

Municipality of Jasper
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 | 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 Rico Damota, Councillors Ralph Melnyk, Wendy Hall, Scott Wilson, Helen Kelleher-Empey and Kathleen Waxer		
Also present	Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer Christine Nadon, Director of Protective & Legislative Services Faraz Khan, Municipal Energy Manager Emma Acorn, Legislative Services Coordinator Logan Ireland & Oliver Andrew, UpLift! Jasper Mural Festival Bob Covey, The Local Jason Stockfish, The Fitzhugh 9 observers		
Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Damota called the September 13, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 9:32am and began with a Traditional Land Acknowledgement .		
Additions to the agenda	Mayor Ireland requested the following item be added to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 ACFA Letter of support request Councillor Wilson requested the following item be added to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">10.1 Intergovernmental agenda in-camera		
Approval of agenda #387/22	MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey to approve the agenda for the September 13, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting as amended with the additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 ACFA Letter of support request10.1 Intergovernmental agenda in-camera		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED
Business arising from minutes	There was no business arising from the minutes of the August 23, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. The minutes were approved at the September 6, 2022 regular meeting. Mayor Ireland declared a conflict of interest in regards to the next delegation to present as he is the father of one of the presenters. Mayor Ireland left the meeting at 9:36am.		
Delegations – UpLift! Jasper Mural Festival	Representatives of the UpLift! Jasper Mural Festival, Logan Ireland and Oliver Andrew, shared a recap of the two week mural festival which took place in Jasper from April 23 to May 8, 2022. The partners in the non-profit asked Council for their feedback and asked for future support to the project.		

#388/22	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee receive the verbal report on the UpLift! Mural Festival for information; and		
	That Committee refer the matter of UpLift! Jasper Mural Festival funding to the 2023 budget discussions.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED
	Mayor Ireland rejoined the meeting at 9:59am.		
Correspondence – ACFA Letter of support request #389/22	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee direct the Mayor to extend a letter of support to assist in the grant application for ACFA.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED
Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC) Update	CAO Bill Given gave Committee an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC) and other positions within the municipal Emergency Management structure. Mayor Ireland presented an EAC report to Committee covering the Chetamon Wildfire and the subsequent power outage in Jasper. The report will be attached to the meeting's minutes.		
	Director of Protective & Legislative Services, Christine Nadon was also present to answer questions and provide further details on the events which began with the wildfire on September 1, 2022.		
#390/22	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee receive the Emergency Advisory Committee update for information.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED
Recess	Deputy Mayor Damota called a recess from 10:59 – 11:00am		
Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC) Update #391/22	MOTION by Councillor Wilson that Committee direct Administration to request data from ATCO identifying the current maximum capacity for the generators in Jasper as well as our current utilization.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED
#392/22	MOTION by Councillor Wilson that Committee direct Administration to compile a list and report back to Council on current properties and businesses on independent power generation that are able to supply their own power for the foreseeable future.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor	CARRIED

#393/22	MOTION by Councillor Wilson that Committee direct Administration to request an updated timeline from ATCO on the reactivation of the transmission line.			
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor		CARRIED
	Deputy Mayor Damota relinquished the chair to Mayor Ireland in order to make the following motion:			
#394/22	MOTION by Councillor Damota that Committee direct Administration to locate and provide Council with the detailed environmental impact analysis that Parks Canada conducted with ATCO on the Jasper Interconnection Project.			
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor		CARRIED
	Deputy Mayor Damota resumed chairing the meeting.			
Municipal Energy Manager Update	Municipal Energy Manager Faraz Khan presented Council with an Energy Management Assessment (EMA) report for the Municipality of Jasper which was conducted on July 14, 2022. The session was attended by the CAO; Communications Manager; and by the Directors of Finance & Administration, Community Development, and Operations. The session was facilitated by CLEAResult, who provide technical support for the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) program.			
#395/22	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee accept the Energy Management Assessment report for information.			
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor		CARRIED
RFD – Public Transportation	Mr. Given presented recommendations regarding a draft Memorandum of Understanding on Public Transportation between the Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada.			
#396/22	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee recommend Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of public transportation services with Parks Canada with revisions as discussed at today's meeting.			
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillor		CARRIED
	Deputy Mayor Damota relinquished the chair to Mayor Ireland at 12:25pm and left the meeting.			
RFD – Alberta / Japan Twinning Municipalities	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee recommend Council approve hosting the 2023 AJTMA conference and direct Administration to include \$6,000 in the 2023 proposed budget to be presented to Council for approval.			

Association #397/22	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Parcel GB Development	<p>Mr. Given gave Council an update on Parcel GB Development. The developers are working through permit conditions with Parks Canada and will share information and renderings of the project once conditions have been met.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Damota returned to the meeting at 12:34pm. Mayor Ireland relinquished the chair back to Deputy Mayor Damota.</p> <p>Mayor Ireland left the meeting at 12:36pm</p>		
Motion Action List	Administration reviewed the Motion Action List, which included the removal of items addressed at today's meeting and updated target completion dates.		
#398/22	<p>MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey that Committee approve the updated Motion Action List.</p> <p>FOR 6 Councillors</p> <p>AGAINST 0 Councillors</p> <p>CARRIED</p>		
Councillor reports	<p>Mayor Ireland returned to the meeting at 12:39pm.</p> <p>Councillors Melnyk, Waxer, Hall, Wilson, and Damota will be in Calgary next week for the Alberta Municipalities tradeshow and convention.</p> <p>Councillor Hall will be attending a Jasper Library board meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Councillor Melnyk will be at a Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives meeting this evening and a TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association meeting this Friday.</p> <p>Councillor Kelleher-Empey will be participating in the Early Childhood Community Conversation tomorrow afternoon and a Community Futures West Yellowhead meeting in Grande Cache on Friday.</p> <p>Councillor Wilson will attend a meeting of the West Yellowhead Waste Management Authority on Thursday in Hinton.</p>		
Upcoming Events	Council reviewed a list of upcoming events.		
In Camera #399/22	<p>MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey to move in camera at 12:47pm to discuss agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Intergovernmental agenda <p>FOR 7 Councillors</p> <p>AGAINST 0 Councillors</p> <p>CARRIED</p>		

Mr. Given also attended the in camera session.

Revert to open
meeting
#400/22

MOTION by Councillor Wilson that Committee of the Whole revert to open meeting at 1:18pm.

FOR

7 Councillors

AGAINST

0 Councillors

CARRIED

Adjournment
#401/22

MOTION by Councillor Waxer, there being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 13, 2022 be adjourned at 1:19pm.

FOR

7 Councillors

AGAINST

0 Councillors

CARRIED

EAC Report to Council September 13, 2022

The Emergency generated by the Electric Power outage caused by the Chetamon wildfire, provided the first opportunity for an emergency response meeting of the newly constituted Emergency Advisory Committee (**EAC**). The committee had met previously to review emergency planning documents, including the community evacuation plan, with staff and Parks Canada.

As noted by our **CAO**, Mr. Given, the potential for an Emergency was recognized on Friday, September 2 with the start of the Chetamon wildfire. Municipal staff activated the Emergency Coordination Centre (**ECC**), in a limited sense, on the morning of Saturday, September 3, in order to be bettered prepared for the eventuality of a more immediate emergency. That situation did, in fact arise early in the morning of Monday, September 5, with the loss of the ATCO overhead transmission line which delivers power to all of Jasper and almost all of Jasper National Park

The **EAC** held its first meeting with the Director of the Emergency Coordination Centre (**ECC**), Christine Nadon, Deputy Director of **ECC** Mathew Conte, and member of the Emergency Management Agency (**EMA**) CAO Bill Given, commencing at 4pm on **Monday, September 5**.

During the initial meeting the **EAC** (Councillors Waxer and Melnyk, and Mayor Ireland) received a briefing from the **DEM** and **DDEM**, and from Mr. Given. The Committee was provided with an update and made inquiries regarding various items, including:

- the evolving fire status;
- the status of the ATCO transmission line;
- efforts and available resources to provide substitute generated power for the community;
- priorities for electrical re-energization;
- proposals and limitations of re-energization as advised by ATCO, including service to areas south of highway 16;
- the status of the Municipal response;
- the role of Emergency Social Services;
- actions taken by the Evergreens Foundation in respect to the voluntary transfer of independent residents in Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge.

Members of the **EAC** additionally inquired as to the safety and well-being of individuals, including vulnerable populations, life safety issues concerning use of BBQs and outdoor cooking stoves used indoors and messaging to discourage such use.

Committee members also discussed private sector efforts to reduce incoming visitation to the community and the national park and regarding resources which the private sector might be able to make available to address the power outage. The **EMA** undertook to convey offers of resources to ATCO for consideration as appropriate.

Members of the **EAC** also addressed the frequency of updates from the EMA to council and offered advice in that regard (which was accepted and actioned).

The **EAC** was advised that the recommendation of the **ECC** was that a Declaration of a State of Local Emergency (**SOLE**) was not required: upon such a Declaration, the legislation provides

the opportunity for the affected municipality to exercise exceptional powers, none of which powers were contemplated to be required.

The **EAC** accepted the recommendation of the **ECC** with respect to the Declaration of a **SOLE**, and otherwise commended the **ECC**, **DEM**, **DDEM** and **EMA** with respect to its efforts to date, particularly the quality and frequency of communications, and provided advice to continue those efforts.

On **Tuesday, September 6**, members of the **EAC** received, with Council, an update from Mr. Given regarding the Chetamon wildfire, the ongoing ATCO response, and the Municipal response.

The **EAC** convened again at 5:30 pm on **Wednesday, September 7**, with the **DEM**, **DDEM** and our **CAO**. In addition to receiving an update on all current matters, the **EAC** also had the opportunity to address questions directly to the ATCO incident commander, Amanda Mattern, who joined the meeting virtually. Members of the **EAC** posed questions regarding available resources, other options for generated electricity, including railway locomotives or generator cars, other sources of large generators, capacity limits, technical challenges, load reduction options, including lowering demand. Until power was lost to the community and Ms. Mattern was required to excuse herself to deal with the ongoing emergency, she was able to provide responses satisfactory to the **EAC** with respect to most inquiries. In some instances (hotel occupancy as a function of load capacity, for example) Ms. Mattern took the questions away for consideration by ATCO staff.

As part of the briefing provided by the **DEM** and **DDEM**, the **EAC** was apprised of concerns relating to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (**WWTP**). In particular, the **EAC** discussed the potential consequences of a loss of both ATCO generator power and back-up generator power to the **WWTP**.

The **EAC** was also advised of actions taken by Grande Yellowhead Public School Division in respect to the power outage; discussed again the issue of available resources, and the absence of need to Declare a **SOLE**.

The **EAC** took the opportunity of the meeting to inquire regarding the wellness of members of the **ECC** and other municipal staff.

The **EAC** also used the September 7 meeting as an opportunity to confirm messaging for a virtual meeting later that evening between Mr. Given and the Mayor on behalf of the Committee, and members of the Board of Directors of Tourism Jasper (**TJ**). A letter was prepared to be shared with **TJ** board members and other tourism industry stakeholders, which was subsequently shared with Council and publicly. The meeting with the Board of Directors of **TJ** provided an opportunity to confirm status of various aspects of the emergency, municipal and ATCO priorities, ongoing efforts towards power restoration, and both ongoing and emerging concerns of the Municipality. The meeting also provided an opportunity for participants to exchange information and for the municipality to hear perspectives, concerns, suggestions and messaging from the Board of Directors of **TJ** and individual industry operators.

The **EAC** convened again on **Friday, September 9** at 2:30 pm. Apart from receiving a current status update, members inquired regarding additional back-up generator support for the **WWTP**, the uptake of private generator use, particularly in the commercial sector, opportunities

and efforts to reduce demand, historical responses to prior significant power outages, and the ongoing impact on residents and businesses.

Members also used the meeting to confirm a list of direct requests to be conveyed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and other Provincial officials at a virtual meeting scheduled for later that day.

