

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of the Town of Whitecourt**  
held on Monday, May 24, 2022 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Baker; Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, McAree, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.  Mayor Pickard stated that it would be a busy weekend with the Children's Festival and Trade Fair taking place. He also commented that CDL Homes is now taking applications for the new seniors' development.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>22-165 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u>  That the Agenda be adopted as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Public Hearing:	<u>22-166 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u>  That the Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Public Hearing be adopted as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council:	<u>22-167 Moved by Councillor McAree</u>  That the Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
Visitors and Delegations:	i. Soaring Eagle Support <u>Services; Society</u> <i>SESS pl</i>  Shelagh Watson and Odette Lloyd of <u>Soaring Eagle Support Services Society (SESS)</u> were present to provide an update on homelessness in Whitecourt and efforts that SESS is taking to combat the situation. Ms. Watson noted that funding to help mitigate homelessness is difficult to access in rural areas. SESS hopes to develop a program and become leaders in the province in addressing the homelessness situation.
<i>As amended by Motion 22-187, June 13, 2022</i> <i>SESS</i> <i>PS</i>	<u>22-168 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u>  That Council recognize the presence of Shelagh Watson and Odette Lloyd of <u>Soaring Eagle Support Services Society</u> . <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> ii. Los Amigos Project – Fire Truck Donation;  Councillor McAree vacated his chair as Councillor to present to Council. Time: 4:51pm.  Whitecourt Fire Chief Brian Wynn and Captain Bill McAree presented a summary of their recent trip to Mexico, where they delivered retired Fire Engine No. 3 to Mazatlan through the Rotary Club's Los Amigos Project. They noted that the communities receiving emergency vehicles through the Project were very appreciative and presented Council with some plaques to commemorate the donation.

22-169 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council recognize the presence of Fire Chief Brian Wynn and Captain Bill McAree of the Los Amigos Project.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor McAree returned to his chair at 4:54pm.

i. Soaring Eagle Support Services;

22-170 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council direct Administration to investigate options to implement a homelessness reduction strategy and advocacy options.

*Votes in favour of the motion: Deputy Mayor Baker, Councillors Chauvet, Lenctot, Lapointe, McAree*

*Votes in opposition to the motion: Mayor Pickard, Councillor Schlosser* MOTION - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii. Los Amigos Project – Fire Truck Donation;

22-171 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the presentation from Whitecourt Fire Chief Brian Wynn and Captain Bill McAree of the Los Amigos Project as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations:

Youth Advisory Committee Update:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Youth Advisory Committee was in attendance to provide an update on the Committee’s activities and introduced the Director of Community Services and Committee Member James Prodaniuk, who would be speaking on behalf of the Committee. It was noted that the Committee would be holding Town Hall meetings at École St. Joseph School and Percy Baxter School at which Council would be participating. Mayor Pickard thanked the youth for their participation and for their work throughout the year on various events.

22-172 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Youth Advisory Committee introductions and update as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed at 5:02pm.

The meeting reconvened at 5:10pm.

Whitecourt & District Library Board – Operating Budget:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Whitecourt & District Library Board requested an opportunity to address Council regarding its operating budget and current financial situation, and introduced Board Chair Brigitte Moore and Board Member Norm Hodgson.

Ms. Moore advised that the Library had not received operating funding from Woodlands County for either 2021 or 2022, resulting in a significant operating deficit, with the potential to cause the layoff of staff and restricted operations as of August 2022. Efforts to obtain a resolution or funding from Woodlands County had been unsuccessful. The Board requested assistance from the Town to resolve the matter.

22-173 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council write a letter to Woodlands County in support of the Whitecourt & District Public Library, requesting that discussions resume between the County and the Library Board regarding the operating grant agreement.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

*As amended by Motion 21-187, June 13, 2022*

Pride Celebration and Barbecue:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Pembina Pipeline Corporation, along with other community partners, is hosting a Pride Celebration and Barbecue would at Rotary Park on June 24.

22-174 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council Members be authorized to participate in the Pride Celebration and Barbecue on June 24, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alberta Municipalities Energy – Power+ Program Aggregation:

Councillor Lanctot declared a possible conflict of interest as his business is a competitor to the Power+ Program and vacated the Council Chambers. Time 5:43pm.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to the presentation at the Policies and Priorities Committee, that the Power+ Program Aggregation provides for long term budget stability in power costs, with a 10 year contract.

22-175 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies and Priorities Committee to approve participation in the Alberta Municipalities Power+ Energy Program for a ten-year term, from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2033 for the supply of electricity.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Lanctot returned to the Council Chambers. Time 5:46pm.

Road Closure Bylaw 1567 – Road Plan 4273KS:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to a Public Hearing held May 9, and review by the Policies and Priorities Committee, a Road Closure Bylaw was presented for Council’s consideration. The Director reviewed the process for approving the road closure, noting that following first reading of the bylaw, it would be forwarded to Alberta Transportation for approval by the Minister.

22-176 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1567 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy 11-002 – Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship and Partnership Committee:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted the Policies and Priorities Committee recommended adoption of the amended Policy 11-002 – Council Committees to include Schedule “Q” Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship and Partnership Committee.

22-177 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 11-002 – Council Committees as presented; and that members of the Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship and Partnership Committee be authorized to receive compensation per Policy 11-006 Honorariums and Council per Diem Compensation.

Votes in favour of the motion: Mayor Pickard, Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser.

Votes in opposition of the motion: Deputy Mayor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended an Economic Development Committee meeting and the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority.

Councillor Schlosser attended Municipal Planning Commission, Community Services Advisory Board, and Heritage Society meetings.

Councillor Lapointe attended a Library Board meeting.

Councillor McAree noted his time traveling with the Rotary Club for the donation of Fire Engine No. 3.

Councillor Chauvet attended Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, Economic Development Committee and Policies and Priorities Committee meetings. He also attended a two day strategic planning session with the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation.

Deputy Mayor Baker attended the Community Services Advisory Board as an alternate, and the Whitecourt Regional Forest Advisory Committee meeting.

Mayor Pickard attended meetings for the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, Policies and Priorities Committee, Economic Development Committee and the Berland River Caribou Task Force.

22-178 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

22-179 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 79256 – 79419;
- b) March 23, 2022 Letter from Town of Fox Creek to Alberta Utilities Commission re Increasing Utility Rates;
- c) May 3, 2022 Letter from Woodlands County re Intermunicipal Cost Share Contribution;
- d) May 6, 2022 Press Release re Construction Season has Kicked Off in Whitecourt;
- e) May 9, 2022 Letter from Town of Mundare to Minister of Justice re Alberta Provincial Police Force;
- f) May 9, 2022 Letter from Town of Coaldale to Alberta Utilities Commission re Increasing Utility Fees;
- g) May 11, 2022 Letter from Village of Coutts to Alberta Utilities Commission re Increasing Utility Fees;
- h) May 11, 2022 Press Release re Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- i) Woodlands Media Release re Whitecourt Culture & Events Survey Results;
- j) May 13, 2022 Woodlands Media Release re County Council Recap;
- k) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- l) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed at 6:13pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:27pm.

Closed Meeting:

22-180 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss Land Disposition per Section 16 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act; Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the FOIP Act; and Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework per Section 21 of the FOIP Act. Time 6:28pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-181 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time 7:58pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Disposition –  
Portion of SE & SW  
32-59-11-W5:

22-182 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council authorize Administration to enter into a Right of First Refusal agreement for a portion of the SE & SW ¼ of 32-59-11-W5<sup>th</sup>.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Committee  
Appointments:

22-183 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council appoint the following individuals to the Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee:

- Town Council Representative – Serena Lapointe
- Town Council Representative (until Woodlands County confirms its appointment) – Derek Schlosser
- Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee Representatives – Norm Hodgson and Barb Maddigan

Votes in favour of the motion: Mayor Pickard, Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser.

Votes in opposition of the motion: Deputy Mayor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Intermunicipal  
Collaboration  
Framework:

22-184 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework be accepted as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

22-185 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 8:00pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

  
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 Mayor

  
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 Chief Administrative Officer