

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present: Mayor Pickard, Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Spivak.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Lanctot.

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

2024 Final Budget – Budget Amendments: The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Administration was bringing forward budget amendments since adoption of the Interim Budget and introduced the Director of Corporate Services. The Director noted that the budget amendments resulted in a tax rate of 3.77% proposed for the Final Budget.

24-088 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the 2024 Budget be amended to include the Allan & Jean Millar Centre Fieldhouse Air Conditioning, with funding from reserves.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-089 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That the 2024 Budget be forwarded to Council for adoption at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-090 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss 2024 Final Budget, including the Fire Department Honorarium Review, per Sections 16, 17, 21 and 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 4:58pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor McAree declared a possible conflict of interest as he is a volunteer firefighter and vacated Council Chambers. Time 5:02pm.

The meeting recessed. Time: 5:03pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time: 5:27pm.

Councillor McAree returned to the meeting. Time 5:40pm.

Councillor Baker left the Council Chambers. Time 5:41pm.

Councillor Baker returned to the meeting. Time 5:48pm.

24-091 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 5:49pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fire Department
Honorarium
Review:

Councillor McAree declared a possible conflict of interest as he is a volunteer firefighter and vacated Council Chambers. Time 5:49pm.

24-092 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council approve the increase to the Fire Department Honorariums in the 2024 Final Budget.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor McAree returned to the meeting. Time 5:50pm.

2024 Final Budget:

24-093 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the 2024 Closed Meeting Budget amendments be included in the 2024 Budget and forward to Council for adoption at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2023 Estimated
Operating Surplus:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated there was a budget surplus in 2023 and introduced the Director of Corporate Services to provide further information.

24-094 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the 2023 estimated operating surplus item as information and allocate the surplus funds to the Wildland Fire Reserve for \$129,650, Evacuation Centre Reserve for \$25,431, and the Infrastructure Reserve for \$620,487.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

24-095 Moved by Councillor Baker

That the Special Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 6:00pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer