

**UNADOPTED MINUTES
OF THE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Robertson, Chair
Councillor Heemeryck
Councillor Sands
Councillor Thorn

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT Councillor Christophers
Councillor Rockley
Councillor Watrin

STAFF PRESENT Elaine Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer
Janice Storch, Legislative Services Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Additions/Deletions/Changes
None

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that the agenda for the April 28, 2021
Emergency Advisory Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.
Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Situation Update

Trevor Brice, Director of Emergency Management, reviewed the April 21 - 27, 2021 Situation Update which included current COVID-19 provincial and municipal caseloads and the increases both locally and provincially over the previous reporting period.

The Director expressed concerns regarding the recent changes by the province to the testing protocols and the potential for staffing impacts on the organization, due to the removal of the second mandatory test.

MOTION: By Councillor Sands that the April 21 to 27, 2021 Situation Update be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 Maintaining Essential Service Delivery to the Public

Trevor Brice, Director of Emergency Management, reviewed the report containing the issue that the COVID-19 infection and isolation numbers in Okotoks are increasing at a rate two times higher than the Provincial rate. Options to stop the spread to ensure continued Town of Okotoks service delivery to the community are provided for consideration.

With the increased percentage of the provincial and local caseloads being a variant strain of the COVID-19 virus and the rate at which these variants are spreading, the Director expressed concern that increased numbers of Town of Okotoks essential service delivery staff are becoming close contacts and required to isolate. Potentially the Town's ability to continue to provide essential services may become impacted by this drastic rise in incidents of staff being close contacts of reported cases.

The Director noted that as an essential services employer, the Town of Okotoks must take appropriate steps and continue to adapt processes to ensure a safe and risk averse environment is provided to staff and residents. Maintaining all essential services; fire, water, water treatment, and bylaw services, is critical. Closing all Town owned public facilities to the public for a two week period will lessen the exposure of staff to the virus, lessening the number of staff absent from work due to being a close contact, and thus ensuring the Town's ability to maintain essential services.

MOTION: By Councillor Thorn that all Town of Okotoks indoor public facilities, with the exception of the Eco Centre, be closed to the public from April 29 to May 14, 2021, inclusive, with online services provided; and that an Emergency Advisory Committee Meeting be scheduled on May 12, 2021 to determine next steps to ensure the reduced spread of COVID-19 and continued service delivery to the public.

Carried Unanimously

5. IN CAMERA ITEMS

None

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Emergency Advisory Committee will be Monday, May 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Councillor Sands that the April 28, 2021 Emergency Advisory Committee Meeting adjourn at 2:08 p.m.

Carried Unanimously