

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, May 26, 2025 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor Lapointe; Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, McAree, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Absent:	Councillor Baker.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>25-194 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u> That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Minutes from the May 12, 2025 Regular Meeting:	<u>25-195 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe</u> That the Minutes from the May 12, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Public Input Session:	There was no one present wishing to make a presentation.
Visitors and Delegations – Community Futures Yellowhead East:	The Chief Administrative Officer introduced Michelle Jones, Executive Director of Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE), who provided an overview of the Association's activities throughout 2024. She noted that CFYE had been successful in obtaining grant funding that will allow for a business attraction and retention facilitator; and that they were working on emergency planning and recovery supports for disaster impacted businesses. <u>25-196 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That Council recognize the presence of Michelle Jones, Executive Director of Community Futures Yellowhead East. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations – Community Futures Yellowhead East:	<u>25-197 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u> That Council accept the presentation from Community Futures Yellowhead East as information. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
FireSmart 2024 Annual Report:	The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the FireSmart Working Group has prepared its annual 2024 Report, and introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director provided an overview of FireSmart initiatives. <u>25-198 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u> That Council accept the FireSmart 2024 Annual Report as information. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Canada Day Events – Pancake	The Chief Administrative Officer stated that events are scheduled for Canada Day, including the Pancake Breakfast hosted by Council, and introduced the Director of

Breakfast and Cupcakes.

Community Services. The Director gave an overview of scheduled events to celebrate Canada Day.

25-199 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe

That Council Members be authorized to participate in the July 1, 2025 Canada Day Celebration.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Enhancement Grant Allocations:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Community Services Advisory Board reviewed applications for the Whitecourt Enhancement Grant and introduced the Director of Community Services and Board Vice-Chair Brigitte Jobin. The Director advised that the Board recommended approval for five of the seven applicants.

25-200 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the recommendation of the Community Services Advisory Board and allocate \$30,000 from the 2025 Enhancement Grant as follows:

Group	Project	Funding Recommendation
Brighter Futures (École St. Anne School Parent Society)	Soccer Goal Posts	\$ 7,501.17
The Woodchuckers – Whitecourt Cornhole League	Transport Carts	\$ 271.48
Whitecourt Minor Ball Association	Pitching Machine	\$ 3,874.23
Whitecourt Minor Soccer Association	Equip for Excellence	\$13,056.91
Whitecourt Whiskey Jacks - Junior Forest Wardens	Stand-Up Paddleboards	\$ 5,296.21
	Total	\$30,000.00

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Sport Hosting Application:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Economic Development Committee had reviewed two applications under the Sports Hosting Program and introduced the Economic Development Officer who provided an overview of the submissions.

25-201 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Economic Development Committee's recommendation to allocate \$3,200 to the Whitecourt Blue Dolphins to support the Provincial Swim Meet and \$3,500 to the Whitecourt Taekwondo Association to support the International Championship event, with funding from the 2025 Sports Hosting Program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Street Improvement Program:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that following advertising, four bids were received for the 2025 Street Improvement Program and introduced the Director of Infrastructure to review the submissions. The Director noted that additional projects could also be completed if required, within the budget amounts.

25-202 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council award the contract for the 2025 Street Improvement Program to E-Construction for an estimated \$907,736.13, plus GST; and authorize additional work required to be undertaken at the unit rates outlined in the contract within the limits of the available budget for the 2025 Street Improvement Program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of
Deputy Mayor:

The Mayor indicated that the Deputy Mayor Lapointe's term was scheduled to the end of June, and recommended appointing Derek Schlosser as Deputy Mayor for July 1 – October 27, 2025.

25-203 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council appoint Councillor Derek Schlosser as Deputy Mayor from July 1 – October 27, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Closure
Request – Summer
Street Fest:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a request had been received for a street closure to accommodate the Summer Street Fest, hosted by the Town of Whitecourt and community partners.

25-204 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council approve the closure of:

- 50 Street from 52 Avenue to the alley entrance south of 51 Avenue; and
- 51 Avenue from 49 Street to the alley entrance west of 50 Street.

from 7:30am to 6:00pm on Saturday, August 9, 2025 for the Summer Street Fest; 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.

First Responders
Golf Tournament:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that a First Responders Golf Tournament was being held August 22, and incorporates both the Fire Department Annual Golf Tournament and Anthony Gordon Memorial Tournament.

25-205 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council Members be authorized to participate in the First Responders Golf Tournament on Friday, August 22, 2025 at the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Chauvet attended the Yubetsu Dinner.

Councillor McAree also attended the Yubetsu Dinner.

Councillor Lanctot attended the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony, the Yubetsu Dinner, and a meeting for the Municipal Planning Commission.

Councillor Schlosser attended Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework meetings, the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony, hosted the Yubetsu Dinner, and attended the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Conference.

Deputy Mayor Lapointe attended meetings for the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, Whitecourt Library Board, Community Futures Yellowhead East, and the Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee. The Deputy Mayor also attended the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony, and had Youth Advisory Committee Member Kahlen Johnson introduce himself to Council.

Mayor Pickard attended meetings for the Alberta Mid-Sized Town Mayors Committee, Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, the Canadian Rail Advocacy Alliance, and the Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee. The Mayor also attended a meeting regarding the Library Building, and

met with a group of University of Alberta professors at the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre.

25-206 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of
Information:

25-207 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 92667 – 92825;
- b) May 12, 2025 Letter from Municipal Affairs re Local Government Fiscal Framework Funding;
- c) May 22, 2025 Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs – Congratulations on Ministry Appointment;
- d) Municipal Tax Rate Comparisons;
- e) Yellowhead Regional Library 2024 Annual Report;
- f) Town of Whitecourt 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. May 13 – Whitecourt Fire Ban Lifted;
 - ii. May 13 – User Groups Excited to See Progress of the Culture & Events Centre;
 - iii. May 14 – Town Council Update – May 12;
 - iv. May 14 – Whitecourt Issues Request for Proposals for Naming Rights of the Culture & Events Centre;
 - v. May 15 – Splash Park and Jumbo Jumper Open this Weekend in Festival Park;
 - vi. May 20 – Centennial Park Pathway Improvements Trail Closure;
 - vii. May 21 – Temporary Power Outage at Festival Park;
- g) Woodlands County 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. May 8 – County Council Update – May 7;
- h) Mayor's Calendar; and
- i) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

25-208 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe

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

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Redacted per S. 17 of the FOIP Act

Chief Administrative Officer