

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

held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, 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>25-047 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>25-048 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	There was no one present wishing to make a presentation.
Policing Committee Bylaw 1570-3:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer stated that further to the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, Administration was bringing forward an amendment to the Council Committees Bylaw and introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director advised that, further to changes to the Provincial Police Act, communities must request an opt-out of Regional Policing Committees and that the changes proposed in Bylaw 1570-3 would meet provincial requirements to allow the Protective Services Committee to continue.</p> <p><u>25-049 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Bylaw 1570-3 be given first reading.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p><u>25-050 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree</u></p> <p>That Bylaw 1570-3 be given second reading.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p><u>25-051 Moved by Councillor Baker</u></p> <p>That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1570-3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p><u>25-052 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Bylaw 1570-3 be given third and final reading.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p><u>25-053 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies & Priorities Committee to apply for a Ministerial Order to continue the Municipal Policing Committee, known as the Protective Services Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

2024 Community
Services Annual
Report:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Community Services Department prepares an annual report and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further information. The Director advised that the Department had a busy year, including the ongoing construction of the Culture & Events Centre, expanded services and new seniors programming and support. Community Services Managers of Facilities; Family & Community Support Services; and Recreation, Arts, & Culture provided highlights of their individual functions.

25-054 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Community Services 2024 Annual Report as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transit Grants:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Town had been awarded two grants through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund and the Canada Public Transit Fund, and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide more information. The Director stated that the grants will aid in improving walkability and equipment replacement.

25-055 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Rural Transit Solutions Fund Grant and the Canada Public Transit Fund Grant as information; and,

That Council confirm that the Town of Whitecourt has the capacity and authority to undertake the project and enter into and execute an agreement for Rural Transit Solutions Fund funding and that Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services or Peter Smyl, Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to execute the agreement, payment claims, reports, and other documents related to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund project on behalf of the Town of Whitecourt.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Culture & Events
Centre Update:

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Culture & Events Centre was on time and on budget and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director advised that steel construction is 85% complete and the exterior wall framing was scheduled to start in April 2025.

25-056 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Culture & Events Centre Update as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1577-3 –
Removal of
Municipal Reserve
and Rezone Lot
15MR, Block 10,
Plan 982-2153:

Deputy Mayor McAree stated that he would abstain from discussion and voting on Bylaw 1577-3 as he was absent from the Public Hearing.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to a Public Hearing held on January 27 and the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, Administration was bringing forward the removal of the reserve designation and rezoning of Lot 15MR, Block 10, Plan 982-2153 and introduced the Director of Planning and Development. The Director advised that the property is surplus for local school boards and removing the reserve designation and rezoning the property renders the property more available to development.

25-057 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to notify the Alberta Land Titles Registrar that provisions of Section 674 of the Municipal Government Act have been met and that Council requests the removal of the Reserve Designation from Lot 15MR, Block 10, Plan 982-2153.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-058 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1577-3 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-059 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Bylaw 1577-3 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-060 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1577-3.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-061 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1577-3 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1577-4 –
Health Services:

Deputy Mayor McAree stated that he would abstain from discussion and voting on Bylaw 1577-4 as he was absent from the Public Hearing.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to a Public Hearing held on January 27 and the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, Administration was bringing forward proposed amendments to the Land Use Bylaw relating to Health Services and introduced the Director of Planning and Development. The Director stated that the changed definitions relating to Health Services and Professional Services are in line with other municipalities.

25-062 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1577-4 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-063 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1577-4 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-064 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1577-4.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-065 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Bylaw 1577-4 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request for Special Meeting of Council:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Administration had proposed April 2 for a Special Budget meeting and introduced the Director of Corporate Services. The Director advised that the 2024 financial surplus/deficit will also be presented at the Budget Meeting.

25-066 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council schedule a Special Meeting of Council on April 2, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Forest Interpretive Centre for the 2025 Budget.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Street Closure Request – Chamber of Commerce Annual Carnival:

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that the Chamber of Commerce had requested the closure of several streets to host its annual carnival.

25-067 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council approve the request from the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce for the closure of:

- the parking lot on 52 Avenue; and
- 49 Street, from 50 Avenue to 52 Avenue; from 9:00am Tuesday, April 29, to noon on Monday, May 5, 2025; and
- 52 Avenue, from 49 Street to 50 Street; from 5:00pm Wednesday, April 30, to noon on Monday, May 5, 2025;

subject to maintaining emergency vehicle and fire hydrant access at all times; and subject to the conditions of Policy 31-005 – Parades/Processions/Demonstrations/Events.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree; Councillors Baker, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Chauvet.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended a meeting for the Protective Services Committee, the Snowmobile Rally, Council Workshop and the Brownlee Law Seminar.

Councillor Schlosser attended a meeting for the Community Services Advisory Board, the Coldest Night of the Year, and the Council Workshop.

Councillor Lapointe attended meetings for the Whitecourt & District Public Library and Community Futures Yellowhead East, along with attending the Snowmobile Rally, Council Workshop and the Brownlee Law Seminar.

Councillor Chauvet attended the Policies and Priorities Committee and Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority meetings, as well as the Snowmobile Rally and Council Workshop.

Councillor Baker attended the Brownlee Law Seminar, Council Workshop and Snowmobile Rally.

Deputy Mayor McAree attended the Snowmobile Rally and Culture & Events Centre Workshop.

Mayor Pickard attended the Protective Services Committee meeting and a meeting with the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. He also met with

Minister Ellis of Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services and attended the Grow the North Conference. At the Conference, he met with the Canadian Rail Advocacy Alliance and RCMP. Mayor Pickard also attended the Council Workshop.

25-068 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of
Information:

25-069 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 91707 – 91848;
- b) January 23, 2025 Letter from Minister of Transportation & Economic Corridors re Lights at Intersection of Highway 43 and 33 Street;
- c) February 12, 2025 Letter to Premiere Danielle Smith re Supporting Alberta's Forest Industry;
- d) February 13, 2025 Letter to Minister of Public Safety re Wildfire Mitigation Strategies;
- e) February 13, 2025 Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs re Extension of JUPAs;
- f) February 14, 2025 Letter from Minister of Public Safety re Community Peace Officer Alignment with Police Services;
- g) February 18, 2025 Letter to Minister of Public Safety re Community Peace Officer Alignment with Police Services;
- h) Community Futures Yellowhead East Board Directors Update;
- i) Town of Whitecourt 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. February 12 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- j) Woodlands County 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. February 13 – Woodlands County Council Recap – February 12;
- k) Mayor's Calendar; and
- l) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 5:12pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 5:16pm.

25-070 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss Revenue Sharing Agreement per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Time 5:17pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-071 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time 5:50pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Revenue Sharing
Agreement:

25-072 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the Revenue Sharing Agreement as information:

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment: 25-073 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:51pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

Mayor

P. Smyl

Chief Administrative Officer