

Municipality of Jasper
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 9:30am
Jasper Library and Cultural Centre, Quorum Room

Virtual viewing and participation	Council attendance is in Council chambers at the Jasper Library and Cultural Centre. This meeting was also conducted virtually and available for public livestreaming through Zoom. Public viewing and participation during Council meetings is through Zoom livestreaming and in person attendance.
Present	Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Ralph Melnyk, Councillors Kathleen Waxer, Helen Kelleher-Empy, Wendy Hall, and Rico Damota
Absent	Councillor Scott Wilson
Also present	Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer Christine Nadon, Director of Protective & Legislative Services Beth Sanders, Director of Urban Design & Standards Lisa Daniel, Acting Assistant Director of Community Development Lucas Sherwin, Town Planner Isla Tanaka, Town Planner Emily Dawson, Financial Planner Caylee LaBranche, Business Liaison Emma Acorn, Legislative Services Coordinator Angie Thom, Director of Library Services Paul Butler, Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce Mike Merilovich, Resident Lisa Darrah, Rockaboo Mountain Adventures Peter Shokeir, The Fitzhugh Jacqui Sundquist, CBC Edmonton Bob Covey, The Jasper Local 21 observers
Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Melnyk called the March 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 9:30am and began with a Traditional Land Acknowledgement .
Additions or deletions to agenda	Councillor Kelleher-Empy and Councillor Damota both made requests to add items to the agenda as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.7 Evergreens Foundation Update• 7.8 Revisiting the 2025 Approved Budget
Approval of agenda #145/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee approve the agenda for the March 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add 7.7 Evergreens Foundation Update• Add 7.8 Revisiting the 2025 Approved Budget
	FOR 6 Councillors
	AGAINST 0 Councillors
	CARRIED

Business arising from March 11, 2025 minutes	none						
Delegations – Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce	Committee received a presentation from Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Paul Butler who shared concerns regarding the municipal budget and taxes.						
Delegations – Mike Merilovich	Jasper resident Mike Merilovich attended the meeting to share his concerns regarding item 7.4 on the agenda as he lives in close proximity to the parking lot area being discussed.						
Delegations – Lisa Darrah, Rockaboo Mountain Adventures	Lisa Darrah, Jasper resident and owner of Rockaboo Mountain Adventures, attended the meeting to address item 7.4 on the agenda which included questions as to the future of the climbing wall which was first installed in the Patricia Street parking lot with the intention of it being a seasonal installation.						
Recess	Deputy Mayor Melnyk called a recess from 10:58am to 11:11am.						
Correspondence	none						
Advocacy to CN Rail at Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference #146/25	<p>Councillor Waxer requested Committee discuss potential advocacy to CN Rail at the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference which is set to take place in Ottawa at the end of May.</p> <p>MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee direct Administration to prepare a report regarding the status and implications of CN Rail’s decision to move operations from Jasper and bring it to a future meeting prior to mid-May.</p>						
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>FOR</td> <td>AGAINST</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Councillors</td> <td>0 Councillors</td> <td>CARRIED</td> </tr> </table>	FOR	AGAINST		6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED
FOR	AGAINST						
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED					
Jasper Municipal Library Letter of Understanding #147/25	<p>Committee received a report from Administration regarding an update to the letter of understanding between the Municipality of Jasper and the Jasper Municipal Library Board. Acting Assistant Director of Community Development Lisa Daniel reviewed the changes to the letter of understanding as it is up for renewal and there were recent changes to the Alberta Libraries Act. Director of Library Services Angie Thom was also in attendance.</p> <p>MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee recommend Council approve the Jasper Municipal Library Letter of Understanding as presented.</p>						
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>FOR</td> <td>AGAINST</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Councillors</td> <td>0 Councillors</td> <td>CARRIED</td> </tr> </table>	FOR	AGAINST		6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED
FOR	AGAINST						
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED					

Jasper Seniors Society	Committee received a presentation from the Administration regarding facilities for Jasper's seniors following the loss of Pine Grove Manor in the 2024 wildfire. CAO Bill Given reviewed recommendations and alternatives for Committee's consideration.		
#148/25	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee recommend Council authorize the Mayor to write a letter requesting that the Government of Alberta include additional living units for seniors and including a seniors' centre space in the plans for the rebuild of Pine Grove Manor.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Pop-Up Business Village Patricia Street Location	Administration presented recommendations to Committee on a Pop-Up Business Village location with Town Planner Lucas Sherwin sharing the background information. Mr. Sherwin was joined by Director of Urban Design & Standards Beth Sanders, Business Liaison Caylee LaBranche and Town Planner Isla Tanaka to help answer Committee questions.		
#149/25	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee recommend Council consider approving a change to the location of the Pop-Up Business Village from 607 Connaught Drive to the 406/412 Patricia Street parking lot.		
	FOR 5 Councillors	AGAINST 1 Councillor (Melnyk)	CARRIED
Recess	Deputy Mayor Melnyk called a recess from 12:55pm to 2:00pm.		
Pop-Up Business Village Patricia Street Location continued	Committee continued discussing the pros and cons of a Pop-Up Business Village and the Rockaboo Mountain Adventures climbing wall location.		
#150/25	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee direct Administration to return to Council with recommendations for an appropriate fee structure to enable the year-round operation of the Rockaboo climbing facility for a potential three year term, and prior to returning the Municipality of Jasper will require clarity on the summer usage of the space, potential space rental fees, input from Parks Canada as the development authority responsible for commercial development in Jasper, and resident and industry feedback into the impact of the attraction on the downtown landscape in the winter months.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Disaster Recovery Program Project List Update	Committee received a report from the Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre detailing projects which are covered under the Disaster Recovery Program. Financial Coordinator Emily Dawson reviewed the original project list and subsequent adjustments.		
#151/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee receive the report for information.		

	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Annual Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Update #152/25	Committee received the annual Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Update from Administration.		
	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee receive the 2024 Annual Report on the implementation of the 2022-2026 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan for information; and		
	That Committee recommend Council approve replacing the word Master with the word Action in the formal name of the plan.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Meeting Extension #153/25	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empy at 2:55pm that the March 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be extended past four hours.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Evergreens Foundation Update #154/25	Councillor Kelleher-Empy provided an update on the Evergreens Foundation budget as she attended a board meeting last week.		
	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empy that Committee receive the verbal report for information.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Revisiting the 2025 Approved Budget #155/25	Committee discussed potentially revisiting the 2025 approved operating and capital budgets. Mr. Given shared timeline considerations.		
	MOTION by Councillor Damota that Committee recommend Council revisit the 2025 approved operating and capital budgets at the next Regular meeting.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Motion Action List #156/25	Administration reviewed the Motion Action List.		
	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empy that Committee approve the updated Motion Action List with the removal of the following item:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jasper Seniors Society 		
	And date changes for the following items:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel CH Access Road & Spruce Avenue Development Tender Award 		

- Wildfire Recovery Strategic Priorities

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Councillor
upcoming
meetings

Councillor Kelleher-Empey will be attending the Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association meeting next week in Edmonton.

Councillor Hall will be completing the Pathfinders Program this Friday.

Councillors Melnyk, Waxer and Hall attended a meeting of the Recovery Advisory Committee yesterday and the next one is scheduled for April 8th.

Upcoming Events

Council reviewed a list of upcoming events.

Adjournment
#157/25

MOTION by Councillor Hall that, there being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 25, 2025 be adjourned at 3:30pm.

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED