

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, February 2, 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.

Visitors and Delegations: Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee – Culture & Events Public Education Campaign;

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Culture and Events Centre as part of the kick-off to the public education campaign and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director noted that the Committee has representation from the library, Performing Arts Committee, Town and County Council, and staff; and introduced Chair Norm Hodgson and Member Barb Maddigan.

Chair Hodgson reviewed the history of the Culture and Events Centre (CEC) and the extensive research by the Committee and Town and County Councils and Administration that went into developing the design for the CEC. A grant for \$15.6 million has been secured.

The Chair noted the importance of this type of facility to attract people to our community both in terms of facility construction and events held at the Centre; and that having such a facility will aid in attracting new industry to the community.

Barb Maddigan, representing the Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society on the committee, noted that the CEC would be a centre for everyone.

The Chair noted that the proposed location would anchor the downtown and drive the local economy and tourism. The proposed arts centre would attract different types of potential entertainers that would attract not only local residents, but draw people in from surrounding areas. Having the sound and light system would also provide an opportunity for education in lighting and sound systems. The Chair noted that the CEC is planned to be as environmentally sustainable as possible and that the facility would be freely accessible for those with limited mobility.

The Director of Community Services reviewed the history of the current administration building, noting that replacement plans for this facility have been in place for many years.

The Chair outlined the proposed education campaign that would inform residents of the benefits of the CEC.

22-035 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council recognize the presence of Norm Hodgson and Barb Maddigan of the Ad Hoc Building Steering Committee.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Business Arising
from Visitors and
Delegations:

22-036 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Members of Council be authorized to attend the Culture & Events Centre Council Round Table on February 10, 2022 and the Open Houses on February 16 and 17, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

22-037 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Special Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:09pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer