

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt
held on Monday, August 26, 2019

Present: Mayor Chichak; Deputy Mayor Schlosser; Councillors Connell, Chauvet, Hilts, McAree, and Pickard; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Chichak presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 19-272 Moved by Deputy Mayor Schlosser

That the Agenda be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the 19-273 Moved by Councillor Chauvet
July 15, 2019

Special Meeting of Council: That the Minutes from the July 15, 2019 Special Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the 19-274 Moved by Councillor Hilts
July 15, 2019

Regular Meeting of Council: That the Minutes from the July 15, 2019 Special Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Input Session: There were no members of the public who wished to address Council.

2019-2020 RCMP Annual Performance Plan: The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Protective Services Committee reviewed the 2019-2020 RCMP Annual Performance Plan, and recommended approval by Council. He introduced Staff Sergeant Ryan Comaniuk who was present to answer questions from Council regarding the Plan.

Staff Sergeant Ryan Comaniuk noted that policing priorities for 2019-2020 included crime reduction, employee health and wellness, community engagement, and traffic safety.

19-275 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council accept the recommendation from the Protective Services Committee and approve the 2019-2020 RCMP Annual Performance Plan as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Police Services Community Satisfaction Survey: The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Protective Services Committee was proposing to launch an online survey in the fall to obtain public and stakeholder satisfaction with police priorities in the community. He introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further comments on the item.

The Director of Community Safety stated that it was intended that the survey would be conducted annually, and the information gained would be used to develop the RCMP Annual Performance Plan.

19-276 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council accept the recommendation from the Protective Services Committee and approve the Community Satisfaction Survey as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Quarterly Financial Report:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Quarterly Financial report for the period ending June 30, 2019 was presented for Council’s review and information. He introduced the Director of Corporate Services who provided an overview of the Report.

In response to a question from Council, the Director reviewed Woodlands County’s Off-Site Levy and Cost Sharing Agreement contribution arrears valued at approximately \$974,000.00.

19-277 Moved by Deputy Mayor Schlosser

That Council accept the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2019 as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2019 Project List:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the 2019 Project List includes 145 projects, and was updated with project status and anticipated completion dates.

19-278 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the 2019 Project list for information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2020 Budget Schedule:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that Administration prepared timelines for 2020 Budget deliberations. It was recommended that a Special Meeting of Council be scheduled for September 30.

The Director of Corporate Services noted that Administration is developing a plan to implement multi-year budgeting to meet the requirements of the Municipal Government Act, and the plan will be brought back to Council at a future meeting.

Council discussed the budget process and format of information provided to Council. Council discussed the merits of a service level and capacity review.

19-279 Moved by Deputy Mayor Schlosser

That Council accept the proposed 2020 Budget Schedule as information; and,

That Council schedule a Special Meeting of Council on September 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the 2020 Budget.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Works Shop Building #1 Roof Replacement:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that tender submissions were received for the roof replacement of the Public Works Shop Building #1. He introduced the Acting Director of Infrastructure Services and Manager of Facilities who reviewed the proposal scoring, and recommended that the project be awarded to Tru-West Company Ltd.

19-280 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council award the proposal for the Public Works Shop Building #1 Roof Replacement to Tru-West Company Ltd. in the amount of \$126,336.00 plus GST, and authorize an additional budget amount of \$20,000 from the Infrastructure Reserve.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Highway 32
Entrance Sign:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the development of a community entrance sign along Highway 32 south was included in the 2019 Budget, and introduced the Acting Director of Infrastructure Services to review the item.

The Acting Director of Infrastructure Services noted that the original sign location was denied by Alberta Transportation; however, an alternate site was approved. He noted that the new site would require modifications to the sign design as the footprint was smaller than originally planned, but that the proposed aesthetics and look would be consistent with the two entrance signs located on Highway 43.

19-281 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council approve Option 3 as presented to construct a brick and concrete entrance sign on Highway 32 south, similar to the Highway 43 entrance signs.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 8:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 8:20 p.m.

Water and
Wastewater
Agreement:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that Council tabled Motion #19-243 at the July 15, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council in order to confirm Woodlands County's position with respect to linear tax sharing. It was noted that a letter was received from Woodlands County on August 21, 2019 and provided to Council as information.

Council discussed the response from Woodlands County; and the link between the agreement to provide water and wastewater services to the County and the amendment to the Cost Sharing Agreement where the County agreed to annually transfer revenue sharing of 10.4% of its total linear assessment.

19-282 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council table Motion 19-243 "That the Town of Whitecourt provide Woodlands County with two years written notice to terminate the Water and Wastewater Agreement" for six months to allow time for further negotiations with Woodlands County on intermunicipal agreements.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Councillor Connell.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Mayor Chichak, Deputy Mayor Schlosser, Councillor Chauvet, Hilts, McAree and Pickard.

- MOTION DEFEATED.

19-243 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That the Town of Whitecourt provide Woodlands County with two years written notice to terminate the Water and Wastewater Agreement.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Chichak, Deputy Mayor Schlosser, Councillor Chauvet, Hilts, McAree and Pickard.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Connell.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Vitalization Grant Applications:

Councillor Chauvet declared a possible conflict of interest as the applicant is a client of his brokerage firm, and he vacated Council Chambers. Time: 8:59 p.m.

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that a second call for applications to the 2019 Vitalization Grant Program was completed, and one application was received. He introduced the Director of Planning & Development who provided a review of the application.

