

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, January 22, 2024 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 Gallant.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>24-014 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>24-015 Moved by Councillor McAree</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
Public Input Session:	There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
2023 Municipal Enforcement Annual Report:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Safety, Peace Officer Grywacheski and Bylaw Officer Lang, who provided highlights of the 2023 Municipal Enforcement Annual Report.</p> <p><u>24-016 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council accept the 2023 Municipal Enforcement Annual Report as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Pierce Aerial Pumper (Tower 1) – Woodlands County 2024 Usage:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a letter was received from Woodlands County stating that the County did not want the Aerial Pumper (Tower 1) utilized on any fires within Woodlands County or any 911 fire calls within the fire/rescue response area(s) for the 2024 calendar year.</p> <p>The Director of Community Safety explained that the provision of a letter outlining service level expectations regarding Tower 1 to the Whitecourt Fire Chief was an annual requirement outlined in the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Arbitrator's decision.</p> <p><u>24-017 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That Council accept the Pierce Aerial Pumper (Tower 1) Woodlands County 2024 Usage as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Housing Needs Assessment:	The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services and FCSS Manager to provide information on the Housing Needs Assessment. It was noted that the Policies & Priorities Committee reviewed the draft Housing Needs Assessment and recommended adoption.

24-018 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt the Whitecourt Housing Needs Assessment.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Assertive Outreach Services Update:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services to provide details on the Assertive Outreach Services Program. The Director noted that the program provides clinical and outreach services to adults living with severe and persistent mental illnesses.

24-019 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the Assertive Outreach Services Update as information, and provide a letter of recognition to Alberta Health Services.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt District Agricultural Society Request:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that a letter was received from the Whitecourt District Agricultural Society requesting an operational grant. He noted that an operational grant was included in the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Agreement with Woodlands County; however, the ICF Agreement was not finalized and the Judicial Review had yet to be completed.

Council discussed the services the Society provides to the region.

24-020 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council provide \$50,000 to the Whitecourt District Agricultural Society for an operating grant, subject to final adjustment when the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement with Woodlands County is finalized.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Canada Cultural Spaces Fund:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services who recommended an application for \$2,754,258 be made to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for support of the construction of the Arts, Culture & Convention Centre portion of the Culture & Events Centre project.

24-021 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council approve submission of a grant application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for the Regional Arts, Culture & Convention Centre portion of the Culture & Events Centre project.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Removal of Reserve Designation on Lot R, Plan 4273KS and Lot R, Plan 4737KS:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Planning and Development who reviewed the process to remove the Reserve Designation from two parcels of land. It was noted that the Policies and Priorities Committee recommended Council proceed with the removal of both Reserve designations pursuant to the Municipal Government Act.

24-022 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to notify the Registrar that provisions of Section 674 of the Municipal Government Act have been complied with and Council requests that Registrar to remove the Public Works Reserve designation from Lot R, Plan 4273KS.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-023 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to notify the Registrar that provisions of Section 674 of the Municipal Government Act have been complied with and Council requests the Registrar to remove the Park Reserve designation from Lot R, Plan 4737KS.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1551-11 –
Planning &
Development
Permit Fee Review:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Planning and Development Department presented its review of department fees to the Policies and Priorities Committee in January, and that the Committee recommended Council adopt Bylaw 1551-11

24-024 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1551-11 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-025 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1551-11 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-026 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1551-11.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-027 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1551-11 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cold Shot Funding
Request:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that a letter was received from Cold Shot , a private company that provides rural bus service in Alberta, requesting financial support.

As Amended by
Motion 24-035,
February 12, 2024

24-028 Moved by Deputy Mayor ~~Schlosser~~ Chauvet

That Council accept the Cold Shot Funding Request as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alberta
Municipalities 2024
Spring Municipal
Leaders' Caucus:

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that 2024 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, hosted by Alberta Municipalities, was scheduled for March 14-15, 2024 in Edmonton.

24-029 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council authorize the Mayor and a Council Member to attend the 2024 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus from March 14-15, 2024 in Edmonton.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended the Policies and Priorities Committee, and Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority meetings.

Councillor Schlosser attended the Whitecourt Heritage Society Annual General Meeting, and the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce’s President’s Gala.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Whitecourt Library Board and Community Futures Yellowhead East meetings, as well as the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce’s President’s Gala.

Councillor Baker attended the Communities In Bloom Committee, Whitecourt Performing Arts Society and Eagle Tower Victim Services Board meetings. She also attended the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce’s President’s Gala.

Mayor Pickard attended the monthly Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce meeting and swearing in ceremony for new Board members. He also attended a Whitecourt Business Support Network meeting; a Town Fair at École St. Mary School, a Whitecourt Woodlands Solid Waste Management Authority meeting, and a Policies and Priorities Committee meeting. Mayor Pickard also attended Alberta Municipalities update on the Local Government Funding Framework.

24-030 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

24-031 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 86722 – 86888 (Council Members to contact the Director of Corporate Services prior to Regular Meeting with any questions regarding Town accounts);
- b) December 18, 2023 – Letter from City of Yellowknife re 2023 Wildfires;
- c) December 22, 2023 – Letter from Woodlands County re Culture & Events Centre Partnership Request;
- d) January 8, 2024 – Support Letter for Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association re CFEP Grant;
- e) January 8, 2024 – Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Assessment Model Review;
- f) January 16, 2024 – Letter to Town of Fox Creek from Minister of Health re Support for Whitecourt Healthcare Centre;
- g) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. January 9 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- h) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- i) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-032 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council authorize a letter to the Town of Fox Creek noting appreciation for its advocacy to the Province regarding the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

24-033 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:34pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer