

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, March 22, 2021 at the Town Office Large Boardroom

Present:	Mayor Chichak; Deputy Mayor Connell; Councillors Chauvet, Hilts, 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:	<p><u>21-090 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the March 8, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council:	<p><u>21-091 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the March 8, 2021 Regular Electronic Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	No written submissions were received from members of the public with a request to address Council.
Disaster Recovery Program:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Administration was bringing forward information shared by the Province regarding the Disaster Recovery Program. As a community that has experienced natural disasters, he noted that the proposed changes to the program will impact the community and property owners.</p> <p>Council discussed potential ramifications and it was noted that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association was researching the issue and will be sharing that information with municipalities.</p> <p><u>21-092 Moved by Councillor Hilts</u></p> <p>That Council defer a decision on Disaster Recovery Program until further information is received from the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
RCMP Biology Casework Analysis Cost Sharing:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a letter was received from the provincial government regarding charging for RCMP casework analysis. Administration noted that more information is being sought from the Province as this is a new charge that was imposed by the Province without consultation with the municipalities.</p> <p>It was noted that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association was reviewing this item, and that it would be providing further information to municipalities in the near future.</p> <p><u>21-093 Moved by Councillor Pickard</u></p> <p>That Council accept the RCMP Biology Casework Analysis Cost Sharing report as information, and defer the payment of Invoice 1800010003 to 2021 to final budget deliberations and pending consultation with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

Policy 12-020 –
Tourism
Enhancement
Grant Program:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that proposed changes to Policy 12-020 - Tourism Enhancement Grant were reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Policies and Priorities Committee.

21-094 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 12-020 – Tourism Enhancement Grant Program as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2021 Whitecourt
Tourism Strategic
Plan:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that following the Tourism Planning Session, and subsequent presentation to the Policies and Priorities Committee, the Tourism Strategic Plan was being brought forward to Council for adoption.

21-095 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt the 2021 Whitecourt Tourism Strategic Plan.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Road Bans Bylaw
1564:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that further to a review at the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, adjustments had been made to the Road Bans Bylaw with regard to the time period that the bylaw would be enforced.

21-096 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1564 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-097 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Bylaw 1564 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-098 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1564.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-099 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1564 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Long Term Growth
Planning:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Long Term Growth Planning had been identified in the Town’s 2020 Strategic Plan and introduced the Director of Planning and Development to provide further information on the proposed plan.

The Director advised that the Plan is typically updated every five years, and that instead of planning for 20-30 year growth, the trend is now to plan for the next 50 years.

21-100 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council accept the update on future long term growth planning, and direct Administration to proceed with the preparation of a terms of reference to issue a Request for Proposals.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2020 and 2021
Woodlands County
Cost Sharing
Contribution:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a letter had been sent to Woodlands County in February 2021 requesting additional payments for cost shared services. He noted that the voluntary arbitration process is scheduled for completion at the end of 2021, and that the County had committed to decisions made through arbitration being retroactive to January 2020. There has been no change to the level of service provided to County residents, but those costs are being funded through Town revenue and investment reserves. It was noted that 2018 was the last year that the County provided full payment for cost sharing services.

21-101 Moved by Deputy Mayor Connell

That Council accept the 2020 and 2021 Woodlands County Cost Sharing Contribution item as information and forward to 2021 final budget deliberations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AUMA Spring 2021
Municipal Leaders'
Caucus:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus would be taking place in mid-April and Council Members have attended in the past.

21-102 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council authorize the Mayor and a Council Member to attend the Spring 2021 Municipal Leaders' Caucus, scheduled for April 14-16, 2021.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Pickard attended meetings for the Protective Services Committee, Joint Liaison Committee, Municipal Planning Committee, as well as a Strategic Planning Session. He also noted that funding for Eagle Tower Victim Services has been extended for another year.

Councillor Hilts attended several meetings including the Strategic Planning Session; inaugural FireSmart Working Committee meeting; and Community Futures Yellowhead East meeting. He noted that Community Futures is developing a grant program to support local businesses who were unable to access federal and provincial funding for COVID-19 relief.

Councillor Schlosser attended the Joint Liaison Committee, a Winter Recreation Park Society meeting, a Policies and Priorities Committee meeting and the Strategic Planning Session.

Councillor McAree attended the Policies and Priorities Committee and the Strategic Planning Session.

Councillor Chauvet attended the Policies and Priorities Committee and the Strategic Planning Session.

Deputy Mayor Connell attended the Strategic Planning Session and the wrap up of Ad Hoc Waste and Recycling Services Committee, noting that he looks forward to results from the Committee's proposed recommendations.

Mayor Chichak attended meetings for the Joint Liaison Committee, Protective Services Committee, Policies and Priorities Committee, and Strategic Planning Session. The Mayor provided follow up information from a meeting with Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) and several other municipalities where AESO advised that it was working with industry to provide solutions that would work for both parties. The Mayor also provided an update to the Chamber of Commerce, attended a Whitecourt Tourism Committee meeting, and met with stakeholders regarding integrated land management, specifically in relation to caribou range

planning. Other meetings attended included the final Ad Hoc Waste and Recycling Services Committee and Party in the Park planning meeting, and a Library Board meeting.

21-103 Moved by Councillor Pickard

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-104 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 74412 – 74536;
- b) February 8, 2021 Letter from Alberta Transportation re Commercial Safety Rest Areas;
- c) March 11, 2021 Press Release re COVID-19 Update for Whitecourt;
- d) March 13, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Residents Asked to Limit Non-Essential Water Use;
- e) March 13, 2021 Press Release re State of Local Emergency: Whitecourt Water Supply Update (730pm);
- f) March 14, 2021 Press Release re State of Local Emergency: Whitecourt Water Supply Update (950am);
- g) March 14, 2021 Press Release re State of Local Emergency: Whitecourt Water Supply Update (4pm);
- h) March 14, 2021 Press Release re State of Local Emergency: Whitecourt Water Supply Update (8:45pm);
- i) March 15, 2021 Press Release re State of Local Emergency: Whitecourt Water Supply Update (9:30am);
- j) March 15, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Terminates State of Local Emergency;
- k) March 18, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Thanks the Community for its Cooperation during Water Emergency;
- l) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- m) Council’s Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-105 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council go into Closed Meeting for Intermunicipal Agreements per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 5:18pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-106 Moved by Mayor Chichak

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time: 5:48pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21-107 Moved by Councillor Hilts

That Council accept Intermunicipal Agreements as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

Intermunicipal Agreements (Closed Meeting):

Intermunicipal Agreements:

Adjournment:

21-108 Moved by Deputy Mayor Connell

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:50pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer