

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, May 27, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present: Mayor Pickard; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lapointe, McAree, and Schlosser; Acting Chief Administrative Officer Barney; and Recording Secretary Gallant.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Lanctot.

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

Adoption of Agenda: 24-154 Moved by Councillor Lapointe
That the Agenda be adopted as amended by accepting the updated information for Item 10 – Tourism Enhancement Grant Program Application.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting: 24-155 Moved by Councillor McAree
That the Minutes from the May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

2024 Enhancement Grant Allocation: The Acting Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Manager of Arts, Culture and Recreation and the Chair of the Community Services Advisory Board to provide information on the grant program and allocation recommendations from the Board.

24-156 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the recommendation of the Community Services Advisory Board and allocate \$30,000 from the 2024 Enhancement Grant as follows:

Group	Project	Funding Allocation
The Woodchuckers – Whitecourt Cornhole League	Scoring Towers	\$1,440.00
Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society	National Truth & Reconciliation Day	\$8,144.02
Whitecourt Minor Baseball Association	Diamond and Equipment Enhancement	\$6,894.18
Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association	Graham Acres Diamond Additions	\$13,521.80
	Total	\$30,000.00

Votes in Favour: Mayor Pickard; Councillors Baker, Lapointe, McAree and Schlosser.

Votes in Opposition: Councillor Chauvet.

- MOTION CARRIED.

Policy 23-005 – Emergency Response Vehicle Operations: The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that the proposed policy was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Policies and Priorities Committee, and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further information. The

Director noted that, if approved, Peace Officers would complete necessary additional training prior to the policy being implemented.

24-157 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 23-005 – Emergency Vehicle Response Operations as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy 23-012 –
FireSmart Home
Incentive Program:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that the proposed policy was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Policies and Priorities Committee, and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further information. The Director noted that the Fire Department recorded a significant increase in requests for home assessments due to the rebate program.

24-158 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 23-012 – FireSmart Home Incentive Program as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy 23-016 –
Body Worn
Cameras and In-
Car Video Systems:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that the proposed policy was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Policies and Priorities Committee, and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further information. The Director noted that the policy, if approved, would be forwarded to the Provincial Peace Officer Program.

24-159 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the recommendation of the Policies and Priorities Committee and adopt Policy 23-016 Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Video Systems as presented.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2024 Sport Hosting
Program
Application:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer who noted that the Economic Development Committee recommended Council allocate \$3,500 to the Whitecourt Blue Dolphins for a provincial swim meet on June 8, 2024 as part of the Sports Hosting Program.

24-160 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council accept the Economic Development Committee’s recommendation to allocate \$3,500 from the 2024 Sports Hosting Program to Whitecourt Blue Dolphins for the Whitecourt Provincial Swim Meet being held on June 8, 2024.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tourism
Enhancement
Grant Program
Application:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer who noted that the Economic Development Committee recommended Council allocate \$5,200 to the Whitecourt Isga Tourism Association for the development of a Tee-Pee Village. The grant funding would assist with marketing initiatives.

24-161 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council accept the Economic Development Committee’s recommendation that \$5,200 be allocated to the Whitecourt Isga Tourism Association to support the Tee-Pee Village project from the Whitecourt Tourism Enhancement Grant Program.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tandem Truck Purchase:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer reported that in 2023, the Infrastructure Department provided an Advanced Contract Award Notice through Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) that they intended to participate in buying group procurement through Canoe Procurement Group of Canada. The Department then worked with the proposals from the successful vendor from Canoe to design and obtain a final quote for the unit and attachments.

24-162 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the proposal from Commercial Truck Equipment Co. to supply a 2024 Freightliner Model 114SD and attachments for a cost of \$345,552 plus GST.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Meeting Date:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that several Councillors would be attending the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference, and recommended that the June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting be rescheduled to June 11, 2024 to allow Council members to attend.

24-163 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council reschedule the regularly scheduled meeting date on June 10, 2024 to June 11, 2024.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Firefighters Association Golf Tournament:

The Acting Chief Administrative Officer noted that an invitation was received for Council to participate in the Whitecourt Firefighters Association Golf Tournament on June 28, 2024.

24-164 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council Members be authorized to participate in the Whitecourt Firefighters Association Golf Tournament on Friday, June 18, 2024 at the Whitecourt Golf and Country Club.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lapointe reported that she attended meetings for the Policies and Priorities Committee and Library Board. She also participated in a planning session for Community Futures Yellowhead East, and attended the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony.

Councillor McAree reported that he also attended the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting.

Councillor Baker attended a Communities in Bloom Committee meeting and provided an update on Committee activities. She also attended the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony.

Councillor Chauvet reported that he attended meetings for the Economic Development Committee and the Policies and Priorities Committee.

Mayor Pickard noted that he had met with the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance and that representatives of the Alliance would be attending the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference. He also attended meetings for the Economic Development Committee, Policies and Priorities Committee, and Business Support Network. He also met with the Alberta representative to China, along with the CAO and Economic Development Officer to discuss economic development opportunities, and attended the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony and Children’s Festival.

24-165 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

24-166 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 88148 – 88306;
- b) May 15, 2024 Letter from Yubetsu re Upcoming Visit;
- c) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. May 16 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - ii. May 23 – Pumphouse Trail Closed Starting May 24, 2024;
- d) Woodlands County 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. May 10 – 2024 Woodlands County Property Tax Rate;
- e) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- f) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time: 4:34pm

The meeting reconvened. Time: 4:36pm

Council Committee Appointments:

24-167 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss the Council Committee Appointments per Sections 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Time: 4:37pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

24-168 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council revert to the Regular Meeting. Time: 4:40pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

24-169 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

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

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment: 24-170 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 4:41pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

Mayor

P. Smyl

Chief Administrative Officer