

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**

held on Monday, February 10, 2025 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 4:00pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>25-031 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Public Hearing:	<p><u>25-032 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Public Hearing be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>25-033 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	There was no one present wishing to make a presentation.
Visitors and Delegations – Alberta Forest Products Association – Trade Barriers and Alberta's Forestry:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced Brock Milligan of Alberta Forest Products Association, along with representatives of community forestry industry, who provided information on trade barriers and Alberta's forestry industry.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor McAree vacated the Council Chambers. Time: 4:08pm.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor McAree returned to the Council Chambers. Time 4:09pm.</p> <p><u>25-034 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council acknowledge the presence of Brock Milligan of the Alberta Forest Products Association.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Business Arising from Visitors and Delegations – Alberta Forest Products Association:	<p>Council discussed the impact of tariffs and duties on the forestry industry, and noted the importance of continued advocacy for the forestry industry.</p> <p><u>25-035 Moved by Councillor Schlosser</u></p> <p>That Council send a letter to the Government of Alberta in support of the Alberta Forestry Industry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Wildfire Mitigation:	The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a letter had been received from the Minister of Forestry and Parks regarding wildfire mitigation and introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director indicated that Whitecourt has been a leader in the FireSmart program, and that the Fireguard Project is anticipated to be completed by the end of March.

25-036 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council send a letter to the Minister of Alberta Forestry and Parks acknowledging the support from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta for past and present projects.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:23pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 4:27pm.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that as part of the Capital Region Assessment Services Commission, Council is required to appoint qualified assessment review members, Chair and Clerk to the Commission annually, and introduced the Director of Corporate Services. The Director noted that the Commission handles assessment complaints on behalf of the Town, from the initial receipt of the complaint through to the Hearing.

25-037 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council appoint Darlene Chartrand, Sheryl Exley, Tina Groszko, Richard Knowles, Marcel LeBlanc and Raymond Ralph, for a term ending December 31, 2025, as members of the Assessment Review Board that may from time to time be required to hear assessment-related complaints as permitted in the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, M-26; and

That Council appoint Raymond Ralph as the chair for The Local Assessment Review Board and the Composite Assessment Review Board; and

That Council appoint Gerryl Amorin as the certified clerk of the Local Assessment Review Board and the Composite Assessment Review Board.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Capital Region Assessment Services Commission – Appointment of Qualified Assessment Review Members, Chair and Clerk:

Council Workshop:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a workshop was scheduled for February 24 to allow Council to tour the Culture & Events Centre site and receive a project update.

25-038 Moved by Councillor Lapointe

That Council schedule a Workshop Session on February 24, 2025, from 1:30 – 3:30pm at the Whitecourt Town Office.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Trade Fair:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce was hosting its annual Trade Fair on May 10 and 11 and that Administration was requesting Council to host the Town Booth.

25-039 Moved by Deputy Mayor McAree

That Council authorize Council Members to manage the Town Booth at the Whitecourt Trade Fair 2025, scheduled for May 10 and 11, 2025, and to attend the Member Mixer.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BGC Whitecourt Day:

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that BGC Whitecourt & District had requested that Council acknowledge June 6 as BGC Whitecourt Day.

25-040 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council recognize June 6, 2025 as BGC Whitecourt Day, as per Policy 11-008 – Salutes of Special Days/Weeks/Events and/or Proclamations.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended the Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer Municipal Law Seminar.

Councillor Schlosser attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

Councillor Lapointe also attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

Councillor Baker also attended the Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer Municipal Law Seminar.

Deputy Mayor McAree attended the Community Lunch Box Gala.

Mayor Pickard attended an Industry Breakfast Meeting, and a Canadian Rail Advocacy Alliance meeting.

25-041 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

25-042 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 91568 – 91706;
- b) January 23, 2025 Letter from Minister of Alberta Transportation & Economic Corridors re Automated Traffic Enforcement;
- c) Town of Whitecourt 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. January 28 – Province Confirms Installation of New Traffic Signals Along Highway 43 in Whitecourt;
 - ii. January 29 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - iii. January 31 – Construction of Community Fireguard has Begun;
- d) Woodlands County 2025 Press Releases:
- e) January 29 – Woodlands County Council Recap – January 29
- f) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- g) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:40pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 4:45pm.

25-043 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Time 4:46pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-044 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time 4:50pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committee
Appointments:

25-045 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council appoint Ian Daisley and Don Shaw to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, with terms to expire in October 2028; and direct Administration to re-advertise for the vacancy on the Community Services Advisory Board.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

25-046 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 4:51pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

Mayor

P. Smyl

Chief Administrative Officer