

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, February 22, 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 4:00pm. Mayor Chichak presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 21-058 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That the Agenda be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the February 8, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council: 21-059 Moved by Councillor McAree
That the Minutes from the February 8, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Input Session: No written submissions were received from members of the public with a request to address Council.

2021 FCSS Grant Allocations: The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Community Services Advisory Board reviewed the FCSS Grants and introduced Sharon Shannon, FCSS Manager, who provided the purpose of the FCSS Grant Program and outlined the Board's recommendation. Council discussed the merits of volunteer organizations receiving funding to hire employees and that this might be a potential discussion item during policy review.

21-060 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That Council accept the Community Services Advisory Board's recommendation and allocate the 2021 FCSS Grants as follows:

Group Applying:	Project:	Approved Funding:
Community Lunch Box	Volunteer Coordinator, Recycling Coordinator, volunteer/board training, and volunteer recruitment	\$10,860
McLeod River Primary Care Network	Pocket sized Community Resource Guides	\$2,500
Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre	Us and Them – Screening and Workshop	\$3,000
Soaring Eagle Support Services	Program Manager/Centre Coordinator	\$13,200
Total		\$29,560

Votes in Favour: Mayor Chichak, Deputy Mayor Hilts, Councillors Connell, McAree and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition: Councillors Chauvet and Pickard.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Visitors and Delegations:

i. Eagle Tower Victim Support Services;

Heather Anderson, Vice-Chair of the Eagle Tower Victim Support Services, and Tina Prodaniuk, Crime Prevention Coordinator, were present and addressed Council to provide a 2020 year-end report.

The Vice-Chair thanked the Town for its support, which allows the group to assist victims of crime. It was noted that they have had a challenging year dealing with the restrictions and effects of COVID-19, ranging from operational and fundraising challenges, to an increase in domestic abuse cases. It was noted that the Province is in the midst of changing the victim services program funding.

21-061 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council recognize the presence of Heather Anderson, Vice-Chair of the Eagle Tower Victim Support Services, and Tina Prodaniuk, Crime Prevention Coordinator.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations:

i. Eagle Tower Victim Support Services

21-062 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the presentation from Eagle Tower Victim Support Services be accepted as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AMSC Energy Program – Natural Gas Contract Extension:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide information on the AMSC Natural Gas Aggregation Program opportunity. The Director advised that AMSC is offering an extension for the natural gas contract to the end of 2026.

21-063 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council approve the extension of the AMSC Energy Program for a four-year term from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026 for the natural gas aggregation program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Water and Wastewater Agreement:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Woodlands County did not accept the offer to withdraw the Town’s notice of termination of the 2013 Water and Wastewater Agreement and that the County noted it would prefer to deal with the water services through the arbitration process.

21-064 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council accept the Water and Wastewater Agreement item as information, and defer discussion to 2021 final budget deliberations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Workshop:

The Chief Administrative Officer recommended that a Strategic Planning workshop be scheduled for March 16, 2021, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. The format of the session would be dependent on COVID-19 health restrictions at the time of the meeting.

21-065 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That Council schedule a Council Workshop for March 16, 2021 from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of
Deputy Mayor:

Mayor Chichak thanked Deputy Mayor Hilts for his work during his term as Deputy Mayor and recommended that Councillor Connell be appointed as Deputy Mayor.

21-066 Moved by Mayor Chichak

That Council appoint Councillor Matt Connell to serve as Deputy Mayor from March 1 to June 30, 2021, as recommended by the Mayor.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Schlosser advised that he attended the Community Services Advisory Board, and a Whitecourt & District Heritage Society meeting, where they spoke of a vision going forward and grant opportunities. He also attended a sponsorship meeting for the Eastlink Park.

Councillor Pickard attended the Eagle Tower Victim Support Services, and an AUMA/RMA Policing Workshop, where it was noted that elected officials are opposed to a provincial police force.

Councillor Connell advised that the Ad Hoc Waste Management and Recycling Committee is nearing the end of its mandate and will be presenting recommendations on future initiatives to reduce waste at the landfill. He noted that the discussion at the Economic Development Committee on downtown parking was robust.

Councillor Hilts also attended the Economic Development Committee meeting, along with Community Futures Yellowhead East, where they approved an operating budget and plan for 2021.

Mayor Chichak provided updates to the Business Support Network and Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings; and made a presentation to some Grade 6 classes on municipal government. The Mayor also attended the AUMA/RMA Policing Workshop, and the Energy Futures Lab for the Athabasca Region, a Party in the Park meeting, a meeting with Alberta Junior Hockey League, a meeting with the forest industry regarding integrated land management on Crown land, and the Ad Hoc Waste Management and Recycling Committee. She also attended the Brownlee Emerging Trends seminar and Economic Development Committee meeting.

21-067 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of
Information:

21-068 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 74159 – 74287;
- b) February Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re 20th Annual Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence;
- c) February 4, 2020 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Incomplete ICFs and IDPs;
- d) February 5, 2021 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Arbitration for ICF;
- e) February 6, 2021 Press Release re Covid-19 Update for Whitecourt;
- f) February 8, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Shifts 2021 Budget Input Online;
- g) February 9, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- h) February 10, 2021 Press Release re COVID-19 Update for Whitecourt;

- i) February 10, 2021 Letter to Mayor Burrows re Joint Liaison Committee Meeting and Items;
- j) February 10, 2021 Letter to Woodlands County Council re Payment for 2020 and 2021 Cost Shared Services;
- k) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- l) Council’s Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Downtown South – Development Agreement Time Extensions (Closed Meeting):

21-069 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Downtown South – Request for Development Agreement. Time: 5:11pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Agreements (Closed Meeting):

21-070 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Intermunicipal Agreements. Time: 5:12pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-071 Moved by Councillor Pickard

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

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Downtown South – Development Agreement Time Extensions:

21-072 Moved by Councillor Connell

That Council approve an addendum to the Development Agreement with 489007 Alberta Ltd. for Subdivision W14-319 to grant a two-year extension on outstanding obligations under the Agreement.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Agreements:

21-073 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council accept Intermunicipal Agreements as information.

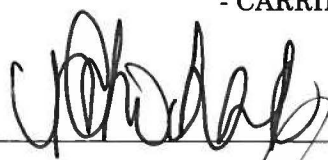
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:


21-074 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hilts

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:54pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



 Mayor



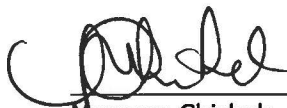
 Chief Administrative Officer



OFFICIAL AFFIRMATION

I, Matt Connell, do affirm that I will diligently, faithfully, and to the best of my ability, execute according to the law, the office of Deputy Mayor for the Town of Whitecourt, for the period of March 1 – June 30, 2021.

AFFIRMED BEFORE ME at the Town of)
Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta)
this 04 day of February, 2021.)



Maryann Chichak
Mayor – Town of Whitecourt)



Matt Connell)