

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**of the Town of Whitecourt**  
held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor Baker; Councillors Chauvet, McAree, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Gallant.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.  Councillor Lanctot arrived to the meeting. Time: 4:01pm.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>24-244 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u>  That the Agenda be adopted as amended by removing Item #18 Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting:	<u>24-245 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u>  That the Minutes from the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	There were no members of the public wishing to make a presentation.
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) – Community Fireguard Program Phase 2:	The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) was accepting applications for Phase 2 of the Community Fireguard Program. Whitecourt was successful in receiving funds for Phase 1 which included the completion of a fireguard plan for the community.  <u>24-246 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u>  That Council support Phase 2 of the Town of Whitecourt Community Fireguard Program Project Proposal to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
National Coaches Appreciation Week:	The Chief Administrative Officer stated that National Coaches Appreciation Week was scheduled for September 16 to 22, 2024. The Director of Community Services highlighted activities scheduled to celebrate local coaches.  <u>24-247 Moved by Councillor McAree</u>  That Council be authorized to participate in the National Coaches Appreciation Week surprise visits and officially proclaim September 16-22, 2024 as National Coaches Week in Whitecourt. <p style="text-align:right">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
2024 Vitalization Grant Program Applications:	The Chief Administrative Officer noted that applications were received to the Vitalization Grant Program, and introduced the Director of Planning & Development to provide highlights of the applications received.  <u>24-248 Moved by Deputy Mayor Baker</u>  That Council accept the recommendation from Administration and allocate the 2024 Vitalization Grant funding as follows:

Applicant:	2024 Vitalization Grant Award:
Empowering Citizens for Health and Opportunities Society	\$10,000.00
582334 Alberta Ltd. (The Garage Brewhouse & Pub)	\$10,000.00
2506228 Alberta Ltd. (The Ritz)	\$10,000.00
Total:	\$30,000.00

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Drought and Flood Protection Program:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that Whitecourt was awarded \$1,426,182 to complete mitigation projects that would help protect critical infrastructure from drought and flooding, and to ensure public safety. It was suggested that Administration work with stakeholders to identify priorities, and bring back details on how the funding could be allocated at a future meeting.

24-249 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council direct Administration to bring back details on projects and funding models for the Drought and Flood Protection Program to a future meeting, and to work with project partners.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Budget Schedule:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Administration prepared a schedule for the preparation of the 2025 Budget.

24-250 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the proposed 2025 Budget Schedule as information; and,

That Council schedule a Special Meeting of Council on October 7, 2024 at 4:00pm to discuss the 2025 Budget.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Joint Use & Planning Agreements (JUPAs) – Formal Signing:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that a formal signing of the Joint Use & Planning Agreements, which were approved at the June 11 Regular Meeting of Council, was scheduled for September 5, 2024.

24-251 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council be authorized to attend the formal signing of the Joint Use & Planning Agreements on September 5, 2024 at 2:00pm at the Kanata Inn in Whitecourt.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the decision on the Judicial Review of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Arbitration Award for Whitecourt and Woodlands County was released on June 27, 2024. He noted that the final step in the process would be to adopt the ICF Agreement.

24-252 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council direct Administration to work with Woodlands County to finalize the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement between Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt for adoption.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intermunicipal Collaboration

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that Woodlands County notified the Town of Whitecourt on July 25, 2024 that it filed a Notice of Appeal on the Judicial Review

Framework  
Judicial Review  
Appeal:

decision pertaining to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt.

24-253 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Judicial Review Appeal as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rail Safety Week:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that a request was received requesting Whitecourt recognize September 23 to 29, 2024 as Rail Safety Week.

24-254 Moved by Deputy Mayor Baker

That Council recognize the week of September 23 to 29, 2024 as Rail Safety Week in Whitecourt, as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Week/Events and/or Proclamations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Closure  
Request – Show &  
Shine:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that a request was received from Ralcomm for a street closure along 35 Street from 35 Avenue to 34 Avenue on August 24, 2024.

24-255 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council approve the request for the closure of 35 Street from 35 Avenue to 34 Avenue on August 24, 2024, from 8:00am to 4:00pm for the car show and shine, subject to:

- Meeting all of the requirements of Policy 31-0085 – Parades/Processions/Demonstrations/Events; and,
- Obtaining a Temporary Traffic Control Permit.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Closure  
Request – National  
Day for Truth and  
Reconciliation:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that a request was received from the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society for a street closure on September 30, 2024 to allow for a procession through downtown, followed by events at Festival Park, in honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day.

24-256 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council authorize the use of Festival Way, the Town’s fire pit and firewood, and picnic tables for the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Event on September 30, 2024 from 9:00am to 6:00pm; and,

That Council be authorized to attend the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Event; and,

That Council approve the street closure and procession route for the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society National Day for Truth and Reconciliation walk on September 30, 2024 from 11:00am to 12:00 noon, subject to:

- Meeting all of the requirements of Policy 31-005 – Parades/Processions/Demonstrations/Events; and,
- Obtaining a Temporary Traffic Control Permit.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot reported that he attended the Culture & Events Centre Sod Turning event; the Communities in Bloom luncheon for the provincial judges; the

Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Classic; a Municipal Planning Commission meeting; and, the Council Workshop on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework.

Councillor Schlosser reported that he attended the Municipal Planning Commission meeting; and, participated in the tour of Whitecourt for the Communities in Bloom provincial judges.

Councillor Lapointe reported that she attended the Culture & Events Centre Sod Turning event; business visits as part of her role on Community Futures Yellowhead East; the Communities in Bloom luncheon for the provincial judges; the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Classic; and, the Council Workshop on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework.

Councillor McAree reported that he also attended the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Classic.

Councillor Chauvet reported that he attended the Culture & Events Centre Sod Turning event; the Communities in Bloom luncheon for the provincial judges; the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Classic; and, the Council Workshop on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework.

Deputy Mayor Baker reported that she attended the Anthony Gordon Memorial Golf Classic; and, participated in the tour of Whitecourt for the Communities in Bloom provincial judges.

Mayor Pickard reported that he attended an advocacy strategy session hosted by Alberta Municipalities on Bills 19 and 20; the Culture & Events Centre Sod Turning event; a Regional Landfill Authority Meeting; the Communities in Bloom luncheon for the provincial judges; and, the Council Workshop on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. He noted that the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance had met, and was working to promote the need for rail and the impacts a rail stoppage could have on communities across the country.

24-257 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24-258 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 88996 – 89374;
- b) July 4, 2024 – Alberta Municipal Affairs Letter re Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative Enhancing Community Safety Award;
- c) July 23, 2024 Alberta Municipal Affairs Letter re Canada Community-Building Fund;
- d) FortisAlberta Electricity Meter Upgrade;
- e) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
  - i. July 10 – Fire Ban Issued for the Town of Whitecourt;
  - ii. July 16 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
  - iii. July 24 – Underground Utility Repair on 50 Avenue – Start July 27
  - iv. July 24 – Temporary Power Outage at Festival Park on July 26;
  - v. July 29 – Fire Ban Lifted as of July 29;
  - vi. August 8 – Summer Street Fest Coming to Downtown Whitecourt August 10;
- f) Woodlands County 2024 Press Releases:
  - i. July 19 – Woodlands County Council Recap – July 17;
- g) Mayor’s Calendar; and

Items of  
Information:

h) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

24-259 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 4:44pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

P. Smyl

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer