

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF BRAZEAU COUNTY,
HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
IN BRAZEAU COUNTY ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023**

**CALL TO
ORDER**

Reeve B. Guyon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

B. Guyon, Reeve
G. Gunderson, Councillor
D. Wiltse, Councillor
D. Ekstrom, Councillor
C. Brooks, Councillor
A. Heinrich, Councillor
K. Westerlund, Councillor (by telephone)
K. Edney, CAO
T. Scharfl, Executive Assistant
P. Whaley, Administrative Assistant
C. Swap, Director of Corporate Services

**ADDITION TO
AND ADOPTION
OF AGENDA**

Addition to and Adoption of Agenda

196/23-04-12 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**OPERATING
BUDGET**

2023 Operating Budget

C. Swap presented changes to the operating budget from interim budget approval.

**ADDITIONAL
BUDGET ITEMS**

Additional Budget Items for Decision

FIN-7 Policy Funding Increase

L. Chambers presented a request for additional funding for Community Halls to accommodate increased costs associated with insurance, heating and electricity.

Green Burial Area - Lodgepole Cemetery

L. Chambers presented the costing, for a walkway and communal memorial, for the Green Burial Area at the Lodgepole Cemetery as an addition to the 2023 Capital Budget.

Buck Creek Cemetery

L. Chambers presented requests from the Buck Creek Cemetery for weed spraying, directional signage and paving of roads.

SB-90 Program

A. Saltesz presented a report on the SB-90 product trial program.

Traffic Counters

A. Saltesz presented information regarding traffic counters.

**BUDGET
APPROVAL**

2023 Operating Budget

FIN-7 Policy Funding Increase

197/23-04-12 Moved by D. Wiltse that Council increase the budget allocation for Community Halls operating funding grants from \$80,000 to \$100,000; GL 02-74-00-771.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

198/23-04-12 Moved by C. Brooks to cap the grant allocation at \$600 for septic systems for community halls and \$2,000 for fire suppression.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Green Burial Area - Lodgepole Cemetery

199/23-04-12 Moved by D. Wiltse that Council approve LAIM-0033 – a communal monument and walkway for the green burial area in the Lodgepole Cemetery – and add \$6,795 to the 2023 Capital Budget with funds from Major Facilities Restricted Surplus.

A. Heinrich offered a friendly amendment to change the amount to \$9,795.00 to include the walkway.

D. Wiltse accepted the amendment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Buck Creek Cemetery

200/23-04-12 Moved by D. Ekstrom that Council direct Administration to inspect Buck Creek Cemetery to verify weed species and authorize Administration to proceed to remediation if possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

201/23-04-12 Moved by D. Ekstrom that Council direct Administration to proceed with ordering and installing 2 directional signs to the Buck Creek Cemetery, with funding coming from the approved Public Works operating budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

202/23-04-12 Moved by C. Brooks that Council direct Administration to continue with dust control applications for the Buck Creek Cemetery as performed in past years and that requests for additional applications would be as per Policy PW-3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SB-90 Program

203/23-04-12 Moved by D. Ekstrom that Council direct Administration to stop using the SB-90 trial product for surfacing applications on roadways and within subdivisions.

D. Ekstrom requested his motion be removed.

MOTION 203/23-04-12 WITHDRAWN

204/23-04-12 Moved by D. Wiltse to allocate \$90,000 in place of SB-90 for dust control in the subdivisions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Traffic Counters

205/23-04-12 Moved by G. Gunderson to direct Administration to continue using the existing pneumatic tube traffic counters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2023 TOWN
OF DRAYTON VALLEY
REQUESTED
CAPITAL ITEMS**

2023 Town of Drayton Valley Request Capital Items

L. Chambers presented the requests from the Town of Drayton Valley shared facilities for the MacKenzie Centre back deck and the Omni I Scoreboard.

206/23-04-12

Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the Town's requests for information.

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich
G. Gunderson
D. Wiltse
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

C. Brooks

CARRIED

CAPITAL FUNDING

Capital Funding

C. Swap reviewed the Capital Funding Report.

Tax Incentive Discussion

K. Edney reviewed options for a tax incentive rebate and bylaw for both residential and non-residential categories.

207/23-04-12

Moved by K. Westerlund to allow the public to speak about the issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT

Brent Hodgson stated his revenues have recovered but costs have increased. Costs are out of control for small business. The need is more important now than ever for the rebate. This benefit encourages other counties to do the same, he supports it and asked Council to extend it.

Shari MacPherson a Brazeau County home and business owner commented that she is still struggling financially. Her employees are struggling with increased cost of living. She mentioned four families that are struggling to maintain their farms and support the elderly, and believes the tax incentive would be wonderful.

Les Huber spoke in opposition to the rebate and feels maybe Council is over taxing. He feels the 30% rebate is a campaign promise. He encouraged Council to think about some of the things like the raises Council gave themselves.

TAX INCENTIVE

Tax Incentive

208/23-04-12

Moved by D. Wiltse to take the residential tax incentive down to 25%.

209/23-04-12

Moved by G. Gunderson to amend motion 208/23-04-12 to 30% and notify residents that it may be changed to 25% next year.

IN FAVOUR

G. Gunderson

D. Ekstrom

B. Guyon

OPPOSED

A. Heinrich

K. Westerlund

C. Brooks

D. Wiltse

DEFEATED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION 208/23-04-12

IN FAVOUR

G. Gunderson

D. Wiltse

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

C. Brooks

K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

A. Heinrich

CARRIED

Reeve B. Guyon called for a break at 11:13 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:23 a.m.

210/23-04-12

Moved by K. Westerlund to direct Administration to bring back a bylaw to reduce the mill rate for vacant non-residential and small businesses by 25%.

IN FAVOUR

G. Gunderson

D. Wiltse

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

C. Brooks

K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

A. Heinrich

CARRIED

211/23-04-12

Moved by D. Wiltse to allocate any of the assessment increase money from residential into a contingency account.

D. Wiltse requested her motion be withdrawn.

MOTION 211/23-04-12 WITHDRAWN

**BUDGET
APPROVAL**

2023 Operating Budget

212/23-04-12

Moved by D. Ekstrom to adopt the 2023 operating budget.

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich

G. Gunderson

D. Wiltse

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

C. Brooks

CARRIED

2023 Capital Budget

213/23-04-12

Moved by K. Westerlund to approve the 2023 capital budget.

IN FAVOUR

D. Wiltse
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

A. Heinrich
G. Gunderson
C. Brooks

CARRIED

214/23-04-12

Moved by A. Heinrich to cancel the April 14, 2023 budget meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

215/23-04-12

Moved by A. Heinrich that the Council Meeting of April 12, 2023 adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reeve

Executive Assistant