

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor Lapointe; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, McAree, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Absent:	Councillor Lanctot.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>25-174 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Minutes from the April 28, 2025 Regular Meeting:	<u>25-175 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That the Minutes from the April 28, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Public Input Session:	There was no one present wishing to make a presentation.
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta – Project Support for Regional Community FireSmart Coordinator:	The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Town prepared an application to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta for a Regional Community FireSmart Coordinator, and introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director advised that the Association requested a motion of support from the municipality as part of the grant application. <u>25-176 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe</u> That Council support the Town of Whitecourt Regional Community FireSmart Coordinator Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta project as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Pride Celebration and BBQ:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Community Services, along with community partners, would be hosting a Pride Celebration and BBQ at Festival Park. <u>25-177 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That Council Members be authorized to participate in the Pride Celebration and BBQ on June 6, 2025. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
2025 Seniors' Week Activities:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that several activities were planned to reflect the importance of and contributions by Alberta Seniors during Seniors' Week 2025 and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director reviewed events planned throughout the week. <u>25-178 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That Council: 1. Recognize June 2 – 7, 2025 as Seniors' Week, per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/ Events and/or Proclamations; and,

2. Authorize Members to attend the kick-off Lunch on June 2, 2025; and the Dinner and Entertainment evening on June 7, 2025.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Party In The Park:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Party In The Park was approaching and introduced the Director of Community Services to review highlights of the event.

25-179 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council:

1. Authorize Members to attend the Party In The Park Sponsor Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, June 4, 2025; and
2. Authorize Members to attend the Party In The Park events scheduled for June 13 and 14, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alberta Municipalities Summer 2025 Municipal Leaders' Caucus:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that Alberta Municipalities will be hosting its Summer 2025 Municipal Leaders' Caucus throughout the month of June.

25-180 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council authorize the Mayor to attend the Alberta Municipalities Summer 2025 Municipal Leaders' Caucus.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rural Bus Service Request:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a request was received from the City of Cold Lake to join a working group to advocate for rural bus lines that serve northern communities in Alberta. He noted that three private bus companies provide rural bus service to Whitecourt

25-181 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the Rural Bus Program Request as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

May 2025 Policies and Priorities Committee:

The Chief Administrative Officer proposed cancelling the May 2025 Policies and Priorities Committee meeting.

25-182 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council cancel the regularly scheduled meeting of the Policies and Priorities Committee scheduled for May 20, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Martin Long MLA Golf Tournament:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that MLA Long was hosting his 6th Annual Golf Tournament in August.

25-183 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe

That Council Members be authorized to claim a per diem should they choose to participate in the Martin Long MLA Golf Tournament on August 15, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transfer Station Plastic Bale Twine Collection:

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that a letter had been received from Woodlands County requesting that the recycling program at the Whitecourt Transfer Station be modified to include the collection of plastic bale twine.

Street Closure
Request – Anytime
Fitness 5km Bubble
Run:

25-184 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the request from Woodlands County for the addition of plastic bale twine collection at the Whitecourt Transfer Station be referred to the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a request had been received for a street closure to accommodate the 2nd Annual 5km Bubble Run, hosted by Anytime Fitness.

25-185 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe

That Council approve the request from Anytime Fitness for the closure of:

- The west side of 47 Street, from Flats Road north to the parking lot; and
- The north side Flats Road, from 47 Street to the intersection with the Trail System;

from 9:00am to 3:00pm, Saturday, July 19, 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.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Chauvet attended a meeting for the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation, and the Trade Fair.

Councillor McAree attended the Trade Fair.

Councillor Schlosser attended an event for the Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee, and introduced Brielle Smallwood and Victoria Benson, members of the Youth Advisory Committee, who were in attendance.

Deputy Mayor Lapointe attended a Youth Advisory Committee meeting, the Trade Fair and Trade Fair Mixer, and the Town Hall Meetings hosted by the Youth Advisory Committee.

Mayor Pickard attended several Alberta Municipalities seminars, the Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee Go Rural event, and the Town Hall Meetings hosted by the Youth Advisory Committee. He also noted that he was invited to attend the Ponoka and Calgary Stampede events.

25-186 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Baker arrived to the meeting. Time: 4:25pm.

Items of
Information:

25-187 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 92477 – 92666;
- b) May 1, 2025 Letter to MP Arnold Vierson re Congratulations on Recent Re-Election;
- c) West Fraser 2025 Woodlands Open House;
- d) Community Futures Yellowhead East April 22 Press Release – Grant Award for Investment Attraction Marketing;
- e) Pet Valu Media Release re Walk for Guide Dogs May 25, 2025;

- f) Thank You from Whitecourt Trailblazers;
- g) Town of Whitecourt 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. April 29 – Town Council Update – April 28;
 - ii. May 1 – Fire Restriction in Effect for Whitecourt;
 - iii. May 8 – Fire Ban Issued for the Town of Whitecourt;
- h) Woodlands County 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. April 25 – County Council Update – April 23;
- i) Mayor's Calendar; and
- j) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:26pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 4:29pm.

25-188 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss:

- Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act;
- Library Building per Section 16 of the FOIP Act; and
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework per Section 25 of the FOIP Act.

Time 4:30pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Schlosser declared a possible conflict of interest as he is employed by Northern Gateway School Division and vacated the Council Chambers at 4:55pm.

Councillor Schlosser returned to the meeting. Time 5:10pm.

25-189 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time 5:11pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committee
Appointments:

25-190 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council appoint Haneef Hameer as the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce representative on the Economic Development Committee, with a term to expire in October 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library Building:

Councillor Schlosser declared a possible conflict of interest as he is employed by Northern Gateway School Division and vacated the Council Chambers at 5:12pm.

25-191 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the Library Building as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Schlosser returned to the meeting. Time 5:13pm.

Intermunicipal
Collaboration
Framework:

25-192 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

25-193 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:14pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Redacted per S. 17 of the FOIP Act

Chief Administrative Officer

~~Derek Schlosser~~