

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

held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the Town Office Large Boardroom

Present: Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Schlosser; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and McAree; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.

Call to Order & Mayor's Address: The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 22-001 Moved by Deputy Mayor Schlosser
That the Agenda be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council: 22-002 Moved by Councillor Chauvet
That the Minutes from the December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Input Session: There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.

Economic Development Strategic Plan: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer and Ms. Rand Richards, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, to review the 2022 Economic Development Strategic Plan.
The Chair reviewed the Committee's focus for the first quarter of 2022, including business retention and expansion and encouraging partnerships to advance skill training.
22-003 Moved by Councillor Baker
That Council accept the recommendation from the Economic Development Committee and adopt the 2022 Economic Development Strategic Plan as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Tourism Strategic Plan: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer and Mr. Williard Strebchuk, Chair of the Whitecourt Tourism Committee, to review the 2022 Whitecourt Tourism Strategic Plan. Chair Strebchuk reviewed the Committee's first Strategic Plan and how the Committee intends to implement new marketing and promotions to support tourism enhancement opportunities.
22-004 Moved by Councillor Chauvet
That Council accept the recommendation from the Whitecourt Tourism Committee and adopt the 2022 Whitecourt Tourism Strategic Plan as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Career and Education Expo Update: The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Career and Education Expo Committee would be proceeding with a virtual event scheduled for February 26 and introduced the Economic Development Officer to provide further details on the event. The Economic Development Officer noted that a new virtual platform will be utilized that will allow for interaction, live interviews and presentations. Interest from

business and educational institutions has been positive and the Committee anticipates approximately 1500 students accessing the site.

22-005 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the Whitecourt Career and Education Expo Update as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2022 Budget Input:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Administration is bringing forth a recommendation to seek public input on the 2022 Budget online in lieu of an in-person event. He noted a similar initiative was conducted in 2021 due to the public health situation and was successful.

22-006 Moved by Councillor

That Council accept the 2022 Budget input item as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Lanctot arrived at the meeting. Time 4:36pm.

2022 Council Planning Session:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that in consideration of increasing COVID-19 case numbers, it may be prudent to postpone the 2022 Planning Session.

Councillor Lanctot left the meeting. Time: 4:40pm.

Councillor Lanctot returned to the meeting. Time: 4:45pm.

22-007 Moved by Deputy Mayor Schlosser

That Council reschedule the 2022 Council Planning Session to April 21 – 23, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Workshops:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that with the rescheduling of the Planning Session, that Council workshops would provide the opportunity to review detailed information on specific topics prior to adoption of the final budget.

22-008 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council schedule Council Workshop Sessions on February 7, 2022 at 3:30pm and March 7, 2022 at 3:30pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Coldest Night of the Year Event:

The Chief Administrative Officer reviewed a request from Soaring Eagle Support Society for Council attendance at its Coldest Night of the Year fundraising event on February 26, 2022.

22-009 Moved by Councillor McAree

That a member of Council be authorized to attend the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 26, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Municipal Law Seminar:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that law seminars hosted by municipal law firms provide an opportunity for Council to learn about emergent issues. He noted that Brownlee would be hosting a virtual seminar in February.

22-010 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council Members be authorized to attend the 2022 Brownlee Law Emerging Trends Seminars on February 10 or 17, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor:

The Mayor thanked Deputy Mayor Schlosser for his term as Deputy Mayor, and recommended that Tara Baker be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the next term.

22-011 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council appoint Councillor Tara Baker as Deputy Mayor from February 1 to May 31, 2022, as recommended by the Mayor.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Deputy Mayor Schlosser reported that he attended the Municipal Planning Commission, and acted as a judge for a Christmas door contest at Spruce View Lodge.

Councillor Chauvet noted that he completed the Alberta Emergency Management elected officials online training.

Councillor Lanctot attended the Municipal Planning Commission meeting.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee meeting, Munis101 training, and enjoyed the fireworks display at Eastlink Park on New Year's Eve.

Councillor Baker attended the Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee meeting and advised that she was accepted to the Alberta Municipalities Safe and Healthy Communities Committee to advocate for rural communities.

Mayor Pickard advised Council that he would be replacing former Mayor Chichak on the Caribou Sub-Regional Task Force West Central Berland Planning Area Committee through Alberta Municipalities. The Mayor has also been working with the local MLA regarding the Alberta Electric Systems Operator's proposal regarding transmission rates, and health care in the Whitecourt area, and with the Economic Development Officer on electric vehicle charging stations.

22-012 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

22-013 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 77491 – 77658;
- b) December 16, 2021 Press Release re COVID-19 Update;
- c) December 21, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Approves 2022 Interim Budget;
- d) December 21, 2021 Press Release re Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- e) December 22, 2021 Media Release Woodlands County Council Recap;
- f) December 22, 2021 Letter from Whitecourt Chamber re New Executive Director;
- g) January 6, 2022 Email from D. Tymchyshyn re COVID-19 Council and Council Committee Meetings;
- h) January 6, 2022 Letter from Metrix Group re 2021 Audit Planning;
- i) January 2022 Strategic Priorities Chart;

- j) Mayor's Calendar; and
- k) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

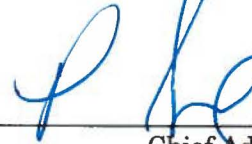
22-014 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:10pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer