

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present: Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Chauvet; Councillors Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.

Absent: Councillors Baker and McAree.

Call to Order & Mayor's Address: The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 24-047 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That the Agenda be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting: 24-048 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet
That the Minutes from the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Input Session: There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.

Community Services 2023 Annual Report: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services and staff to present highlights from the 2023 Community Services Annual Report. The Director introduced the FCSS Manager and the Recreation, Arts and Culture Manager to provide highlights of the report. The Managers noted increased numbers in usage of community and preventative programming.

24-049 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet
That Council accept the Community Services 2023 Annual Report as information.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2024 FCSS Grant Allocations: The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services to review the 2024 FCSS Grant Allocations. The Director noted that the grant program allows for operating expenses, and community groups can re-apply for items in consecutive years.

24-050 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That Council accept the Community Services Advisory Board's recommendation and allocate 2024 FCSS Grants as follows:

Groups Applying:	Project:	Recommendation
Daycare Centre of Edson (Servicing Whitecourt at the Carlan Services Community Resource Centre)	Provide outdoor learning environment which supports social emotional growth, cognitive growth and overall wellbeing as their interactions with natural material, nature and allows for problem solving, negotiation of space and exploration.	\$3,023.03

Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre	Whitecourt Community Resource Guide – updated/reprint of keychain resource guide.	\$2,000.00
Community Lunch Box	Volunteer support and development.	\$14,500.00
Totals		\$19,523.03

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FortisAlberta
Electrical
Distribution
System Franchise
Renewal
Agreement:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that further to review by the Policies and Priorities Committee, the Electrical Distribution System Franchise Renewal Agreement with FortisAlberta was up for renewal and introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide further information.

24-051 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council approve the renewal of the Electric Distribution system Franchise Agreement with FortisAlberta Inc. for a five year term from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2029.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Write Off
Uncollectable
Utility Accounts:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Corporate Services to review an outstanding utility account that was recommended to be written off. The Director noted that there are still some outstanding accounts; however, Administration continues to work with the account holders to resolve the overdue amounts.

24-052 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council authorize Administration to write off uncollectable utility accounts in the amount of \$8,669.98.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request For Special
Meeting of Council
– 2024 Budget:

The Chief Administrative Officer suggested a Special Meeting of Council be scheduled in April to discuss the 2024 Budget.

24-053 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That Council schedule a Special Meeting of Council on April 2, 2024 at 4:00pm, at the Forest Interpretive Centre, to discuss the 2024 Budget.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended the Brownlee Law Seminar, Council Workshop, and meetings for the Economic Development Committee and Municipal Planning Commission.

Councillor Schlosser also attended the Brownlee Law Seminar, the Council Workshop, and meetings for the Economic Development Committee and Municipal Planning Commission.

Councillor Lapointe attended the Brownlee Law Seminar, Council Workshop and a Whitecourt Library Board meeting. She also attended a training session through Community Futures Yellowhead East and brought greetings on behalf of Council at the Coldest Night of the Year event.

Deputy Mayor Chauvet attended an Economic Development Committee meeting.

Mayor Pickard attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting, a community meeting with Alberta Health Services, a Wildfire Presentation with Minister Loewen and MLA Martin Long, and an Alberta Municipalities presentation regarding political parties in municipal politics.

24-054 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-055 Moved by Deputy Mayor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 87106 – 87261;
- b) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. February 15 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- c) Woodlands County 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. February 14 –February 14 Council Recap;
- d) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- e) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:59pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 5:03pm.

24-056 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and CAO Evaluation per Section 19 of the FOIP Act. Time: 5:04pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-057 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time: 5:12pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-058 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council appoint Mohammed Baxamusa to a three year term to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, with a term to expire in October 2027.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-059 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the CAO Evaluation as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

Council Committee Appointments and CAO Evaluation (Closed Meeting)

Council Committee Appointments

CAO Evaluation:

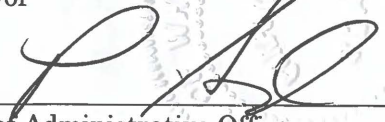
Adjournment: 24-060 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:13pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer