

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
POLICIES AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**
held on Monday, October 16, 2023

Present: Deputy Mayor Lapointe; Mayor Pickard; Members Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, McAree, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Deputy Mayor Lapointe presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 23-063 Moved by Member Schlosser
That the agenda be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Policies & Priorities Committee September 18, 2023: 23-064 Moved by Member Chauvet
That the Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Policies and Priorities Committee Meeting be adopted as amended by correcting Motion #23-055 to show that it was moved by Member Baker.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Input Session: There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
As the Director of the Whitecourt Public Library was delayed, the Committee deferred discussion on the Whitecourt & District Public Library Grant Request item until he arrived.

2024 Economic Development & Tourism Strategic Plan: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer who provided an overview of the proposed 2024 Economic Development & Tourism Strategic Plan.
23-065 Moved by Member Schlosser
That the Policies and Priorities Committee forward a recommendation to Council to adopt the 2024 Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plan.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2024 Power Franchise Fee: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services who provided a review of the proposed changes to the 2024 Power Franchise Fee.
The Committee discussed the current five year power franchise fee plan.
23-066 Moved by Member Schlosser
That the Policies and Priorities Committee forward a recommendation to Council to approve an increase to the franchise fee rate for 2024 to 4.47% as the Power Franchise Fee Rates as of January 1, 2024.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt and District Public Library Grant Request: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced Library Board Chair Norm Hodgson and Library Director Joseph Kubelka who provided highlights of the 2024 Public Library Grant request.
The Committee discussed programming offered at the library and the proposed increase to operating hours included in the 2024 budget.

2024 Gas Franchise Fee:

23-067 Moved by Member Baker

That the Policies and Priorities Committee defer the Whitecourt and District Public Library 2024 grant request to 2024 budget deliberations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services who provided a review of the proposed change to the 2024 Gas Franchise Fee.

23-068 Moved by Member Lanctot

That the Policies and Priorities Committee forward a recommendation to Council to approve the increase to the franchise fee rate to 33.55% for the ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd Franchise Fee as of January 1, 2024.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town of Whitecourt Policy Manual Review:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Policy Manual was reviewed annually, and stated that policies with proposed amendments were presented for the Committee's discussion.

23-069 Moved by Member Chauvet

That the Policies and Priorities Committee forward a recommendation to Council to adopt the proposed amendments to the Town of Whitecourt Policy Manual as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits and Allowances:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services who provided an overview of the Council Compensation Committee's recommended amendments for Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits and Allowances.

23-070 Moved by Member Chauvet

That the Policies and Priorities Committee accept the recommendations from the Council Compensation Committee for Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits and Allowances.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-071 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That the Policies and Priorities Committee forward a recommendation to Council to adopt Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits and Allowances as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

23-072 Moved by Member McAree

That the Regular Meeting of the Policies and Priorities Committee be adjourned. Time: 5:18pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer