

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt**
held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

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

Call to Order & Mayor's Address: The Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.

Adoption of Agenda: 25-074 Moved by Councillor McAree
That the Agenda be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting: 25-075 Moved by Councillor Chauvet
That the Minutes from the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Input Session: There was no one present wishing to make a presentation.

Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta Grant Application Support – FireSmart Community Plan: Councillor Schlosser arrived at the meeting. Time: 4:02pm.
The Chief Administrative Officer stated that Administration prepared a grant application to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta to develop a FireSmart Community Plan and introduced the Director of Community Safety. The Director noted that the grant would aid in completing a hazard and risk assessment, a wildfire mitigation strategy, and a wildfire preparedness guide.

25-076 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe
That Council accept the recommendation of the FireSmart Working Group to support the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta Non-Vegetation Management Grant Application to develop a FireSmart Community Plan for Whitecourt. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Conference and Yubetsu Visit: The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Conference was being held in Stony Plain in May and that representatives from Yubetsu plan on attending and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director advised that the Yubetsu delegates planned to visit Whitecourt after the conference.

25-077 Moved by Councillor Schlosser
That Council:
1. Authorize a Council member to attend the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Conference on May 23 & 24, 2025 in Stony Plain;
2. Host the Yūbetsu delegation in Whitecourt, May 24 – 26, 2025; and
3. Be authorized to attend the dinner on May 25, 2025. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 National Volunteer Week: The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Town would be hosting National Volunteer Week and introduced the Director of Community Services. The Director

advised that the theme for 2025 was “Volunteers Make Waves” and that a luncheon was planned to honour and recognize volunteers throughout the community.

25-078 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council be authorized to attend the 2025 National Volunteer Week “You’ve Been Great!” Volunteer Celebration lunch on April 28, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whitecourt Horse Club Request:

The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Whitecourt Horse Club requested a letter of support to become the Trailmaster for the Whitecourt Sandhills Public Land Use Zone and introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further details.

25-079 Moved by Councillor McAree

That Council accept the letter from the Whitecourt Horse Club as information with no objections to the Club obtaining Trailmaster status at the Sandhills Public Land Use Zone.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Truck Purchase:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that a tender had been issued for the purchase of four trucks and introduced the Director of Infrastructure. The Director advised that bids were received from two of the local vehicle dealerships.

25-080 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council award the tenders for the purchase of the four trucks to Smyl GM as follows:

Unit 0125	\$55,544	Unit 1125	\$68,200
Unit 1225	\$55,544	Unit 8325	\$55,544

plus GST.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Chauvet attended the Alberta CARE Conference.

Councillor Baker attended a FireSmart Working Group Committee meeting and the Budget Information Open House.

Councillor McAree attended the Budget Information Open House.

Councillor Lanctot attended the Budget Information Open House and a meeting with the Whitecourt/Woodlands Winter Recreation Park Society.

Councillor Schlosser attended a Youth Advisory Committee meeting and the Budget Information Open House.

Deputy Mayor Lapointe also attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting and Budget Information Open House. She also attended the Alberta Municipalities President’s Summit and Spring Leaders Caucus.

Mayor Pickard attended the Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee meeting and an Industries Breakfast meeting; as well as the Budget Information Open House. He met with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services and attended a press conference with the Minister of Forestry & Parks and Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. While at the Alberta Municipalities

President’s Summit and Spring Leaders Caucus, he attended a meeting with the Mid-Sized Towns Mayor’s Caucus.

25-081 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-082 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 91849 – 91990;
- b) February 26, 2025 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Provincial Priorities Act;
- c) February 26, 2025 Letter from Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services re Community Peace Officers;
- d) February 27, 2025 Letter from Alberta Municipal Affairs re Budget 2025;
- e) February 28, 2025 Letter to Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services re Request for Ministerial Order for Protective Services Committee;
- f) March 4, 2025 Congratulations Letter to MLA Long on Appointment as Minister of Infrastructure;
- g) March 6, 2025 Letter from Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce re Advocacy and Tariffs;
- h) Town of Whitecourt 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. February 25 – Construction on the Culture & Events Centre On Time and On Budget;
 - ii. February 28 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
- i) Woodlands County 2025 Press Releases:
 - i. February 27 – Woodlands County Council Recap – February 26;
- j) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- k) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 4:49pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 4:51pm.

25-083 Moved by Deputy Mayor Lapointe

That Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee per Section 17 & 25 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act; and Council Committee Appointments per Section 17 of the FOIP Act. Time 4:52pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-084 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council revert to Regular Meeting. Time 5:30pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

25-085 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council direct Administration to bring forward a policy to the Policies and Priorities Committee to discuss Policy 11-003 – Governance and Appointments of Council Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and External Committees Schedule D – Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

Ad Hoc Culture & Events Centre Partnership/Sponsorship Committee:

Council Committee
Appointments:

25-086 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That Council accept Council Committee Appointments as information and direct Administration to readvertise the vacancy on the Community Services Advisory Board.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

25-087 Moved by Councillor Baker

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:31pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

Mayor

P. Smyl

Chief Administrative Officer