

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt
held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Deputy Mayor Lanctot; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser; Acting Chief Administrative Officer Loberg; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Absent:	Mayor Pickard.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Deputy Mayor Lanctot presiding. Deputy Mayor Lanctot acknowledged the efforts of Town staff in activating the Evacuation Reception Centre for those evacuated from Fox Creek, and noted how the community has been welcoming towards the fire evacuees. He also acknowledged the efforts of emergency services providers as they respond to wildfires.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>23-146 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Minutes from the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting:	<u>23-147 Moved by Councillor McAree</u> That the Minutes from the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Public Input Session:	There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
Visitors and Delegations:	The Acting Chief Administrative Officer introduced Michelle Jones, Executive Director of Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE) to present the 2022/23 Stakeholder Report. Ms. Jones reviewed the Board operations and role, and noted that there are challenges facing small business in the area. Successes of CFYE included the Collective Working Space, youth entrepreneurship and the digital service squad. Ms. Jones reiterated the need for being proactive with small business and noted that there has been no increase in provincial funding since 2010. <u>23-148 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That Council recognize Michelle Jones of Community Futures Yellowhead East. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations:	<u>23-149 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u> That Council direct Administration to research providing support for an increase in funding for Community Futures Yellowhead East. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
2023 Party in the Park Sponsor/ Appreciation Dinner Invitation:	The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that plans for the 2023 Party In The Park were underway and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further details. The Director noted that the sponsorship dinner was scheduled to thank sponsors for the donations and reviewed event highlights.

23-150 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council authorize up to three Council members to attend the Party In The Park Sponsor Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, May 30, from 5:30 – 9:00pm; and

That Council members be authorized to volunteer at and attend the Party In The Park event scheduled for June 16 and 17, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer stated that several events were being offered for the Run 4 Fun and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director requested that a member of Council attend to bring greetings on behalf of the Town for the Kids' Marathon, and noted that a street closure was also requested to facilitate the event.

23-151 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council approve the use and closure of a portion of Sunset Boulevard, from 42 Avenue to the west entrance to the Whitecourt Twin Arenas, on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 7:45am to 11:45am; and that a Council member be authorized to attend the event to deliver a welcome address.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer advised that several events were being offered for Seniors' Week 2023 and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further details.

23-152 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council recognize June 5 – 10, 2023 as Seniors' Week, as per Policy 11-08 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/Events and/or Proclamations; and

That Council members be authorized to attend the Kick-Off Brunch, Coffee Social and the Rotary Club BBQ on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Youth Advisory Committee organizes Town Hall meetings each year to provide an opportunity for youth and Council to interact.

23-153 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council members be authorized to attend the Town Hall Meetings at Percy Baxter School and École St. Joseph School on May 30, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Town, along with partners, would be hosting a Pride Celebration and BBQ, and that Council was invited to attend the event. As part of the celebration, a request was made to have the Pride flag raised at the Town Office.

23-154 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council members be authorized to participate in the Pride Celebration and BBQ on June 9, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Run 4 Fun Road Closure Request:

2023 Seniors' Week Activities:

Town Hall Meetings at Percy Baxter School and École St. Joseph School:

Pride Celebration and BBQ:

23-155 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That the Pride flag be raised at the Town Office on June 9, 2023 in place of the Town of Whitecourt flag.

Votes in Favour: Deputy Mayor Lanctot, Councillors Baker, McAree, and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillors Chauvet and Lapointe.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Westlock & District Tractor Museum Foundation Request:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer advised that a request was received from the Westlock & District Tractor Museum for the donation of a surplus floor scrubber.

23-156 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council authorize the donation of the used floor scrubber to the Westlock & District Tractor Museum Foundation.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1569 – Tennille’s Hope Kommunity Kitchen Interest Free Loan:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that Bylaw 1569 was brought forward for final readings to allow the Town to loan money to Tennille’s Hope, and introduced the Director of Corporate Services. The Director stated that pursuant to first reading of the bylaw, advertising was completed and that the loan could be made 30 days after final reading of the bylaw as long as no appeals were received within that time.

23-157 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1569 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-158 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Bylaw 1569 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1570 - Council Committees:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer stated that further to amendments to the Municipal Government Act, the Town must establish Council Committees by bylaw. Bylaw 1570 received first and second readings on April 24. Further to the enactment of the Bylaw, Policy 11-002 – Council Committees would no longer be required and new policy; Policy 11-003 – Governance and Appointments of Council Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and External Committees was recommended for adoption.

23-159 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1570 be given third and final reading.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

23-160 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Policy 11-002 – Council Committees be rescinded.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

23-161 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Policy 11-003 - Governance and Appointments of Council Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and External Committees be adopted.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Chamber had sent an invitation to attend the Vendor Meet & Greet in conjunction with the Trade Fair, on May 12, 2023.

23-162 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council members be authorized to participate in the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Vendor Meet & Greet on May 12, 2023 at the Whitecourt Twin Arenas.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Chauvet attended meetings for the Youth Advisory Committee and Lac Ste. Anne Foundation.

Councillor Baker attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting, and a Mental Health Training Exercise through the Eagle Tower Victim Support Services Society. She also attended the Indigenous Culture Awareness Training and Blanket Exercise and a Safe & Healthy Communities Committee meeting.

Councillor McAree attended the Indigenous Culture Awareness Training.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Indigenous Culture Awareness Training.

Councillor Schlosser did interviews with Global Television and CTV news, as well as a telephone interview with CBC, regarding the evacuation reception centre that was established in Whitecourt due to wildfires in the region.

Deputy Mayor Lanctot attended a meeting for Municipal Planning Commission and the Indigenous Culture Awareness Training.

23-163 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Trade Fair – Vendor Meet & Greet:

Councillor Reports:

Items of Information:

23-164 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 83458 – 83627;
- b) April 6 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Building Codes Updates;
- c) Town of Whitecourt 2023 Press Releases:
 - i. April 25 – Whitecourt’s Water Supply Safe;
 - ii. April 26 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - iii. April 26 – Whitecourt’s Popular Park Space Renamed Festival Park;
 - iv. May 1 - Fire Ban Issued for the Town of Whitecourt;
 - v. May 1 - Downtown Carnival Requires Street Closures May 2-8;
- d) Woodlands County 2023 Media Releases and Public Notices:
 - a. April 27 – County Council Recap;
 - b. April 29 – Non-Emergent Train Derailment;
 - c. April 30 – Train Derailment and Wildfire (includes Update);
 - d. May 2 – Whitecourt Forest Area: Fire Danger Rating VERY HIGH;
 - e. May 1 – Wildfire (Blue Ridge) (includes May 4 Update);
 - f. May 5 – Fire Ban and OHV Restriction in Effect (Whitecourt Forest Protection Area);
- e) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- f) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

23-165 Moved by Councillor McAree

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:38pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



 Mayor



 Chief Administrative Officer