

**TOWN OF MAGRATH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, January 28, 2025
6:00 PM**

Present at the meeting were Mayor Byrne Cook and the following Council members: Ken Baker, Gerry Baril, Josh Bourelle, Cynthia Ralph and Aaron Zaugg; CAO James Suffredine, Operations Manager, Trevor Millward and Carolyn Law from Administration. Regrets received from Darryl Christensen.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Baril
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM
- 4) DELEGATIONS
 - a) Chinook Foundation
 - Becky Doig, CAO of the Chinook Foundation, gave a presentation on the vision, mission, and services provided by the foundation for the housing of seniors in our communities.
- 5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-01-01 Motion from Councillor Baker to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 10)d) Thank you letter.

Carried

- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: December 10, 2024

2025-01-02 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

- 7) BUSINESS FROM MINUTES

- 8) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Bylaw No. 1316 – CAO and Designated Officers Bylaw

2025-01-03 Motion from Councillor Baker to pass first reading of Bylaw No. 1316.

Carried

2025-01-04 Motion from Councillor Ralph to pass second reading of Bylaw No. 1316.

Carried

2025-01-05 Motion from Councillor Baril to introduce Bylaw No. 1316 for third and final reading.

Carried Unanimously

2025-01-06 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to pass third reading of Bylaw No. 1316.

Carried

b) Municipal Electricity Generation Program

2025-01-07 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve signing the Municipal Energy Grant contract.

Carried

2025-01-08 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve signing the D-Com Energy's installation contract.

Carried

c) Election Resolutions

2025-01-09 Motion from Councillor Baker to appoint Carolyn Law as the Returning Officer for the 2025 Municipal Election on October 20, 2025.

Carried

2025-01-10 Motion from Councillor Baril to appoint James Suffredine as Substitute Returning Officer for the 2025 Municipal Election.

Carried

2025-01-11 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to hold an advance vote for the 2025 Municipal Election on October 15, 2025 at the Town Hall during the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Carried

2025-01-12 Motion from Councillor Ralph to hold an institutional vote for the 2025 Municipal Election on October 20, 2025 at the Diamond Willow Lodge from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Carried

2025-01-13 Motion from Councillor Baker to set the rate of pay for election workers for the 2025 Municipal Election at \$25.00/hour.

Carried

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Payables Cheques #20241770 to #20250045

2025-01-14 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the Accounts Payable report as presented.

Carried

b) November and December Bank Reconciliations

2025-01-15 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve the November 2024 and December 2024 Bank Reconciliations.

Carried

10) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Chinook Arch Regional Library

2025-01-16 Motion from Councillor Baker to receive the Chinook Arch Regional Library report.

Carried

b) Alberta Utilities Commission

2025-01-17 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to receive the Alberta Utilities Commission report regarding Franchise Fees.

Carried

c) Cardston County

2025-01-18 Motion from Councillor Baril to receive the Cardston County notice to add Cabin to their Land Use Bylaw.

Carried

d) Thank you letter

2025-01-19 Motion from Councillor Ralph to receive the Thank you letter regarding the exceptional Magrath Days Celebration held in July 2024.

Carried

11) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Highlights for Town Operations include the following items:

- Holiday lights have been taken down on the downtown trees and Town Hall to prevent winter wind damage.

- A grader was purchased from Cardston County as a replacement for our current grader. The Current grader will be sold.
- Our grant application for the Municipal Energy Grant was approved.
- Year-end financial preparation has been taking place within the office in preparation for submission to the auditor.
- Applications for the internship are being accepted on the Ministry's website. The Town has posted on our website and social media to encourage local applicants for the program.

James Suffredine, CAO

2025-01-20 Motion from Councillor Baker to accept the Administrator's Report as presented.

