



**Minutes of the Regular of the Council of the Town of Bentley**

**January 9, 2024**

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**Date and Place** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bentley held Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Bentley Municipal Office

**In Attendance** Mayor Greg Rathjen  
Deputy Mayor Valiquette  
Councillor Grimsdale  
Councillor Eastman  
Councillor Hansen  
CAO, Marc Fortais

**Call to Order** Mayor Rathjen called the regular meeting to order at 6:30pm

**Indigenous Acknowledgement** "We acknowledge that we are meeting on Treaty 6 Territory and Home of Metis Nation Region 3, on land that is part of a historic agreement involving mutuality and respect. We recognize all the many First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and non-First Nations whose footsteps have marked these lands."  
**Read by Mayor Rathjen**

**Agenda**

**Motion 1/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the agenda of the January 9, 2024, Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council be amended to include an additional item as other business to discuss The Canada Green and Inclusive Buildings Program Application and the Federal Governments lack of response to the application and next steps."

**Carried**

**Motion 2/2024** Moved by Councillor Eastman, "THAT the amended agenda of the January 9, 2024, Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council be accepted."

**Carried**

**Previous Minutes**

Regular Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2024

**Motion 3/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the minutes of the December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council be accepted."

**Carried**

## Financial

**a) Prepaid Cheque Listing – Cheques No. 20230892 to 20240011**

**Motion 4/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, "THAT Cheques No. 20230892 to 20240011 be received for information."

**Carried**

**b) Mayor and Council Remuneration Listings**  
- December paid in January.

**Motion 5/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT Mayor and Council Remuneration Listings for December and paid in January be received for information."

**Carried**

## New Business

**a) 2024 Revised Budget Presentation**

CAO Marc Fortais provided a detailed presentation showing the approved changes made by Mayor and Council to the 2024 preliminary budget during the December 12, 2023, presentation of the 2024 preliminary budget:

Key changes included:

- The removal of Oxford Park washroom project for 2024
- Changing the CPI Index increase from the recommended 3.8% average to 2.5% for wages, salaries, and benefits.

The result of the changes creates an anticipated surplus of \$104,445.00 resulting from a total of \$3,044,634.00 total revenue less expenses of \$2,940,189.00.

**Motion 6/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the revised 2024 budget presentation be accepted as information as it was already approved at the December 12, 2024, budget meeting; AND

THAT CAO Marc Fortais be directed to add to the agenda a line item for Mayor and Council to further discuss Oxford Park at the first meeting in February."

**Carried**



**b) 2024 Annual Recreation, Cultural, Historical and Tourism Funding Support Grants**

**Motion 7/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$8,081.00 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding program to support the Medicine Lodge Ski Club's application for the purchase of equipment as received."

**Carried**

**Motion 8/2024** Moved by Deputy Mayor Valiquette, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$3,718.00 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Museum Society's application for support of a second summer student as received."

**Carried**

***It should be noted that Councillor Grimsdale excused himself prior to the discussion and vote taking place regarding the Bentley Museum Society's request as he serves as a council representative for those board meetings and therefore did not partake in the discussion or vote due to a possible conflict of interest.***

**Motion 9/2024** Moved by Deputy Mayor Valiquette, "THAT the application received from minor hockey for a 2024 grant of \$19,650.00 received through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding program to support further renovations of the canuck room, be put on hold until such a time, that minor hockey can come and present to Mayor and Council further information regarding their significant grant request; AND THAT CAO Marc Fortais be directed to request minor hockey to present as soon as possible at a regular meeting of Mayor and Council."

**Carried**

**Motion 10/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$1,500.00 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Library Society to host a petting zoo for the 2024 rodeo weekend as received."

**Carried**

**Motion 11/2024** Moved by Councillor Eastman, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$1,750.00 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Municipal Library to host the 2024 mini libraries program as received."

**Carried**



***It should be noted that Councillor Hansen excused herself prior to the discussion and vote taking place regarding the Bentley Municipal Library as she serves as the council representative to the board and therefore did not take place in the discussion or vote due to a possible conflict of interest.***

**Motion 12/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the application received from the Bentley Farmers Market for a 2024 grant of \$5,000.00 received through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding program to support the market for fencing, staffing and security costs, be put on hold until such a time as an additional full breakdown of revenue and expenditure is provided to Mayor and Council; AND

THAT CAO Marc Fortais be directed to request Bentley Farmers Market to provide that detailed breakdown as soon as possible."

**Carried**

***Prior to the next application being considered for the Bentley Community Van Society, Mayor Rathjen declared a potential conflict of interest due to his role as the chair of the Community Van Society and removed himself from the meeting prior to any discussion and or vote occurring on this item.***

***In addition, Councillor Eastman also declared a potential conflict of interest due to her role as a voting member of the society. She also removed herself from the meeting prior to any discussion and or vote occurring on this item. (This was initially missed, when the minutes were drafted and posted with the January 23, 2024 meeting) Councillor Hansen, requested the amendment to the minutes and all of council agreed it was correct, therefore it has been amended in the approved minutes.***

***Deputy Mayor Valiquette assumed the role as chair of the regular council meeting due to Mayor Rathjen removing himself from the meeting.***

**Motion 13/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$2,000 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Community Van Society for support of operating costs associated to the provision of the program."

**Carried**

**Motion 14/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the application from Bentley Minor Ball for a 2024 grant of \$5,000 received through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding program to support diamond improvements, not be approved through the program; AND



THAT the funds required for diamond improvements, be funded through the operational budget for Parks and Rec as there are sufficient funds within that budget to undertake such work; AND

THAT the CAO or his representative be directed to work with minor ball to facilitate the required improvements up to a maximum of \$5,000.”

**Carried**

**Motion 15/2024** Moved by Councillor Eastman, “THAT a 2024 grant of \$2,000 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Rodeo Committee to fund the high point saddle for the 2024 Bentley Rodeo.”

**Carried**

**Motion 16/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, “THAT a 2024 grant of \$2,500 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Kruizin West Bentley Show N Shine to fund operational costs such as trophies, movie night, posters and advertising.”

**Carried**

**Motion 17/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, “THAT the application from the Bentley Community Hall for a 2024 grant of \$20,000 received through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding program to support a major stair replacement, be removed from this grant program for consideration; AND

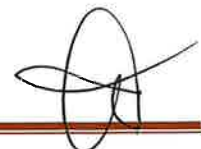
THAT it will be considered separately by Mayor and Council due to the significant nature of the request; AND

THAT CAO Marc Fortais be directed to request that the Bentley Community Hall come and present to Mayor and Council at the January 23, 2023, regular meeting of mayor and council, so that the request can be considered more thoroughly.”

**Carried**

**Motion 18/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, “THAT the letter submitted by BGC indicating that they intend to submit a future grant request between \$8,000 and \$10,000 to support a program regarding childcare at the Bentley School, be accepted as information.”

**Carried**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' or similar character with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Motion 19/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT a 2024 grant of \$5,000 be approved through the recreation, cultural, historical and tourism funding support program to support the Bentley Curling Club to fund POS upgrades, and a Beveridge cooler replacement."

**Carried**

**c) Rita Mueller Donation \$250.000**

**Motion 20/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT the donation received from Rita Mueller in the amount of \$250,000, be placed in a restricted reserve, that can only be used to support Bentley Minor Soccer through initiatives to improve the league and its presence in Bentley, such as field upgrades, or the construction of a new field."

**Carried**

**Correspondence**

- a) Lacombe County Council Highlights – November 23, 2023**
- b) Lacombe County Council Highlights – December 14, 2023**

**Motion 21/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT CAO Marc Fortais be directed to reach out to CAO Timmons from Lacombe County to find out additional details regarding the Gull Lake trail system being contemplated."

**Carried**

**Motion 22/2024** Moved by Councillor Grimsdale, "THAT correspondence items a) to b) be accepted as information."

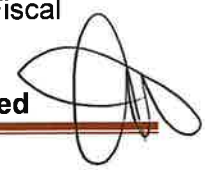
**Carried**

**Other Business**

- a) ABMunis webinar on Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF)**
  - CAO Fortais provided an overview on the importance of understanding the LGFF allocations process.

**Motion 23/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT Councillor Grimsdale be approved to attend and be compensated for his attendance at the January 18, 2024, AB Munis seminar on Local Government Fiscal Framework."

**Carried**



**b) Canada Green and Inclusive Buildings**

- Mayor Rathjen provided an update on his conversations with Blaine Calkins Office and the Federal Ministers office.
- Councillor Hansen voiced some concerns regarding the continued lack of response to our requests for a meeting.

**Motion 24/2024** Moved by Councillor Hansen, "THAT Mayor Rathjen, supported by Councillor Grimsdale work with CAO Marc Fortais to continue to push the Federal Minister and Blaine Calkins Office to set up a meeting between the Town of Bentley and the Ministers office regarding the Canada Green and Inclusive Buildings program and to ask why the Town of Bentley continues to be ignored."

**Carried**

**Council Reports**

- a) **Greg Rathjen**
- b) **Deputy Mayor Valiquette**
- c) **Councillor Hansen**
- d) **Councillor Eastman**
- e) **Councillor Grimsdale**

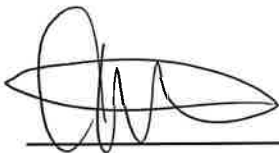
**Motion 25/2023** Moved by Deputy Mayor Valiquette, "THAT the December council reports be accepted as information."

**Carried**

**Adjournment**

**Mayor Rathjen adjourned the January 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting at 7:56pm**

**Carried**



**Mayor Greg Rathjen**



**CAO Marc Fortais**