



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bentley  
October 12, 2021**

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**Date & Place:** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bentley held Tuesday, October 12, 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 162/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, "THAT the Agenda of the October 12, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be accepted."

**Carried**

**Previous Minutes:**

**Motion 163/2021** Moved by Councillor Maki, "THAT the minutes of the September 28, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, be confirmed."

**Carried**

**Financial:** **Prepaid Cheque Listing - Cheques No. 20210706 to 20210727**

**Motion 164/2021** Moved by Deputy Mayor Dickau, "THAT the Prepaid Cheque Listing – Cheques #20210706 to #20210727, be received for information."

**Carried**

**New Business** **a) COVID-19 and Bentley Arena Operation (Report from Administration)**

- CAO Fortais presented a report to council as per the agenda outlining a recommendation to consider implementation of the REP Program

- Key points were balanced to provide policy decision that allow all user groups to utilize the facility if they are following the guidelines established by AHS
- By not implementing REP – adult teams will not be able to play even if they followed the requirements to get vaccinated
- COVID has been here for 2 years, this is not going away at some point the restrictions will potentially be tightened and the policy guidance given is focusing on long term through this pandemic to ensure all users can have the opportunity to utilize the facility
- The Director of Emergency Management also mentioned that he had checked with numerous municipalities in central Alberta, and all were struggling with the decision. 9 municipalities were consulted and 3 were having council discussions that same evening. The majority were considering the 1/3 capacity restriction as a short-term measure.

#### **Delegation Minor Hockey**

- Minor Hockey President Chad Kimmel, presented to council a summary of comments made by minor hockey participants and parents which provided that 70.9% of their membership locally were against the implementation of the REP program for various reasons including:
  - o Lack of supervision that may result from not being able to have enough vaccinated coaches
  - o Feel that focus should be on the kids not the adults – adults more able to absorb the impacts
  - o Some feel that vaccination is an infringement upon personal rights
  - o Some agreed REP should be implemented, and the band aid should be ripped off as other communities are implementing as well

#### **Mayor and Council provided some additional comments**

- o This is not an easy decision and on the one hand we should be supporting the recommendations of AHS on the other hand we want to see the kids play.
- o Suggest we consider 1/3 capacity short term and revisit if things do not change
- o We need to consider all users of the facility regardless of how many there are and have policy that supports equity and supports Provincial and Federal guidelines

**Motion 165/2021** Moved by Mayor Rathjen, "THAT Administration implement 1/3 capacity restriction (non-REP program) to allow youth to participate at the Bentley Arena with no proof of vaccination restriction currently.

4 - For  
1 – Opposed



**Carried**

**b) Policy 40/2021 – Council Remuneration & Expenses – Rescinds Policy 40/2011**

**Motion 166/2021** Moved by Deputy Mayor Dickau, "THAT Mayor and Council approve policy #40/2021 Council Remuneration and Expenses to be effective January 1, 2022; AND

THAT Policy 40/2011 (and all amendments thereto) be rescinded and replaced by Policy 40/2021."

**Carried**

**c) Digital Services Squad 2021 Grant – Letter of Support**

**Motion 167/2021** Moved by Councillor Maki, "THAT Mayor and Council provide a letter of support for the submission of a grant application to Business Link for the Alberta Digital Services Squad."

**Carried**

**Correspondence**

- a) Lacombe County Council Highlights, September 23, 2021**
- b) 2021 Municipal Election – Information for Voters**

**Motion 168/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, "THAT correspondence item (a) to (b) be received as information."

**Carried**

**Council Reports**

- a) Mayor Rathjen**
- b) Deputy Mayor Dickau**
- c) Councillor Knutson**
- d) Councillor Talsma**
- e) Councillor Maki**

**Motion 169/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, "THAT the September Council Reports be received as information."

**Carried**

**Other Business**

- a) Care Centre Doctor's Office – Main Street Medical Update**

- CAO Fortais provided an update that the Mayor and himself met with representation from Main Street Medical to discuss the local doctor's office at the Care Centre.
- Main Street Medical, has advised that due to doctor shortages, that they are unable to provide the additional appointment service at the Bentley Care Centre. They are recruiting additional doctors, but will be some time before they have a full staff compliment
- They will look to continue to support the Town of Bentley with the additional service in the future as it becomes possible to do so.

**No motion was required as for information only**

**b) Closed Meeting of Council Personnel Matter** – (In accordance with the Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy Act, Advice from officials – Section 24(1), “The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to reveal consultation or deliberations involving officers or employees of a public body, a member of the executive council, or the staff member of the executive council.)

**Motion 170/2021** Moved by Councillor Maki, “THAT the regular meeting of council be closed to the public for a discussion regarding a personnel matter pursuant to 24(1) advice from officials at 7:57 pm.”

**Carried**

**Motion 171/2021** Moved by Deputy Mayor Dickau, “THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be resumed in public at 8:07pm.”

**Motion 172/2021** Moved by Councillor Knutson, “THAT future council meetings be held in the Senior's Drop-in Centre or similar location, where COVID-19 regulations can be followed such as social distancing, masking, hand sanitizing etc. as long as such regulations remain in place.”

**Carried**

- *It should also be noted that Councillor Knutson contemplated an additional motion but did not proceed with it and wanted her comments documented that member of council should not engage in discussion surrounding conspiracy theory/social propaganda and other such non-proven theories. It is important that they represent their community and follow the guidelines established through the **code of conduct bylaw 197/2018** and their moral and ethical responsibilities to their taxpayers. **The motion was withdrawn by Councillor Knutson as the code of conduct bylaw 197/2018 addresses these issues.***

**Adjournment**

**Motion 173/2021** Moved by Councillor Talsma, "THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m."

**Carried**



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Mayor Greg Rathjen



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CAO Marc Fortais