

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, May 23, 2023 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Lanctot; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding. Mayor Pickard extended thanks and appreciation to the team and volunteers managing the Emergency Reception Centre and for those monitoring and updating on the wildfire situation. The Mayor also acknowledged the 150 anniversary of the RCMP.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>23-166 Moved by Councillor McAree</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the May 8, 2023 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>23-167 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the May 8, 2023 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</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>The Mayor introduced MP Arnold Viersen, who attended to provide an update on parliamentary activities. MP Viersen extended his appreciation to the community for the hosting of evacuees, noting that he heard many compliments as he has toured through the riding.</p> <p>Councillor McAree left the meeting at 4:02pm.</p> <p>MP Viersen provided status updates on several bills before the parliament, and efforts to lessen the impact of the carbon tax, and rising inflation. Council discussed Community Futures Yellowhead East federal funding and the federal loan program for small businesses under the umbrella of Community Futures Yellowhead East.</p> <p><u>23-168 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That Council recognize MP Arnold Viersen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations:	<p><u>23-169 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot</u></p> <p>That Council accept the presentation from MP Arnold Viersen as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Bylaw 1572 – Emergency Management:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that further to review of Emergency Management Bylaw 1572 by the Policies and Priorities Committee, the bylaw was being brought forward for adoption and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further information.</p> <p><u>23-170 Moved by Councillor Baker</u></p> <p>That Bylaw 1572 be given first reading.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

23-171 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Bylaw 1572 be given second reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-172 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council proceed to third and final reading of Bylaw 1572.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-173 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Bylaw 1572 be given third and final reading.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt &
District Heritage
Society Request:

The Chief Administrative Officer reviewed a request from the Whitecourt & District Heritage Society for upgrades to the Heritage Park and introduced the Director of Community Services and Society President Joe Spivak. The Director noted that the Society has been active and will be presenting a plan to Council in the fall. In the meantime, there are several summer projects that require Council approval.

23-174 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council authorize the placement of the log home, blacksmith shop, and concrete pad at the John & Audrey Dahl Heritage Park at the Forest Interpretive Centre.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Festival Park
Policy Changes and
Planning Items:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that further to review by the Policies and Priorities Committee, some changes were being brought forth for Festival Park, including the implementation of a “no cooking” zone, and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further details.

23-175 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 72-004 – Rental of Festival Park, as provided.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sports Hosting
Program
Applications:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer to provide further information on the Sports Hosting Program. The Officer stated that this is the first year that applications had been received for this program due to restrictions during the pandemic.

23-178 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the Economic Development Committee’s recommendation to allocate \$10,000 from the 2023 Sports Hosting Program as follows:

Group/Organization	Project	Funding Request
Whitecourt Taekwondo Association	Western Canadian Championship	\$ 3,200
Northern Angels Community Association	Alberta Volleyball Provincials	\$ 3,800
Whitecourt Blue Dolphins	Whitecourt Swim Meet Championship	\$ 3,000
	Total:	\$10,000

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tourism Product Development Grant Applications:

The Chief Administrative introduced the Economic Development Officer to provide further information on the Tourism Development Grant applications. The Officer indicated that there is still funding available should another application be received.

23-179 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Economic Development Committee’s recommendation and allocate \$2,500 to Lakeside Rentals from the Whitecourt Tourism Product Development Grant Program to support the Kayak Rental Kiosk Project.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2023 Fort Assiniboine Bicentennial Voyageur Canoe Brigade:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that further to a presentation to Council and review by the Economic Development Committee, a recommendation had been forwarded to provide funding for a send-off breakfast for the 2023 Fort Assiniboine Bicentennial Voyageur Canoe Brigade; and introduced the Economic Development Officer to provide further information. The Officer noted that funding for this event was re-allocated from the Tourism Enhancement Grant Program; and that the event will highlight history, culture, first nations, and the importance of waterways.

23-180 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to reallocate up to \$2,500 from the Tourism Enhancement Grant Program to the 2023 Fort Assiniboine Bicentennial Voyageur Canoe Brigade event welcoming event and breakfast scheduled for July 7, 2023.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2022 Collision Report:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that a summary of collisions within the community is reviewed and analyzed each year to assist in identifying trends and possible problem areas that might require attention and introduced the Director of Planning and Development to answer any questions. The Director advised that the summary will be distributed to the Protective Services Committee and Alberta Transportation, and that clarification on traffic movement numbers from Alberta Transportation will be requested.

23-181 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the 2022 Collision Report as information and direct Administration to forward the report to Protective Services Committee and Alberta Transportation.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the policy amendment was being brought forward pursuant to the recently adopted Committees Bylaw 1570 and introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide further information.

23-182 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits, and Allowances.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that a request had been received to recognize Community Disability Services Professionals Week.

