



**Village of Lytton  
Special Council Meeting Minutes - Adopted  
Virtual over Zoom  
Wednesday August 11, 2021 1:15 pm**

**Council Present:** Mayor Polderman, Councillor Graie, Councillor Hay

**Staff Present:** CAO Curry

**Regrets:** Councillor Leitch

**1 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Polderman called the August 11, 2021 Regular Council meeting to order at 1:16 pm.

**2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Agenda for the Council Meeting of August 11, 2021.**

**21-131** Late Item: 7.1 Partnership Agreement with Lytton First Nation

*Moved by Councillor Graie, Seconded by Councillor Hay, THAT Council adopt the agenda for the August 11, 2021 Special Council meeting as amended.*

**CARRIED**

**3 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held July 12, 2021**

**21-132** Correction on Page 3, under Adoption of the Agenda, change to Special from Closed, and Councillor Hay left meeting early.

*Moved by Councillor Graie, Seconded by Mayor Polderman, THAT the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday July 12, 2021 be adopted as amended.*

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Minutes of the regular Council Meeting held July 28, 2021**

Correction on Page 9, Village of Lytton CAO, should be Village of Lytton's CAO.

**21-133** *Moved by Councillor Graie, Seconded by Mayor Polderman, THAT the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on Wednesday July 28, 2021 meeting as amended.*

**CARRIED**

#### 4 DELEGATIONS

None

#### 5 PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise O'Connor:

Frustrated and tired of updates providing previously published information.

- Why don't you share what your plans are?
- Why don't you communicate with us and provide us with approximate timelines and real information in order to start planning or have something to look forward to?

Notice on website about "What Net Zero means for Lyttonites". Had the following questions:

- Where does the money come from?
- What does it mean for the current insurance process?
- Appalled by the sentence which said "since Lytton has burned down several times now, insurance companies might begin refusing to insure." Other communities have also had fires and the last time Lytton burned down was 100 years ago.
- It's been 42 days since the fire, how long does it take to test our land, soil and air?
- Why can't insurance adjusters who are covered by WorkSafe BC and wearing protective gear go onto properties to assess damages?

Chris O'Connor Prepared Statement:

In an emergency situation the *Community Charter* does not provide for the Village of Lytton to suspend its own laws or the laws of the Province. Such an emergency does not permit a democratic body to violate basic rules of accountability, which is commonly applied to elected officials. You are not allowed to suspend the basic rules of self-governing democracy. The meeting held July 28, was held in non-compliance with your Council Procedure Bylaw because the Agenda wasn't published 6 days before, but only 1 day in advance. That wasn't adequate notice to receive input from interested residents. Since you violated your bylaw, all business conducted at that meeting was ultra virus. I sent an email to all of you the morning of July 28, but you chose to proceed with the meeting anyways, and waste our time, your time, and all the 40 people in attendance. All the business conducted was illegal, including travel expenses. The Special Meeting today was originally scheduled to be a regular Council meeting but you didn't publish the Agenda last Friday, instead you called this a Special Council Meeting with 1 days' notice of an Agenda which contains a major new Building Bylaw which has serious implications for the cost of reconstruction and requires study before it can be enacted. You have no idea if you can construct and operate a district energy system in a cost effective manner without massive property tax implications.

Jennifer Thoss:

Appreciate the work you are doing but have several concerns:

- What consultation has happened so far with constituents who have lost their homes? Mayor and Council could personally call every single person in a weekend to get our ideas.
- I believe that good policy is produced by finding out what people want and then proposing changes to a bylaw. Where did this come from? If from the Province, what specifically are they offering in exchange for these bylaws? Is it in writing? Do constituents have access to that information?
- Primary concern of constituents is consultation, access and the mis-information that we have received. Inconsistent information is being provided.
- Who is the contact at the Ministry of Environment so constituents can help lobby for test results?

Amanda Adams:

In 1914 while building tracks for the Fraser Canyon, the CN Railway created a blast; which blocked the River at Hell's Gate. Millions of salmon were trapped. The people carried the salmon in buckets over the slide so that they would survive. Neighbouring indigenous nations came to help. This illustrates unforgotten laws about our relationships and obligations to other life. It illustrates the principle that all lives are related and that our actions must honor that fact. We do not exist apart from each other, we carry obligations to stand with each other and help each other through critical times. This is our law in action.

Suggestion – allow individuals to submit their questions in writing prior to the meeting so that asking them does not take away from the 2 minute comment time.

Ken:

First concern is that whatever gets built now, does not burn again. Central to that are 2 things:

1. Buried services;
2. Another water system for irrigation and fire deterrence.

We need bylaws that support this. Things like requiring all new construction to be connected to buried services. The second requiring things like rooftop sprinklers on all new construction. A well watered community stands an excellent chance of surviving another fire storm intact. Increased set backs won't.

Mica Kingston:

Not a homeowner, was renting. Intend to live in Lytton for rest of my life. Would like to be consulted about the plans for rebuilding, community layout and design. Maybe an online survey monkey to ask for input.

Mayor Polderman provided the following responses to the public comments:

- Council has contacted the Minister of Environment regarding the testing requirements and they have committed to provide a response in 3 days.
- Regarding the Bylaw process, tonight will be first reading, of three readings prior to adoption, and there will be opportunity for individuals to provide input at future meetings. Communications have been difficult. The Village has been putting out information releases on regular basis once information is confirmed.
- There will be community consultation. The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has been hired to assist with communications.
- Regarding the cost of rebuilding as a fire resistant community, the motion was that any increased cost will be included and covered by grants and other funding. So far, our research indicates that the cost of rebuilding fire resistant buildings is comparable to stick frame construction.
- Regarding communications with residents, it has been hard to communicate as people are in about six different communities. Many are not on internet which adds difficulty.
- Wants to assure everyone Council is working to move the process along as fast as possible.

## 6 CORRESPONDENCE

None

## 7 REPORTS FROM STAFF

### 7.1 Reports for Action

- a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH LYTTON FIRST NATION

**21-134** *Moved by Mayor Polderman THAT Council accepts the partnership agreement as presented.*

**CARRIED**

### 7.2 Reports for Information

- a) BEST PRACTICES FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS
- b) RESPONSE AND RECOVERY REPORT

In addition to the written report, Consultant Yanciw provided a verbal update on the following key highlights that have occurred since the report was written:

- Have been able to access resident contact / location information in a secure way that will allow protection of individual privacy while moving forward with a housing needs assessment.
- The Recovery Team is working with the Province to develop options with the goal of finding the best match between residents and the interim housing choices that are available before winter.
- New staff have been added to the team: With the help of the Province, a re-entry coordinator has been hired, as well as a resource to assist residents with insurance claim concerns.

### 7.3 Reports for Action

#### b) DONATION OF GIFT AND VISA CARDS

*Council directed staff to post a notice on the website and Facebook asking residents to provide input on options for fairly distributing the Gift and Visa Cards that have been donated to the Village to residents in the most need, by 4:00 pm on August 20, 2021, with a report brought to Council for decision at the August 25, 2021 Council Meeting.*

#### c) REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

**21-135** *Moved by Councillor Graie, Seconded by Councillor Hay, THAT the regular Council Meeting on August 25, 2021 will be a special meeting starting at 1:15 pm, and subsequent meetings will then return to the regular Council Meeting time of 7:00 pm.*

**CARRIED**

## 8 BYLAWS

### 8.1 Building Bylaw 750, 2021 First Reading

**21-136** *Moved by Councillor Hay, Seconded by Councillor Graie, THAT Council approve first reading of Building Bylaw 750, 2021.*

**CARRIED**

## 9 REPORT FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Polderman:

Reported that he met with Canadian National Rail (CN Rail) this week to discuss how they could support the community in this time of need. Requested that this be added to the next Council meeting as an agenda item to discuss what Council and the residents would like for assistance from CN Rail so that the Village can make a formal request. Examples included expertise with rebuilding and fire proofing the town. Spoke to Red Cross last Wednesday regarding developing an agreement for working together and what services they will provide. Received numerous calls from residents and have been in town each day. Confirmed that there are multiple re-entry plans ready to go and as soon as the Ministry of Environment comes back with results on hazard mitigation, work will begin. Not expected to take a great length of time, then the sifting process will start.

Councillor Hay:

Reported that he has been dropping into the Red Cross and checking in with Team Rubicon daily to see how they are doing. Receiving lots of emails, and will reply to every one. Has been listening to concerns about town security and people breaking into the downtown area. He is going to send every complaint that comes to him to the RCMP to create individual files for trespassing in a restricted area. Noted that town is completely fenced with solid fence and only one entrance. The only people allowed past that point are listed in black book and have to sign in.

Councillor Graie:

Reported that she is no longer needed in administration. For those feeling we aren't moving quickly enough, many on the Council have lost homes and we have no reason to delay or sit on hands. We are as frustrated and impatient as anyone. Right now we need to make sure the site is safe for access due to toxicity, which is what the Ministry of Environment is testing for. Access will happen once testing is complete. Then things will then move quickly. Everyone will see the building process starts at same date whether stick build or green. There will be time for input, questions and community engagement. Council members want to answer questions as quickly as we can and we are working for you on a daily basis on interim housing, site clean up and how rebuilding will happen. Please be patient. We are looking at funding options and we don't want anyone to be left out or have cost associated with fire proofing the community.

**10 CLOSED MEETING**

*Mayor Polderman stated **THAT** Council will close the meeting to the public to discuss: One matter related to Community Charter Section 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations.*

**11 ADJOURNMENT**

*The August 11, 2021 Special Council Meeting was ended at 2:44 pm.*

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Mayor Polderman

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Corporate Officer Curry