The **EAC** recognized the need to elevate the administrative efforts between the Municipality, ATCO and Parks Canada to a political level. With the assistance of MLA Martin Long, the Committee was able to arrange a virtual meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs, Rick McIver, the Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electrical Power, Dale Nally, MLA Martin Long, and other Provincial representatives at 4:15 on **Friday, September 9**. The meeting began as a virtual, web-based meeting, but owing to power and internet constraints, converted to a telephone conference call within minutes.

The **EAC** employed the opportunity to briefly explain the extent of the continuing emergency to the Minister and his officials, and to briefly outline the losses and severe disruption, economically, socially, physically, mentally and emotionally to individuals, businesses, the municipality and the community caused by the power outage.

The Committee's first request to the Province was to inquire at the highest levels of ATCO whether there was any requirement for additional resources. The Associate Minister undertook to action that request and responded by telephone to Mayor Ireland late on Saturday afternoon that ATCO confirmed (consistent with advice from ATCO representatives on the ground in Jasper) that all required resources had been made available and that the critical needs were time to adjust to technical demands and complexity at the generator site, and safe access for line restoration crews in the area of transmission line damage.

In the context of a second 'ask' to the Province, the committee explained to the Minister and provincial representatives that the entire community of Jasper functions as an integral part of the local tourism offer and is, in fact, tourism product. By analogy, the **EAC** argued, if an agricultural community in Alberta suffered a devastating loss of product (crop) as a result of a natural weather event (hail, tornado, drought) provincial Disaster Relief would undoubtedly be made available. Similarly, the committee submitted, Disaster Relief should be made available to individuals and to business in Jasper who have lost income or incurred unexpected expenses as a result of a power outage caused by wildfire. Provincial Officials readily acknowledged that Disaster Relief could be made available, and undertook to start work to investigate options and processes. They have since made contact to liaise with finance personnel within the Municipality to further the initiative. Officials cautioned, however, that all Disaster Relief Programs are subject to eligibility requirements, including precise record keeping, and that all relief will be subject to an 'insurability' review. The Municipality was able to confirm that for its part, that precise records have been maintained since the activation of the ECC. The Municipality agreed to help extend the message to affected individuals and business that their first contact should be with their insurance provider. The Mayor spoke with the Executive Director of the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce (**JPCC**) the following day, to help circulate that requirement to **JPCC** members.

As its third ask, the EAC requested confirmation that no Declaration of a **SOLE** was required to be made to access any provincial Disaster Relief funding or Program. Provincial Officials provided that confirmation. Provincial officials did, however, re-emphasized the need to first consider private insurance options and reiterated that provincial disaster relief is not a substitute for insurance products available on the market.

As a final gesture, and recognizing the challenges facing our Municipal administration in the face of the ongoing emergency, the Province offered to investigate on behalf of the Municipality, the availability of federal relief programs for individuals and for businesses.

The most recent meeting of the **EAC** occurred at 3:00 pm on Monday, **September 12**. At that time, the Committee received an update from Mr. Given (Ms. Nadon having earned a day off, and Mr. Conte being engaged in the ongoing work of the **ECC**). Members were advised that ATCO had successfully brought all generator capacity on line and successfully supplied uninterrupted power to all of the townsites (excluding those who have voluntarily opted to remain on their own generators - for which we extend gratitude.) The **EAC** was also advised that work was underway to replace poles and structures damaged by the wildfire. As of Monday, September 12, no firm date for repairs to and reactivation of the overground transmission grid line was available.

The **EAC** also inquired regarding the transitioning of messaging from the Municipality directed towards visitors. The Committee was advised that the **ECC** was to discuss that issue later on Monday and confirm a process for adjusting messaging.

Members of the **EAC** extend thanks and appreciation to the **DEM**, **DDEM**, and **EMA** for the quality and frequency of briefings provided to the **EAC**, and for updates provided to Council. We also extend great gratitude to all members of the **ECC** and municipal staff who have served the community in such exemplary fashion during the course of the present emergency, and will continue to do so until its conclusion and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Emergency Advisory Committee

Per: Richard Ireland, Chair