23-183 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council recognize the week of May 29 – June 2, 2023 as Community Disability Services Professionals Week, as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/ Events and/or Proclamations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Rural Health Week takes place May 29 – June 2, 2023 and that the Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee had planned some activities for the week.

23-184 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council recognize the week of May 29 – June 2, 2023 as Alberta Rural Health Week, as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/Events and/or Proclamations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Economic Development and Community Services are working together to offer a downtown celebration that will incorporate vendors, multi-cultural, and arts events to showcase and attract people to the downtown.

23-185 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council approve the request from the Downtown Enhancement Working Group for the closure of 50 Street between 51 and 52 Avenues; and 51 Avenue between 49 and 50 Streets; and a portion of the 52 Avenue parking lot, from Noon to 9:00pm on Saturday, August 12, 2023; subject to maintaining emergency vehicle and fire hydrant access at all times and subject to the conditions of Policy 31-005 – Parades/Processions/ Demonstrations/Events.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus Event will be hosted by Alberta Municipalities on a variety of dates and locations throughout Alberta in June.

Policy 11-006 – Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits, and Allowances:

Community Disability Services Professionals Week:

Alberta Rural Health Week:

Street Closure Request – Downtown Street Fest:

Alberta Municipalities Summer 2023 Municipal Leaders Caucus:

23-186 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council authorize the Mayor to attend the Summer 2023 Municipal Leaders Caucus.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Chauvet introduced Youth Advisory Committee member Cameron Westling who was present at the meeting. Events attended by Councillor Chauvet included the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting and the Trade Fair.

Councillor Baker attended a Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee meeting, a presentation by Mark Hinnick, the Policies and Priorities Committee, and a meeting for the Tamarack Health Advisory Committee.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Trade Fair, along with the Trade Fair Meet & Greet; and a Library Board meeting.

Councillor Schlosser attended meetings for Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee and Heritage Society; and the Trade Fair.

Deputy Mayor Lanctot attended a Chamber meeting on behalf of the Mayor, the Trade Fair, a ribbon cutting for Superior Water, the Downtown Vibrancy meeting and the Policies and Priorities Committee.

Mayor Pickard thanked Deputy Mayor Councillor and Acting Deputy Mayor Schlosser for filling in for him during his absence, and thanked the emergency services team for their timely updates on the evolving wildfire situation. The Mayor also noted that he would be attending a meeting that evening with MP Viersen and Town of Fox Creek evacuees.

23-187 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

23-188 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 83628 – 83794;
- b) April 26, 2023 Letter from Hallie Jean Robinson re Mayor for a Day;
- c) May 8, 2023 Letter from RCMP re Deployment of RCMP in Emergency Situation;
- d) May 10, 2023 Letter from Yellowhead County re Alberta Provincial Election;
- e) Town of Whitecourt 2023 Press Releases:
 - i. May 5 – Whitecourt Monitoring Fire Situation;
 - ii. May 6 – Whitecourt Accepting Evacuees from Fox Creek;
 - iii. May 10 – Whitecourt Continues to Monitor the Fire Situation;
 - iv. May 11 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - v. May 12 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - vi. May 14 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - vii. May 15 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - viii. May 16 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - ix. May 17 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - x. May 18 – Whitecourt Wildfire Update;
 - xi. May 18 – Victoria Day Weekend Marks the Summer Opening of Whitecourt River Slides at Festival Park;
- f) Woodlands County 2023 Media Releases and Public Notices:
 - a. May 5 - Wildfire - Yellowhead County (near Woodlands County, RR 124 & Twp 555);

- b. May 8 – Wildfire Update EWF035 – Enters Woodlands County;
- c. May 11 – Woodlands County Council May 10 Recap;
- d. May 12 – Daily Update EWF035 - Shining Bank Fire
- e. May 12 – Woodlands County Issues an Alberta Emergency Alert;
- f. May 13 – Daily Update: EWF035 – Shining Bank Fire;
- g. May 14 – Daily Update: EWF035;
- h. May 15 – EWF035 (includes updates);
- i. May 16 – Schuman Lake Campground Closed;
- j. May 16 – Daily Update EWF035 (Shining Bank); WWF029;
- k. May 18 - Media Release re May 17 Council Recap;
- l. May 18 – EWF035 (Shining Bank); WWF023 (Eagle); SWF063 (Grizzly) Updates;

- g) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- h) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-189 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss 989779 Alberta Ltd. Development Agreement Addendum per Section 16 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework per Section 21 of the FOIP Act. Time: 5:15pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed at 5:15pm.

The meeting reconvened at 5:20pm.

23-190 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 6:03pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-191 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council approve the addendum to the Development Agreement with 989779 Alberta Ltd.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-192 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23-193 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lanctot

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 6:05pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

989779 Alberta Ltd. Development Agreement Addendum (Closed Meeting):

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (Closed Meeting):

Adjournment: