

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

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

Deputy Mayor Baker and Councillor Chauvet attended the meeting electronically.

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

Culture & Events Centre Contract Award and Funding Proposal: The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Administration was bringing forward a contract for construction of the Culture & Events Centre. The CAO thanked the administrative and architectural teams, as well as all those who provided input into the design of the Centre, for their work to bring the project to contract award; and introduced the Director of Community Services and Director of Corporate Services. The Director of Community Services introduced Kevin Osborne of BR2 Architecture, the management company for the Centre; and noted that, Clark Builders had tendered 32 scopes and received 94 bids. After review of the bids, the total construction cost for the Centre was \$44,175,000; with an additional \$10,078,359 for other project fees including furnishings, land, design, etc.

The Corporate Services Director noted that Administration was recommending funding from various reserves and noted that the impact on the taxpayer was slightly lower than discussed at the Open House held in February. The interest rate for borrowing was also slightly lower than when the Borrowing Bylaw was passed.

24-214 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council approve the Culture & Events Centre project budget of \$54,253,359, with funding as follows:

Grants (Provincial – MSI, LGFF, ACP and Federal – ICIP)	\$32,628,311
Reserves (Operating and Capital)	\$11,488,683
Debenture Borrowing	\$ 5,595,840
Sponsorships and Sale of Assets	\$ 3,850,000
Investment Revenue	\$ 690,525

and; that Council authorize the Town to enter into a contract with Clark Builders for the construction of the Culture & Events Centre for up to \$44,175,000, plus contingency and GST.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment: 24-215 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That the Special Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 4:12pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard
Mayor

P. Smyl
Chief Administrative Officer