-15-W5M from Agricultural “A” to Direct Control 2 “DC2”, subject to public hearing input.

**DEFEATED**

Councillor Driedger resumed his seat at council table 1:26 p.m.

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**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. b) Bylaw 1209-21 Municipal Reserve Closure of Plan 082  
6817, Block 3, Lots 11MR & 12MR**

**MOTION 21-01-027**

**MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That first reading be given to Bylaw 1209-21 being a Municipal Reserve Closure Bylaw of Plan 082 6817, Block 3, Lots 11MR & 12MR (SW 12-107-14-W5M), subject to public hearing input.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. c) Bylaw 1210-21 Road Closure within Plan 082 6817**

**MOTION 21-01-028**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That first reading be given to Bylaw 1210-21 being a Road Closure Bylaw to close the road within Plan 082 6817 (SW 12-107-14-W5M), subject to public hearing input.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. d) Land Sale of Closed Road Allowance to Fort Vermilion  
School Division**

**MOTION 21-01-029**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the portion of closed road allowance between SE 1-104-18-W5M and NE 36-103-18-W5M be sold to the adjacent landowner at current market value as assigned by Policy DEV005 Municipal Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. e) Partial Utility Right of Way Closure (La Crete)**

**MOTION 21-01-030**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That administration proceed with the partial closure of Utility Right-of-Way Plan 032 4681.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. f) Development Statistics Report – January to December  
2020**

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**MOTION 21-01-031**      **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the development statistics report for January to December 2020 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATION:**      **14. a) Rural Municipalities of Alberta – Board Governance Review Member Survey**

**MOTION 21-01-032**      **MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That administration submit the Rural Municipalities of Alberta – Board Governance Review Member Survey for Council as a whole as discussed.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 2:35 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATION:**      **14. b) Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Spring 2021**

**MOTION 21-01-033**      **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That administration request meetings with the following Ministries during the 2021 Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Spring Convention to discuss the following policy items or issues:

Ministry:	Priority Topics:
Municipal Affairs	Disaster Recovery Petition to Form a New Municipality
Transportation	Bridge at Tompkins Landing High Wide Load Corridor
Agriculture & Forestry	Farmland Expansion Fire Ban Exemption Request Agricultural Land Sales Natural Gas Line Update
Health	La Crete Birthing Centre
Environment & Parks	Agricultural Land Sales

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	Recreation Leases – First Nation Consultation Water Diversion Licenses Northwest Bison
Energy	Transportation Corridor
Solicitor General	Fort Vermilion Courthouse

**ADMINISTRATION: 14. c) Growing the North Conference – Sponsorship Opportunities**

**MOTION 21-01-034** **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley  
 Requires 2/3

That Mackenzie County sponsor the 2021 Growing the North Virtual Conference at a Bronze sponsorship level with funding coming from the Grants to Other Organizations.

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATION: 14. d) Emergency Flood Protection**

**MOTION 21-01-035** **MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk  
 Requires 2/3

That the budget be amended to include an additional \$80,000 for the 2021 One Time Project for Emergency Flood Response Supplies with funding coming from the General Operating Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATION: 14. e) Caribou Update**

**MOTION 21-01-036** **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the caribou update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: 15. a) Council Committee Reports (verbal)**

**MOTION 21-01-037** **MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

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That the Council committee reports be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION /  
CORRESPONDENCE:**

**16. a) Information/Correspondence**

**MOTION 21-01-038**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the information/correspondence items be accepted for information purposes.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 3:41 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

**17. Closed Meeting**

**MOTION 21-01-039**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Council move into a closed meeting at 3:50 p.m. to discuss the following:

17. a) Town of High Level Regional Service Sharing Agreement (*FOIP, Div. 2, Part 1, s. 21, 24, 25*)
- b) Sanling Energy Ltd. (*FOIP, Div. 2, Part 1, s. 24, 25, 27*)

**CARRIED**

The following individuals were present during the closed meeting discussion. (*MGA Section 602.08(1)(6)*)

- All Councillors Present
- Len Racher, Chief Administrative Officer
- Carol Gabriel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Fred Wiebe, Director of Utilities
- Don Roberts, Director of Community Services
- Jennifer Batt, Director of Finance
- Byron Peters, Director of Projects & Infrastructure
- Caitlin Smith, Manager of Planning & Development
- Willie Schmidt, Fleet Maintenance Manager

**MOTION 21-01-040**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

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That Council move out of a closed meeting at 4:23 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**CLOSED MEETING:** 17. a) **Town of High Level Regional Service Sharing Agreement**

**MOTION 21-01-041** **MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That a written response be sent to the Town of High Level indicating the County's request to enter into Dispute Resolution/Mediation in regards to the Regional Service Sharing Agreement.

**CARRIED**

**CLOSED MEETING:** 17. b) **Sanling Energy Ltd.**

**MOTION 21-01-042** **MOVED** by Councillor E. Peters

That Mackenzie County enter into an agreement for the payment of outstanding taxes with Sanling Energy Ltd. as discussed.

**CARRIED**

**NOTICE OF MOTION:** 18. a) **None**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** 19. a) **Next Meeting Dates**

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 26, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

Regular Council Meeting  
January 27, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

**ADJOURNMENT:** 20. a) **Adjournment**

**MOTION 21-01-043** **MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

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**CARRIED**

These minutes were approved by Council on January 27, 2021.

(original signed)

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Joshua Knelsen  
Reeve

(original signed)

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Lenard Racher  
Chief Administrative Officer

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