

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Chauvet; Councillors Baker, 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.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>22-308 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as amended by correcting Item 3 to "Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council." - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>Councillor McAree arrived at the meeting at 4:01pm.</p>
Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council:	<p><u>22-309 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	<p>There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.</p> <p>As one of the presenters had not arrived to the meeting, Council agreed to proceed to Item 5: 2022 Family Violence Prevention Month.</p>
2022 Family Violence Prevention Month:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services to provide details on events and activities planned to promote November 2022 as Family Violence Prevention Month</p> <p><u>22-310 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Council accept the 2022 Family Violence Prevention Events as information, authorize members to participate in the scheduled events throughout the month, deliver greetings on behalf of the Town of Whitecourt to participants attending the Pub Foods with the Dudes event, and to recognize November as Family Violence Prevention Month as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Visitors and Delegations:	<p>i. Eagle Tower Victim Services – Program Update and Review of Provincial Proposed Redesign:</p> <p>Eagle Tower Victim Services representatives Tina Prodaniuk, Program Manager and Darlene Chartrand, Chair were present to provide a program update and a review of the proposed Provincial redesign of victim services in Alberta. Ms. Prodaniuk reviewed year to date statistics for the organization, and then explained that in April 2024 the Government of Alberta would be dissolving 62 police-based victim services units and create four new regional boards to serve the east, west, south and central areas of the province. Ms. Chartrand explained the negative impact this change would have on the community and suggested that Council continue their advocacy efforts.</p>

Business Visitors and Delegations:

2023 Power Franchise Fee:

2023 Gas Franchise Fee:

FCM Resolution Update:

Town of Whitecourt Policy Manual:

22-311 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council recognize the presence of Tina Prodaniuk and Darlene Chartrand of Eagle Tower Victim Services.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-312 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the Eagle Tower Victim Services presentation as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Power Franchise Fee was reviewed annually, and introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide further details. It was recommended that the power franchise fee rate for 2023 be set at 3.91%, a 0.59% increase from the 2022 rate, as part of the five year plan.

22-313 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council set the franchise fee rate at 3.91% as the Power Franchise Fee Rates as of January 1, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide information on the Gas Franchise Fee. It was recommended that the gas franchise fee rate for 2023 be set at 27.17%, a 1.25% increase over the 2022 rate, as part of the five year plan.

22-314 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council set the franchise fee at 27.17%, with an increase of 1.25%, for the ATCO gas and Pipelines Ltd. Franchise Fee Rates as of January 1, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) adopted Whitecourt’s resolution support of the Canadian oil and gas industry. The resolution would help guide policy for the Association for the next three years, and FCM would be writing a letter to the federal minister advocating in support of the resolution in the near future.

22-315 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept FCM Resolution update as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Policies and Priorities Committee completed its annual review of the Policy Manual, and recommended that Council adopt the Manual as presented.

Council discussed Policy 72-025 – Family & Community Support Services Grant Program.

22-316 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council amend Policy 72-025 – Family & Community Support Services Grant Program to delete Item 4h which would allow community organizations to apply for funding for volunteer recognition.

22-317 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That Council table Motion 22-316 to the October 24, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council so that the Policies and Priorities Committee can discuss and make a recommendation on the proposed amendments to Policy 72-025 – Family & Community Support Services Grant.

Votes in Favour: Deputy Mayor Chauvet, Councillors Baker, Lanctot, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser.

Votes Opposed: Mayor Pickard.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed amending Policy 72-026 – Enhancement Grant Program to make the criteria of the grant clearer.

22-318 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council defer discussion on proposed amendments to Policy 72-026 – Enhancement Grant Program to the October 17, 2022 Policies and Priorities Committee Meeting.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council discussed amending Policy 31-013 – Trail and Pathway Inspections to clarify reporting requirements for the trail system inspections.

22-319 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council defer discussion on proposed amendments to Policy 31-013 – Trail and Pathway Inspections to the October 17, 2022 Policies and Priorities Committee meeting.

Votes In Favour: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor Chauvet, Councillors Baker and Lapointe.

Votes Opposed: Councillors Lanctot, McAree and Schlosser.

- MOTION CARRIED.

22-320 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council adopt the Town of Whitecourt Policy Manual, and direct the Policies and Priorities Committee to review Policy 31-013 – Trail and Pathway Inspections; Policy 72-025 – Family & Community Support Services Grant Program; and, Policy 72-026 – Enhancement Grant Program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Deputy Mayor Chauvet attended Council, a Youth Advisory Committee meeting on behalf of the Mayor, and a Turkey Trot at Percy Baxter School.

Councillor Baker attended meetings for the Children’s Festival Wrap-Up, Party in the Park, and Communities in Bloom.

Councillor McAree attended the Spruceview Lodge birthday tea and the Skate Jam Event.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Skate Jam Event, several Library meetings, and a meeting for Yellowhead Regional Library. Councillor Lapointe also attended the Truth and Reconciliation Day events.

Councillor Lanctot attended meetings for the Economic Development Committee and Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. He also attended the Truth and Reconciliation Day events.

Mayor Pickard had no meetings to report but thanked Council for attending on his behalf while he was away.

22-321 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

22-322 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 800806 – 80965 (Council Members to contact the Director of Corporate Services prior to Regular Meeting with any questions regarding Town accounts);
- b) September 12, 2022 Letter from Rotary Club re Fire Truck Donation;
- c) September 27, 2022 Email from Chief Paramedic re EMS 10 Point Plan Update;
- d) October 3, 2022 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Underwater Search and Rescue Team;
- e) Town of Whitecourt 2022 Press Releases:
 - a. September 27 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - b. September 27 – Construction on 50 Street/Legion Street Extension has Begun;
 - c. September 29 – Whitecourt Transit Re-Routed September 30 for National Truth and Reconciliation Day Event;
 - d. September 30 – Intermittent Trail Closure – Athabasca River – October 4 – 18, 2022;
- f) Woodlands County 2022 Media Releases and Public Notices:
 - a. September 21 - RV Dump Stations Season Closure;
 - b. September 30 - County Council Recap – September 28, 2022;
- g) September 2022 – AHS Health Engagement Tour Update;
- h) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- i) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 5:33pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 5:39pm.

Intermunicipal
Collaboration
Framework:

22-323 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 5:40pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-324 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 6:20pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-325 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework item as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

22-326 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 6:21pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer