

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of the Town of Whitecourt**  
held on Tuesday, November 25, 2024 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Deputy Mayor McAree; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:39pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<u>24-374 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u> That the Agenda be adopted as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting:	<u>24-375 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree</u> That the Minutes from the November 12, 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.
Economic Development Committee 2025 Strategic Planning Presentation:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair, Amanda St. Pierre, and the Economic Development Officer were in attendance to provide information on Committee initiatives and priorities. <u>24-376 Moved by Councillor Baker</u> That Council accept the Economic Development Committee 2025 Strategic Planning Presentation as information. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Fire Chief Changing of Command Ceremony:	The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director noted that further to the retirement of the Fire Chief, that Deputy Fire Chief Aaron Floyd was recently appointed as the Fire Chief. A changing of command ceremony was scheduled for December 17. <u>24-377 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u> That Council Members be authorized to attend the Fire Chief Changing of Command Ceremony on December 17, 2024 at 7:00pm. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Local Growth and Sustainability Grant:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a grant opportunity became available and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide more information. The Director noted that procuring funding under the Local Growth and Sustainability Grant for the replacement of a pumper truck would mitigate potential impacts in pricing resulting from the low Canadian dollar and rising costs for the truck. <u>24-378 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u> That Council support the Town of Whitecourt's Local Growth and Sustainability Grant – Growth Component application for the purchase of a Pumper Truck. <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

Community Fireguard Program Project Manager Contract Award:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Whitecourt was successful at receiving grant funding under the Community Fireguard Program, and a contract manager was required, and introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide further information.

24-379 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council award the Community Fireguard Program Project Manager to Silvacom Ltd. in the amount of \$276,420 plus GST, funded by the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta Community Fireguard Program Grant.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:59pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 5:02pm.

Communities in Bloom 2025 Evaluation:

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that results from the recent Communities in Bloom judging were received and introduced the Director of Community Services and Manager of Recreation, Arts, and Culture to report the results. The Manager noted that the judges had positive comments about the community, especially the river spurs; and that Whitecourt was awarded 5/5 blooms, with a percentage of 89.5%.

24-380 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept the Communities in Bloom – Provincial Evaluation as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Coldest Night of the Year Event:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Coldest Night of the Year Event was once again being held in Whitecourt and that the organizers were requesting participation by Council.

24-381 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That a member of Council be authorized to bring greetings to the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 22, 2025, and that the Town fire pit be made available for the event.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Christmas Hamper:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Town typically provides snack trays to the Christmas Hamper volunteers each year.

24-382 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council authorize the provision of food trays for Whitecourt Christmas Hamper volunteers for delivery on December 12, 2024.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Municipal Law Seminars:

The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that law seminars will be available for Council in the new year.

24-383 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council be authorized to attend the 2025 Brownlee Emerging Trends Seminar and the 2025 RMRF Municipal Law Seminar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended meetings for the Economic Development Committee and Municipal Planning Commission; the Council Committees Reception and Christmas Parade.

Councillor Schlosser attended a Municipal Planning Commission meeting and the Council Committees Reception.

Councillor Lapointe attended meetings for Community Futures Yellowhead East and the Whitecourt Library, as well as the Council Committees Reception and Christmas Parade.

Councillor Chauvet attended the Council Committees Reception and Christmas Parade.

Councillor Baker also attended the Council Committees Reception and Christmas Parade.

Mayor Pickard attended the Council Committees Reception and Christmas Parade. As part of the Canadian Rail Alliance Authority, he met with CN Rail, along with the MLA and industry leaders and interviewed with the CBC regarding the Fireguard project. Mayor Pickard also attended the Economic Development Committee meeting.

24-384 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

24-385 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 90361 – 90641;
- b) November 15, 2024 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Grants in Place of Taxes;
- c) November 15, 2024 Letter to Living Waters re Post-Secondary Opportunities;
- d) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
  - i. November 7 – Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative Celebrates Provincial Recognition;
  - ii. November 13 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
  - iii. November 19 – Whitecourt Receives Provincial Support to Construct a Community Fireguard;
- e) Woodlands County 2024 Press Releases:
  - i. November 21 – Woodlands County Council Recap – November 20;
- f) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- g) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

24-386 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:29pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Redacted per S. 17 of FOIPP

Mayor

Redacted per S. 17 of FOIPP

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