Carried

12) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

a) Ken Baker

- Recreation Committee – the Recreation Committee hosted the sports associations and special interest groups to a meeting to discuss their needs, plans and aspirations. In attendance were: Magrath Minor Baseball, Magrath Minor Football, Flag Football, Magrath Minor Hockey, Magrath Soccer, Co-Ed Softball, Swim Club and Robotics Club. The takeaways from the meeting were the need for more ball fields, upgrades/levelling of the soccer/football field, a P.A. System for the announcers stand at Town Square, and the desire to have an area for a safe play zone at the arena. A request was made to keep the arena open longer in the spring to accommodate hockey teams participating in playoffs.
 - Administration was assigned to prepare a policy for the annual closing of the ice arena.
 - Administration was also assigned to prepare a statement regarding the requirement for insurance for individuals/groups using the Town's recreation facilities.
- Magrath Days – planning has begun for the 2025 annual celebration.

b) Aaron Zaugg

- Museum – The museum was not successful in its application for the Provincial Operating Grant for the third year in a row. When they apply again next year, they would appreciate a letter of support from the Town to enhance their application.
 - The museum is currently applying for a Federal Staffing grant.
 - The museum would like to rearrange the order of the plaques at the Mayor's Monument and seek approval from the Town to do so.

- They would also like permission to upgrade some of the signs at Irrigation Park.
 - The yellow trencher still needs to be lifted.
 - The question was raised of what is being displayed at the former Curling Rink?
 - Emergency Services – the board approved the capital budget at their last meeting.
 - They appreciate the funds received from the Town and County for the new radios they have ordered and should be receiving them in March.
- c) Josh Bouelle
- Chief Mountain Solid Waste – the board reviewed the draft report from the consultant on options for improving and expanding going forward. They are exploring all 8 options that were presented.
 - Water Commission – the water operators we have are excellent!
 - They are experiencing difficulties having spare parts on hand when they need them because of supply chain issues.
 - The 90/10 grant they applied for was not approved. They are now working on a 50/50 split grant application for twinning the supply line to Town.
 - They have recently had divers clean the water storage tank and have installed a new circulation mixer to the tank.
- d) Cynthia Ralph
- Ag Society - Appointment of officers - President Tamara Berezay, Vice President Eileen Juhasz, Secretary Brooke Emard, Treasurer Aleesa Gilowski, Grievance Committee Dana Smith
 - Copy of by-laws to be updated.
 - Poster for Cameras: Posters will be made available at multiple places in the arena in an attempt to keep members honest about who is using the facility.
 - Magrath Days: Eileen proposed to host a ranch bronc, TR & BR slot race/Calcutta event. Details to be determined. Sheep riding to include kids.
 - Working on updating website photos.
 - Looking at Painting the facility and bathroom renovations in the future and spray foam for the Warmup area.
 - Chinook Foundation - Diamond Willow parking lot: Nearly completed. Parking lines and grass will be done in spring.
 - Diamond Willow Lodge Lift Station: Major re-plumbing of the lift station took place on November 20th with additional work to take place mid-January (replace rusted platform and tracks for the pump). No “smoking gun” for the reason the pumps are struggling. Pressure gauges installed. Going to contact the Government for approval of purchasing stronger pumps.

- There was a COVID outbreak at the Diamond Willow. Resolved
- Looking at getting a Health Care Aide but due to the shortage of them, it has proven difficult to find someone to hire.
- CAO has appointments to make presentations to the town council. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce the councils to the work of the foundation and to explore future collaboration opportunities.

e) Gerry Baril

- Chinook Foundation – hiring has been difficult for Health Care Aid. They have increased the wages of all employees to be in line with competing facilities.
- Garden City Seniors – held their AGM with no changes to the board.

13) MAYOR'S REPORT

- SAEP – the partnership needs to be taken over by an education system, it has gone beyond the scope of the municipality.
 - The Lion's Club has suggested they would sponsor the building of a greenhouse.
- SouthGrow – they are an efficient group, and we need to use them more for economic development opportunities.
- Quota Hunt – the numbers from the hunt should be forthcoming.


14) ADJOURNMENT

2025-01-21 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Carried



 Mayor – Byrne Cook



 CAO – James Suffredine