

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, December 19, 2022 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor McAree; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm; Mayor Pickard presiding. Mayor Pickard extended seasons greetings on behalf of Council.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>22-408 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>22-409 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the December 14, 2022 Special Meeting of Council:	<p><u>22-410 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the December 14, 2022 Special Meeting of Council be adopted as amended by removing the words "approval of" in Motion 22-406.</p> <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
Visitors and Delegations:	<p>Lac Ste. Anne Foundation Update;</p> <p>The Mayor advised that representatives from the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation were unable to attend the meeting, and the presentation would be rescheduled to a future Council Meeting.</p>
FireSmart 2022 Annual Report:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer noted that grant guidelines require an annual report be developed regarding FireSmart activities and initiatives, and introduced the Fire Chief to provide highlights from the report. The Fire Chief noted that in addition to the projects, communication with residents is a major component for the FireSmart crew.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor McAree arrived at the meeting at 4:08pm.</p> <p><u>22-411 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council accept the Whitecourt FireSmart 2022 Annual Report as information.</p> <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
2023 Interim Budget:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that following the December 14 Special Meeting, a 6.49% tax increase was being proposed for the Interim Budget, and introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide further details. The Director noted that the budget is not finalized until the Provincial Budget and assessment information is received; and that Administration will continue to work to find any cost savings and efficiencies over the next few months.

22-412 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council direct Administration to review options to provide free transit service for youth.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Councillors Baker and Lapointe.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree, Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot and Schlosser.

- MOTION DEFEATED.

22-413 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council direct Administration to provide clarification on programs offered at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre for those with disabilities.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree, Councillors Baker, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Chauvet.

- MOTION CARRIED.

22-414 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council approve the 2023 Interim Capital and Operating Budget as presented.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree, Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Bylaw 1551-7 – Fees, Rates and Charges:

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that fees were adjusted per budget deliberations and for cost of living.

22-415 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1551-7 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-416 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1551-7 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-417 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1551-7.

Votes in Favour of the Motion: Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor McAree, Councillors Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION DEFEATED.

Christmas Hamper:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a request was received from the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Fund requesting that the Town provide food trays for volunteers organizing and wrapping gifts.

22-418 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council ratify the provision of food trays for the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper volunteers for delivery on December 15, 2022.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Deputy Mayor Chauvet attended the Youth Advisory Committee and the Ad Hoc Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review Advisory Committee.

Councillor Baker attended meetings for the Party in the Park Planning Committee, Safe & Healthy Communities, Youth Advisory Committee, Policies and Priorities Committee, Eagle Tower Victim Services, the 2023 Budget, the Regional Forest Advisory Committee; and the Joint Dinner with Woodlands County.

Councillor Lanctot reported that he attended the 2023 Budget meeting, the Chamber Parade, a meeting for the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority and the Joint Dinner with Woodlands County.

Councillor Schlosser attended meetings for budget, Policies and Priorities Committee, and the Joint Dinner with Woodlands County.

Councillor Lapointe attended an investment committee meeting through Community Futures Yellowhead East, a Community Futures Yellowhead East meeting, the organizational meeting for the Yellowhead Regional Library, an Ad Hoc Sponsorship/Partnership Committee meeting, and the Joint Dinner with Woodlands County.

Deputy Mayor McAree attended meetings for budget, Policies and Priorities Committee and the Joint Dinner with Woodlands County.

Mayor Pickard participated in a regional mayors' meeting regarding a regional approach to homelessness, a sponsorship meeting in Fox Creek, meetings for Whitecourt Tourism and the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, and attended the pancake breakfast sponsored by the Town's EFAP Committee. The Mayor also noted that the Berland Caribou Task Force completed and submitted its recommendations. Other activities included the delivery of food trays to the Christmas Hamper Committee, attendance at the Alberta Forest Products Association Reception, and a meeting with Municipal Affairs regarding the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework.

22-419 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22-420 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 81575 – 81974;
- b) November 18, 2022 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Municipal Sustainability Funding;
- c) November 29, 2022 Letter to Woodlands County re Joint Christmas Dinner;
- d) November 29, 2022 Letter to Alberta Forest Products Association re Participation in Railway Advocacy Group;
- e) November 29, 2022 Thank You from Whitecourt Legion;
- f) December 6, 2022 Letter from Woodlands County re 2023 Usage Pierce Aerial Pumper Tower 1;

Items of Information:

- g) December 6, 2022 Letter from the Minister of Public Safety re Victim Services;
- h) December 9, 2022 Letter from Woodlands County re Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Legal Representation;
- i) December 14, 2022 Support Letter for Lions Club for grant application;
- j) December 14, 2022 Correspondence with Chamber of Commerce re Downtown Graffiti;
- k) Town of Whitecourt 2022 Press Releases:
 - a. November 30 – Town Council Update;
 - b. November 30 – Whitecourt Transit Re-Routed for December 2 Santa Claus Parade;
 - c. December 7 – Whitecourt Welcomes New Director of Community Safety;
- l) Woodlands County 2022 Media Releases and Public Notices:
 - a. December 9 – County Council Recap (December 7, 2022);
 - b. December 15 – Woodlands County & Whitecourt Library Board Funding Agreement;
- m) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- n) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Closed Meeting Items:

22-421 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss the Downtown South per Section 16 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act; the Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship and Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the FOIP Act; and the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework per Section 21 of the FOIP Act. Time: 5:01pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 5:01pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 5:10pm.

22-422 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 6:00pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Downtown South:

22-423 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the presentation for Downtown South as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship:

22-424 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the presentation for Culture & Events Centre Sponsorship as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committee
Appointments:

22-425 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council appoint Public Members to Council Committees:

Economic Development Committee – one year term to expire in October 2024	Chamber Representative	Paula Miller
Whitecourt Tourism Committee – one year term to expire in October 2024	Chamber Representative	Julie Sawyer
Ad Hoc Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review Advisory Committee – term to expire upon dissolution of Committee	Council Representatives	Paul Chauvet Derek Schlosser
	Development Representative	Ken Larsen

and that Councillor Lanctot be appointed to the Airport Advisory Committee, with Councillor Baker as the alternate.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal
Collaboration
Framework:

22-426 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council accept the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework item as information.


- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

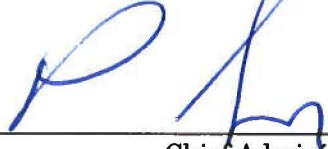
22-427 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 6:02pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



 Mayor



 Chief Administrative Officer