

**Village of Empress**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**1. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Empress was held in the Village Office in Empress on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Councillors Martin and Burgess, ICAO Peers and Assistant Administrator Carrie Loose were present at the meeting The Mayor then asked council to review the agenda for the December 14, 2022 meeting.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

C206-12-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the agenda for December 14, 2022 be accepted by Council as presented/amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

C207-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of the Village of Empress accept the Nov. 16th, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

C208-12-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the Council of the Village of Empress accept the Nov. 16th, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

C209-12-14-2022 Councillor Burgess

That the Council of the Village of Empress Accept the Nov. 24th, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

C210-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of the Village of Empress Accept the Nov. 25th, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

C211-12-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the Council of the Village of Empress Accept the Dec. 14th, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

## 4. Registered Presentations

- None

## 5. Administration and Committee Reports

### 5.1 Committee Reports

If any

### 5.2 - Public Works Report;

- All Xmas lights installed
- Took truck/blade up twice to Skappak Farm Supply, rewire controls bypassing all electronics, and 2<sup>nd</sup> time for a blown hydraulic hose.
- Signed agreement for grader and agreement with Don Hensel to operate.
- Moving snow on streets and at BCWMC site with bobcat after Grader
- Have been moving snow here & there every day since storms.

### 5.3 CAO Report by Gary Peers

- IT upgrades, complete except for Council “new emails” to come
- Like any conversion still small kinks to be ironed out.
- Working on 10-year Capital Budget as well as 2023 draft budget, ready for presentation today.
- Have access to most governments’ sites now for operations and reporting.
- Worked with ATB on moving funds around to separate savings accts to more easily see conditional funds versus operating funds, closing out the SERVUS Bank Accts altogether.
- Reminder, I will be gone to my daughters for Xmas from Dec15 to January 11<sup>th</sup>. If required, I will take a laptop and work remotely as needed.

### 5.4 Financial Report;

As at November 30, 2022 as sent out by email, still expect over budget in some utilities.

Total Revenues to date; \$639,644

Total Expenses to date; \$474,279

Current Surplus; \$165,344      Last year at year end \$105,857

Year end bills yet to come.

About \$19,500 already spent on Capital will increase operating acct surplus

Still needing to transfer \$52,691 Culture & Fine Arts to a dedicated savings acct for clarity.

NOTE: Total budget is still and may remain in the black for year end.

## 6. Correspondence

Council Accepts letters for information

## **7. Old Business**

7.1 Art Installment Update

7.2 Sign was ordered and has been picked up

7.3 The power backup generator was ordered and should arrive in 10-12 days, then installation plan will be worked out. Small generator for Internet backup was purchased and is here for our use.

7.4 The SCADA project, of course, was partly completed this spring/summer, the engineers are moving forward with the final part of the project hoping for completion early in new year.

## **8. New Business**

C212-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of the Village of Empress authorize ICAO Peers to commit to funding the Red Deer Watershed Alliance org at a rate of \$0.50 per capita or about \$76 annually along with other municipalities along the River.

**CARRIED**

C213-14-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the Council of the Village of Empress authorize ICAO Peers to forward the annual Grant of \$10,000 to the Empress Bindloss Ag Society

**CARRIED**

C214-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of the Village of Empress authorize ICAO Peers to forward our annual FCSS grant of \$3000 to the Town of Oyen FCSS program.

**CARRIED**

C215-12-14-2022 Councillor Burgess

That the Council of The Village of Empress authorize ICAO Peers to forward the annual \$1000 per diem to the Empress Volunteer Fire Department

**CARRIED**

C216-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of The Village of Empress approve the Interim 10-year Capital budget as presented.

**CARRIED**

C217-12-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the Council of The Village of Empress approve the Interim 2023 Operating Budget as presented.

**CARRIED**

C218-12-14-2022 Councillor Johnston

That the Council of The Village of Empress approve the contract agreement with Christaan Liebenberg for the CAO position of the Village of Empress.

CARRIED

C219-12-14-2022 Councillor Martin

That the Council of The Village of Empress appoint Christaan Liebenberg as the CAO for the Village of Empress effective December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

CARRIED

C220-12-14-2022 Councillor Burgess

That the Council of The Village of Empress continue the agreement with Interim CAO, Gary Peers, on an “on call” basis throughout the transition period of our new CAO.

CARRIED

**9. Next Meeting Dates;**

Third Wednesday of January, the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023 at 7pm

**10. Adjournment**

Mayor Johnston declared the Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Empress adjourned at 8:45 pm

*Arlen Johnston*

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Mayor Johnston

*Gary Peers*

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ICAO Peers