

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of the Town of Whitecourt**

held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at the Town Office Large Boardroom

Present:	Mayor Chichak; Deputy Mayor Hilts; Councillors Chauvet, Connell, McAree, Pickard and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.
Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm. Mayor Chichak presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>21-001 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts</u> That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Minutes from the December 21, 2020 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council:	<u>21-002 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That the Minutes from the December 21, 2020 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Public Input Session:	No written submissions were received from members of the public with a request to address Council.
Supplementary Assessment Bylaw 1561:	The Chief Administrative Officer noted that supplementary assessments are for projects that were started within the taxation year, and allows for the properties to be added to the assessment roll and pro-rated for taxation purposes. The Chief Administrative Officer also noted that under the red tape reductions changes, the Supplementary Assessment Bylaw no longer has to be passed annually and will continue in force until amended or repealed. <u>21-003 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That Bylaw 1561 be given first reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. <u>21-004 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That Bylaw 1561 be given second reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. <u>21-005 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts</u> That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1561. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Supplementary Taxation Bylaw 1562:	<u>21-006 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That Bylaw 1561 be given third and final reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to Supplementary Assessment Bylaw 1561, Bylaw 1562 gives the ability to apply the tax rates for the current year. <u>21-007 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts</u> That Bylaw 1562 be given first reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-008 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1562 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-009 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1562.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-010 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1562 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Water and Wastewater Agreement:

The Chief Administrative Officer outlined the history of the water and wastewater agreement with Woodlands County, noting that the Town had served notice of intent to terminate the agreement in August of 2019. Following recent conversations with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and discussions with residents and business owners who expressed their concerns, it was noted that the County has no other options to provide water to affected residents and businesses at this time. Council discussed sending Woodlands County an offer to withdraw the notice of termination of the agreement.

21-011 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That the Town of Whitecourt forward a letter to Woodlands County offering to withdraw the notice of termination of the Water and Wastewater Agreement submitted August 29, 2019.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Municipal Law Seminars:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised Council of upcoming law seminars that will be delivered in electronic formats.

21-012 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council and Administration be authorized to attend the Brownlee Emerging Trends Seminar and the Reynolds, Mirth, Richards and Farmer municipal law seminars.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Schlosser advised that attendance at Eastlink Park is beyond expectation and said that if anyone was interested in volunteering, they would be welcomed.

Councillor Pickard attended a meeting with Living Waters Catholic School Division. He noted that Eagle Tower Victim Services received notice that it would be receiving funding from the federal government. He also noted that the RCMP District Commander for Western Alberta had been promoted.

Deputy Mayor Hilts reported that he also attended the meeting with Living Waters Catholic Schools.

Mayor Chichak provided an update on the budget and economic development to the Chamber of Commerce, and also provided a 2020 year in review presentation to the Rotary Club of Whitecourt. She noted that there was excellent dialogue with Rotary Club members and that she was looking forward to future partnerships with the association. She also attended the monthly Alberta Forest Products Association meeting.

Items of Information:

21-013 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Councillor Reports be accepted as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-014 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 73463 - 73574;
- b) December 17, 2020 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Denial of Disaster Recovery Funding (July 2020 flood);
- c) December 18, 2020 Email from Alberta Transportation re Highway 43 Driver’s Speed Feedback Signs;
- d) December 18, 2020 Press Release – COVID-19 Update;
- e) December 22, 2020 Press Release – Council Update;
- f) December 22, 2020 Press Release – 2021 Interim Budget Approved;
- g) December 22, 2020 Press Release – Town of Whitecourt Code of Conduct;
- h) January 5, 2021 Press Release – COVID-19 Update;
- i) January 7, 2021 Email re Budget Open House;
- j) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- k) Council’s Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committee Appointments (Closed Meeting):

21-015 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Council Committee Appointments. Time: 4:29pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land (Closed Meeting):

21-016 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Land. Time: 4:30pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Agreements (Closed Meeting):

21-017 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Intermunicipal Agreements. Time: 4:30pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Chauvet declared a possible conflict of interest as he is a local realtor and excused himself from the discussion. Time 4:44pm.

Councillor Chauvet returned to the meeting. Time 5:05pm.

21-018 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time: 5:18pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committee  
Appointments:

21-019 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council appoint Public Members to Council Committees:

**Whitecourt Tourism Committee:**

Public Members:	
1. Mike Minderlein	• Term to expire in October 2021
2. Elva Roche	• Term to expire in October 2022
3. Cindy Brooks	• Term to expire in October 2023
4. Williard Strebchuk	• Term to expire in October 2023
Performing Arts Society – Neil Shewchuk	• Term to expire in October 2021

**Municipal Planning Commission**

Shari Greenlee - Alternate Position	Term to expire in October 2023
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**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board:**

1. Shane Opsal	Term to expire in October 2023
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and direct Administration to re-advertise for the remaining vacant positions.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land:

Councillor Chauvet declared a possible conflict of interest as he is a local realtor and excused himself from the discussion. Time 5:21pm.

21-020 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Land be accepted as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Chauvet returned to the meeting at 5:22pm.

Intermunicipal  
Agreements:

21-021 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council accept Intermunicipal Agreements as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

21-022 Moved by Councillor Connell

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:22pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer