

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard, Deputy Mayor Lanctot; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser; 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. Mayor Pickard introduced the appointed Mayor For A Day, Hallie-Jean Robinson. He congratulated Councillor McAree on becoming a Chaplain for the Whitecourt Fire Department, and noted the passing of local businessman Joe Smyl and expressed his condolences to the family.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>23-118 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the April 11, 2023 Special Meeting:	<p><u>23-119 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	<p>There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.</p> <p>Councillor Lanctot arrived to the meeting. Time: 4:04pm.</p>
2022 Financial Statements:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services and Mr. Curtis Friesen, of Metrix Group LLP, to present the 2022 Financial Statements.</p> <p>Mr. Friesen noted that the annual audit went well, and reviewed details of the audit process and the financial statements.</p> <p><u>23-120 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Council approve the 2022 Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>The meeting recessed. Time: 4:18pm</p> <p>The meeting reconvened. Time: 4:20pm</p>
2023 Assessment:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services and Mr. Mike Krim, the Town's appointed assessor from Tanmar Consulting Inc, to present property assessment information 2023.</p> <p>Mr. Krim reviewed the assessment process, and market changes for 2023.</p> <p>Council discussed the rotational assessment process, and the average assessment for all residential dwelling categories.</p> <p><u>23-121 Moved by Councillor Baker</u></p> <p>That Council accept the 2023 Whitecourt Assessment Report as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

2022 Whitecourt Fire Department Annual Report:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Safety, Whitecourt Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief who provided highlights from the 2022 annual report. The Deputy Fire Chief provided a demonstration of a new extrication tool purchased in 2022.

23-122 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the 2022 Fire Department Annual Report as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) – Project Support for FireSmart Project:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Whitecourt submitted an application for vegetation management and community education activities to the Forest Resources Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). In order for the program to further shortlist applicants, a motion of project support from Council was required.

23-123 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council support the Town of Whitecourt 2023/24 Vegetation Management (mulching/Summer Crew) (EOI-23-49) Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) project as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2023 Street Improvement Program:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Infrastructure Services and Infrastructure Services Manager who provided a review of the bids received for the 2023 Street Improvement Program.

23-124 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council award the contract for the 2023 Street Improvement Program to E-Construction for an estimated \$596,192.49 plus GST; and authorize additional work required to be undertaken at the unit rates outlined in the contract within the limits of the available budget for the 2023 Street Improvement Program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2023 Enhancement Grant Allocation:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Recreation Manager and Mr. Dave Arcand, Vice Chair of the Community Services Advisory Board, to provide information on the Board’s recommendation for the grant allocation. Mr. Arcand reviewed the objectives of the grant program, and stated that seven applications for funding were received, however, one did not qualify under the program.

23-125 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the recommendation from the Community Services Advisory Board and allocate \$30,000 from the 2023 Enhancement Grant as follows:

Group	Project	Funding
Whitecourt Potters' Guild	Wheel & Slab Roller Upgrades	\$6,826.71
The Woodchuckers – Whitecourt Cornhole League	Woodchuckers Cornhole League Start Up	\$3,796.65
Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society	National Truth & Reconciliation Day	\$5,999.92
Whitecourt Minor Ball	Pitching Mound, Announcer Booth Floor, Ramp	\$5,752.50
Whitecourt Baptist Church	The Joe Show	\$3,539.95
Whitecourt Woodlands Hawks Foundation	Essentials to Self-Sufficiency	\$4,084.27
TOTAL		\$30,000.00

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAN VAN and SHRed Mobile Health Promotion Events:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that in May, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre would be offering the MAN VAN and SHRed Mobile events with the goal of further promoting community health.

23-126 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the MAN Van and SHRed Mobile Health Promotion Events as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy Review – Community Services:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated the Policies and Priorities Committee reviewed amendments to Policy 72-001 – Allan & Jean Millar Centre Membership and Policy 72-012 – Arenas Ice Cancellation, as well as proposed Policy 72-033 – Under Water Hyperventilation or Extended Breath-holding. The Committee recommended the polices be adopted as presented.

23-127 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council accept the recommendation from the Policies and Priorities Committee, and adopt Policy 72-001 – Allan & Jean Millar Centre Membership, Policy 72-012 – Arenas Ice Cancellation, and Policy 72-033 – Under Water Hyperventilation or Extended Breath-holding as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rotary Park Rebranding and Enhancements:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Manager of Recreation to review the rebranding of Rotary Park, and detail enhancements scheduled for the park space.

The Manager noted that due to a policy change by Rotary International, the park space could no longer use the “Rotary” name. The Community Services Department worked with the Rotary Club of Whitecourt to determine the new name as Festival Park. She then reviewed plans for the Park for the summer, including installing the Jumbo Jumper, and offering kayak and paddleboard rentals at the facility.

Council discussed water safety regulations with regard to rentals that will be offered at the Park.

23-128 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council accept the Rotary Park Rebranding and Enhancements as information.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Bylaw 1571 – Tax Rate:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the 2023 Budget was approved at the April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council, and Administration subsequently prepared the Tax Rate Bylaw for Council’s review. He introduced the Director of Corporate Services who reviewed the proposed tax rates.

23-129 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1571 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-130 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1571 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-131 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1571.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-132 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1571 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw 1551-9 – Fees, Rates and Charges:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Policies and Priorities Committee recommended the bulk water fee be updated to bring the monthly charges closer to the comparable rates for surveyed municipalities.

23-133 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Bylaw 1551-9 be given first reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-134 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Bylaw 1551-9 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-135 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1551-9.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-136 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Bylaw 1551-9 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
Committees:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Province changed regulations regarding the establishment and function of committees, which prompted the preparation of a new bylaw and policy for Council’s consideration. The Policies and Priorities Committee reviewed Council Committee Bylaw 1570 and Policy 11-003 – Governance and Appointments of Council Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and External Committees, and recommended adoption of both.

23-137 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Bylaw 1570 be given first reading.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

23-138 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Bylaw 1570 be given second reading.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION CARRIED.

23-139 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1571.

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

Votes in Opposition of the Motion: Councillor Baker.

- MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Chauvet introduced Youth Advisory Committee members Kevin Lai and Carly Lai who were in attendance. He reported that he attended a Golden Triangle Trail Committee and Policies and Priorities Committee meetings.

Councillor Baker visited the Alberta Legislature and the Art Gallery of Alberta with the Youth Advisory Committee. She attended meetings for Eagle Tower Victim Services and Communities in Bloom, which included a presentation for the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review; and worked at the Tim & The Glory Boys concert on behalf of the Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society.

Councillor McAree attended a Protective Services Committee meeting.

Councillor Lapointe attended meetings for the Whitecourt Library Board, Policies and Priorities Committee, and Community Futures Yellowhead East. She also attended a meeting to receive an update on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework with other representatives on the Joint Liaison Committee.

Councillor Schlosser attended the annual planning session for the Community Services Advisory Board; the Red vs Blue hockey game between the Whitecourt Fire Department and Whitecourt RCMP; and, a Whitecourt Heritage Society meeting.

Deputy Mayor Lanctot attended a Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, and represented Council at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44's Spring Rally in celebration of Legion Day.

Mayor Pickard attended a Whitecourt & District Health Partnership Team meeting; a dinner with a physician who is relocating to Whitecourt; a meeting to discuss the ICF with other members of the Joint Liaison Committee; a reception hosted by the Alberta Forest Products Association; and, a Protective Services Committee meeting.

23-140 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

23-141 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 83136 – 83303;
- b) March 31, 2023 Business in Calgary Article: Kudos to Canada's Municipalities for encouraging energy fairness
- c) April 11, 2023 – Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs re Extension to ICF Term;
- d) April 12, 2023 – Letter from Town of Tofield to Minister of Environment & Protected Areas re Newspaper Advertising;
- e) April 15, 2023 – Letter from West Fraser re 2023 Virtual Woodlands Open House
- f) April 18, 2023 Edson Press Release on 2023 Budget
- g) Mayor's Calendar; and
- h) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework:

23-142 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 6:03pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 6:04pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 6:10pm

23-143 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 6:38pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-144 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


Adjournment:

23-145 Moved by Councillor Baker

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 6:40pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer