

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

held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at the Town Office Large Boardroom

- Present:** Mayor Chichak; Deputy Mayor Hilts; Councillors Chauvet, Connell, McAree, Pickard and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.
- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm. Mayor Chichak presiding.
- Adoption of Agenda:** 21-023 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes from the January 11, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council:** 21-024 Moved by Councillor Chauvet
That the Minutes from the January 11, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Councillor McAree arrived for the meeting at 4:02pm.
- Public Input Session:** No written submissions were received from members of the public with a request to address Council.
- Write Off Uncollectable Tax and Utility Accounts:** The Chief Administrative Officer advised that in preparation for the 2020 audit, outstanding arrears, in both utility and tax accounts, were being brought forward to be written off after multiple unsuccessful attempts at collection.
21-025 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts
That Council authorize Administration to write off uncollectable tax accounts in the amount of \$10,926.34 and utility accounts in the amount of \$11,436.10 and to fund the unbudgeted expenditure of \$12,362.44 from the Tax Cancellation Reserve. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Cemetery Bylaw 1563:** The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, the Cemetery Bylaw was being brought forward to Council. The Director of Infrastructure advised that the major changes made in the current bylaw would allow family members to be buried with a veteran in the Field of Honour, and provided clarification of clean-up procedures for memorials left on grave sites and columbarium niches.
21-026 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That Bylaw 1563 be given first reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
21-027 Moved by Councillor Connell
That Bylaw 1563 be given second reading. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
21-028 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts
That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1563. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-029 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1563 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw 1551-2 – Fees, Rates and Charges:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that pursuant to the review by the Policies and Priorities Committee, that cemetery fees were being adjusted, which required amendments to the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw.

21-030 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That Bylaw 1551-2 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-031 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Bylaw 1551-2 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-032 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1551-2.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-033 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1551-2 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sump Pit Materials Testing Incentive Program:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Policies and Priorities Committee recommended that the proposed Sump Pit Materials Testing Incentive Program be adopted to aid in treating the wastewater by removing inorganic materials at the source.

21-034 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 41-007 – Sump Pit Materials Testing Incentive Program, as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointments to FireSmart Working Group:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to the establishment of the FireSmart Working Group, the committee required the appointment of industry members to the group.

21-035 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council appoint the following members to the Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group for terms to expire in October 2021:

- Whitecourt Forest Area Boundary, Government of Alberta Representative – Mike Milner;
- Millar Western Forest Products Representative – Ken Anderson.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Connell advised that he had attended the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting and Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Pickard attended the Policies and Priorities Committee and the Eagle Tower Victim Services Board meeting at which they received confirmation of funding. He advised that the Protective Services Committee was advised that the RCMP would be conducting a community input session as part of the local detachment commander's mandate.

Councillor McAree advised that he attended Policies and Priorities Committee and Protective Services Committee meetings; and that a Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority meeting had to be rescheduled.

Councillor Schlosser noted that he had also attended the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, as well as an Eastlink Park Recreation Society meeting.

Councillor Chauvet attended the Policies and Priorities Committee.

Deputy Mayor Hilts advised that he had attended the Policies and Priorities Committee and Economic Development Committee meetings. He also attended a Community Futures Yellowhead East meeting where they discussed developing a business operating plan for business diversification to meet government targets.

Mayor Chichak attended a Library Board meeting where municipal funding was discussed. Mayor Chichak extended her thanks to Lori Arnott, who had served on the Library Board for many years, but had to withdraw as she moved outside the service area. At the Economic Development Committee meeting, benchmarking was a major topic of discussion and a planning session will be scheduled later in the year to best identify ways to gather and utilize information to further economic development. The Mayor also attended the Protective Services Committee meeting. Additionally, the Mayor noted that a letter had been sent to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) regarding proposed changes to transmission tariffs that would severely impact local mills, with millions of dollars per year in levies that would be imposed. Six other municipalities signed on to the letter and an additional five were sending letters on their own. The Mayor of Slave Lake also had the opportunity to speak directly to Premier Kenney on the negative impact that the proposed AESO tariffs would have on municipalities that rely on industry to keep a stable tax base.

21-036 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That the Councillor Reports be accepted as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-037 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 73575 – 74018;
- b) January 8, 2021 Letter from Metrix Group re 2020 Audit Planning;
- c) January 9, 2021 Press Release re Water Main Repair Underway on 47 Street in the Hilltop Area;
- d) January 12, 2021 Letter to Woodlands County re Water and Wastewater Agreement;
- e) January 12, 2021 Press Release re Town Council Update;
- f) January 14, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt launches online survey on residential waste and recycling services
- g) January 15, 2021 COVID-19 Update for Whitecourt;
- h) January 19, 2021 Letter from Living Waters Catholic Schools re January 11, 2021 Meeting recap;
- i) January 19, 2021 Woodlands County Update;

Items of
Information:

- j) January 20, 2021 Joint Letter to Alberta Electric System Operator re AESO Transmission Proposals;
- k) January 21, 2021 – Whitecourt Fire Department Mutual Aid Response to Blue Ridge Fire Department;
- l) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- m) Council’s Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Agreements (Closed Meeting):

21-038 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Intermunicipal Agreements. Time: 4:36pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-039 Moved by Mayor Chichak

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time: 5:01pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-040 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council accept Intermunicipal Agreements as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

21-041 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:04pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



 Mayor



 Chief Administrative Officer