



## THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2022

PRESENT:        Pauline Rochefort, Mayor                                Erika Lougheed, Councillor  
                      Terry Kelly, Councillor                                Rick Champagne, Councillor

ABSENT:        Steven Trahan, Deputy Mayor

STAFF            Monica L. Hawkins, Clerk                                Jason Trottier, CAO/Treasurer  
PRESENT:

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Rochefort informed the general public listening that we were experiencing technical difficulties and proceeded with the opening of the meeting.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**2022-268**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT the draft agenda presented to Council and dated the 11th day of October, 2022 be adopted as prepared.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**3. Accepting the Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s):**

a. Approval of Minutes of September 27th, 2022

**2022-269**

**Moved by** Councillor Lougheed

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

That the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 27th, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None for this session

**5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest- Pecuniary Interest Thereof**

None for this session

**6. Chair's Comments:**

Mayor Rochefort advised that she would have her Chair's comments under item No. 16 of the Council Agenda

**7. Delegations to Council:**

None for this session

**8. Committee Reports:**

a. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

None for this session

b. Community Emergency Management Committee

None for this session

c. Fire and Emergency Services Committee

None for this session

d. Planning Advisory Committee

None for this session

e. Committee of Adjustment

None for this session

f. Recreation, Parks and Culture Committee

None for this session

g. Economic Development Committee

None for this session

h. Communications Committee

None for this session

i. Municipal Office Project/Technical Advisory Committee

None for this session

**9. Board Reports:**

- a. Library Board

None for this session

- b. Police Services Board

Mayor Rochefort mentioned to the public that the East Ferris Police Services Board is promoting the wearing of visible protective clothing while walking on Municipal Roads. The East Ferris Police Services Board purchased fifty walking vests for active walkers in the municipality. The vests will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

**10. Departmental Reports & Resolutions:**

None for this session

**11. Notice of Motions**

None for this session

**12. By-laws:**

- a. By-law No. 2022-46, 3rd Reading

**2022-270**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT By-law No. 2022-46 being a By-law to establish the remuneration for Members of Council be read a third time and passed this 11th day of October, 2022;

AND THAT said By-Law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**13. Correspondence and Information Items:**

- a. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- b. Ministry of the Solicitor General

- c. Municipality of Grey Highlands

Council referred for support

- d. DNSSAB

- e. Ontario Provincial Police

**14. Action Items:**

- a. Approval of Correspondence and Information Circulated with the Agenda

**2022-271**

**Moved by** Councillor Lougheed

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT Council approve the Correspondence and Information as circulated with the agenda of October 11th, 2022.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

- b. Les Compagnons - Referred from last meeting

**2022-272**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT Council for the Municipality of East Ferris approve Les Compagnons des Francs Loisirs and the Municipality of East Ferris to work in partnership for a Grant Application to the Federal Government's Program Canada en Fête to offer bilingual activities for Canada Day 2023 Celebrations.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

- c. Resolution - Child Care

**2022-273**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Lougheed

WHEREAS the province of Ontario is currently experiencing an early years and child care workforce shortage;

AND WHEREAS access to quality licensed child care is an essential component of Ontario's social and economic well-being and enables children to grow up with a sense of community;

AND WHEREAS lack of licensed child care is a barrier for parents to return or enter into the workforce, thus putting a strain on families, hindering economic participation, and forcing parents to remain at home to care for their children;

AND WHEREAS in the District of Nipissing, there is a higher demand for child care spaces than the number of spaces available creating waitlists that have parents waiting for several years prior to getting a space, if they receive a space at all;

AND WHEREAS in recent years the recruitment and retention of qualified Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) and child care staff has been a challenge that has been exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the workforce crisis in the early years and child care sector has been further exasperated by the significant wage disparity between the compensation paid to RECEs employed by school boards and those employed in licensed child care centers due to lack of funding which has created an inequity for workers with equal qualifications;

AND WHEREAS Ontario has signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement putting Ontario on the path to reducing child care fees to an average of \$10/day which will create a demand for more child care spaces when a workforce shortage already exists;

AND WHEREAS the province of Ontario committed to creating an additional 86,000 licensed child care spaces in Ontario without an explicit solution for increasing the number of RECEs and child care staff to fulfill this commitment;

AND WHEREAS the province of Ontario's commitment to a minimum wage of \$18/hour for RECEs with \$1 annual increases until reaching \$25/hour does not provide an immediate response to attracting and retaining child care staff and will take many years to correct the wage disparity;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Council of the Municipality of East Ferris advocates for the Province of Ontario to address the child care workforce shortage in Ontario by immediately increasing the \$18/hour minimum wage and providing benefits to RECEs in licensed child care centres to an equitable level to that which is paid to RECEs employed by school boards;

AND FURTHER that the Province of Ontario launch and financially support an accelerated Early Childhood Education program, to be completed within 14 to 16 months, similar to the program launched in March 2022 for Personal Support Workers (PSWs), where funding supported the costs of tuition, books, and other mandatory fees, to help address the shortage of RECEs in Ontario;

AND FURTHER that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to OMSSA (Ontario Municipal Social Services Association), Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, NOSDA (Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association), FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities), AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), all 10 District Social Services Administration Boards in Northern Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities to request their support and advocacy for this resolution;

AND FURTHER that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

d. Resolution

**2022-274**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT Mayor Rochefort be approve to attend the Northern Ontario Policy Institute-Northern Directions Conference to be held in North Bay November 16th to November 18th, 2022.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**15. Approval of Accounts Payable**

**2022-275**

**Moved by** Councillor Kelly

**Seconded by** Councillor Champagne

THAT Council approve the general accounts for the Municipality of East Ferris as indicated in the cheque register(s) dated October 11th, 2022 in the amount of \$ 191,164.80.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**16. Other Business**

Chair's Comments for this meeting was moved to this section of the agenda. The following is the Chair's comments:

When we were elected to Council in 2018, we never thought we would be faced with such a variety of issues: certainly not by a pandemic posing an unexpected and unprecedented threat to the residents and businesses of our community. There was the surprise declaration by the engineers that the arena roof needed to be replaced. Then who can forget the municipal garage fire that destroyed the building along with many pieces of equipment, or the notice of closure by Doc on the Lake, or the challenges of deciding how best to move forward with the Cassellholme redevelopment. These were difficult questions, but certainly none more difficult or painful than seeing Deputy Mayor Michel Voyer continue to serve the municipality until the very end before his death on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Despite the magnitude of the problems that struck consecutively, each Council member rose to the occasion to help our municipality navigate through unfamiliar and extraordinary times. And each member contributed to the many accomplishments of Council. As a result of this joint effort, we were able to maintain a semblance of a winter carnival during the worst part of the pandemic, we were able to continue with plans for

the municipality's centennial celebration, and we were able to plan for a new municipal office at the same time as a medical office, just to name a few accomplishments.

And so, as our term of Council comes to an end, so does the role of five extraordinary individuals, each of whom has served the municipality with distinction. On behalf of all Council members, we thank the many citizens with whom we have worked on Municipal Boards and committees. We also congratulate the elected officials from other communities with whom we have also worked alongside on regional issues. And last but not least are the wonderful men and women who serve the Municipality of East Ferris. A special thank you to CAO Jason Trottier and Clerk Monica Hawkins.

A special word to Councillor Erika Lougheed who has decided not to seek re-election. In a few weeks, you will be leaving Council with our gratitude and best wishes for the years ahead, knowing that your expertise will continue to serve the community in other ways.

I close by saying how proud I am that we have been able to come together for the common good and in doing so, have continued to protect East Ferris the place we call Notre Chez-Nous, Our Home. I hope that we will all accept the Municipality's invitation to attend the Municipal Office's Grand Opening to be scheduled in the near future where the efforts of the 2018 – 2022 Council will be officially acknowledged.

- a. Fire Department Halloween

**2022-276**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT Council for the Municipality of East Ferris donate to the East Ferris Volunteer Firefighter's Association an amount of \$250.00 for their Halloween Trick or Treat Night.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**17. In Camera - if required**

None for this session

**18. Confirmatory By-Law**

- a. By-law No. 2022-49 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading

**2022-277**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of East Ferris deems it expedient to pass three readings of the following by-law at this session; BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council from

September 27th, 2022 to October 11th, 2022, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2022-49;

AND THAT said by-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

**19. Adjournment**

**2022-278**

**Moved by** Councillor Champagne

**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

THAT we do now adjourn at 6:46 p.m. and meet again on November 8th, 2022.

**Carried Mayor Rochefort**

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Mayor

Pauline Rochefort

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Clerk

Monica L. Hawkins