19-283 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council accept the recommendation from Administration and allocate \$2,730 to United States Real Estate Corporation for its proposed Vitalization project.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Chauvet returned to Council Chambers. Time: 9:01 p.m.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor – September 1 to December 31, 2019:

Mayor Chichak thanked Deputy Mayor Schlosser for his time and efforts while he served as Deputy Mayor, and recommended that Councillor Chauvet serve as Deputy Mayor from September 1 to December 31, 2019.

19-284 Moved by Mayor Chichak

That Council appoint Councillor Chauvet to serve as Deputy Mayor from September 1 to December 31, 2019 as recommended by the Mayor.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

National Coaches Appreciation Week:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that National Coaches Appreciation Week was scheduled from September 21 to 29, 2019 and that a number of local initiatives were planned in celebration of this week.

19-285 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council authorize September 21-29, 2019 to be proclaimed as National Coaches Week in Whitecourt as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/Events and/or Proclamations; and,

That Council be authorized to participate in the National Coaches Week surprise appreciation visits between September 23-27, 2019.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Summer Invitation – Fort Assiniboine Parade:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that an invitation was received for members to attend the Fort Assiniboine Parade on August 17 after the last Council Meeting; and, it was recommended that Council ratify Council Member’s attendance at the event.

19-286 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council ratify Council Member’s attendance at the Fort Assiniboine Parade that was held on August 17, 2019.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meet & Greet with Honourable Dreeshen:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that an invitation was received to attend a Meet & Greet event with Honourable Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on August 27, 2019.

Intermunicipal Agreements (Closed Meeting):

19-287 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council authorize Council Members to attend the Meet & Greet with Honourable Devin Dreeschen, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, on August 17, 2019 at the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

19-288 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council defer discussion on the Intermunicipal Agreements item to the Closed Meeting.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor McAree reported that he attended the Fort Assiniboine Parade.

Councillor Hilts reported that the McSweeney Report was underway for Community Futures Yellowhead East. The Report, when complete, will outline strategic action plans to respond to common regional business needs and opportunities.

Councillor Chauvet reported that he attended the Fort Assiniboine Parade, Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament; a Solid Waste Management Authority meeting; and a Whitecourt Airport Advisory Committee, however there was no quorum. He noted that the Airport would be implementing a fuel tax as of January 2020.

Councillor Pickard reported that he attended an ALERT Advisory Committee meeting, the grand opening of a goalie school with other representatives from Community Futures Yellowhead East, a Protective Services Committee meeting, and the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament.

Deputy Mayor Schlosser reported that he attended a seniors tea and other Deputy Mayor activities, Groovy Foodie Fest, and the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament.

Mayor Chichak reported that she was interviewed by Alberta Prime Time on a number of topics, including Whitecourt's economy, FireSmart and relations with other levels of government. She also attended an Alberta Forest Products Association meeting in Edmonton with the Province of Alberta; and, noted that Whitecourt was part of a Provincial press release on the new caribou sub-regional range plans.

19-289 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

19-290 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the following items as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques #067467 - #067917;
- b) Letter dated July 10, 2019 from Honourable Leela Sharon Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, thanking Mayor Chichak for her congratulations letter;
- c) Letters dated July 17, 2019 to Woodlands County Council regarding the Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement and Intermunicipal Agreements;
- d) Letter dated July 18, 2019 to Whitecourt Seniors Circle regarding additional parking;
- e) Letter dated July 23, 2019 to Northern Gateway Public Schools regarding support for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Project;

- f) Letter dated July 25, 2019 from AUMA President Barry Morishita to Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, regarding policing and crime reduction;
- g) Letter dated July 29, 2019 from George VanderBurg regarding Municipal Cost Sharing agreements with Whitecourt and County;
- h) Letter dated July 31, 2019 from Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce regarding Inter-Municipal Cost Sharing, Tax Revenue Sharing and Water & Wastewater Agreements;
- i) Letter dated July 31, 2019 to Woodlands County regarding Inter-Municipal Collaboration discussions;
- j) Letter dated July 31, 2019 to Prime Minister’s Volunteer Awards;
- k) July 15, 2019 Press Release – Temporary Closure of the Whitecourt River Slides;
- l) July 17, 2019 Press Release – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- m) July 29, 2019 Press Release – Taking Action to Manage Energy (TAME+) Projects;
- n) August 6, 2019 Press Release – Pembina Pipeline Corporation welcomed as a Sponsor at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre;
- o) August 16, 2019 Press Release – Paving Projects scheduled to start August 19, 2019;
- p) August 19, 2019 Press Release – Portion of 47 Street and Flats Road closed temporarily on August 21;
- q) August 12, 2019 Woodlands County Media Release;
- r) August 21, 2019 Woodlands County Media Release;
- s) Woodlands County Minutes for May 21 and June 7, 2019;
- t) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- u) Council’s Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 9:19 p.m.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 9:40 p.m.

19-291 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into a Closed Meeting to discuss Intermunicipal Agreements as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 9:41 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Administrative Officer Smyl was in attendance during the Closed Meeting to provide administrative advice.

19-292 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 10:00 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Agreements:

19-293 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council send a letter to Woodlands County asking that it consider scheduling a meeting of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee on September 11, 2019 following the individual Council meetings with mediators on September 10, 2019.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

19-294 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 10:01 p.m.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approved as per Motion 19-296

Mayor

Approved as per Motion 19-296

Chief Administrative Officer