

**TOWN OF MAGRATH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025  
6:00 PM**

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

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 pm
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Baker
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM
  - a) Bonnie Barendregt
    - i. Expressed concerns regarding safety during the Magrath Days parade, particularly with spectators encroaching onto the roadway.
  - b) Cliff Blackwell
    - i. Thanked Council for their support during his tenure as Fire Chief.
- 4) DELEGATIONS
  - a) RCMP - Q1 Report
    - i. Sgt. Noss presented key highlights from the Q1 Report
  - b) The Magrath Lions Club – Community Garden
    - i. Requested permission to create a community garden on the land where the Town’s new lift station is being installed to grow produce for SASH and the community pantry.
- 5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-09-01 Motion from Councillor Baril to adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of Correspondence d) Resident Letter – Sewerline, e) Fortis – Condolences and f) Mag-Wrath Robotics - Donations

Carried
- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2025

2025-09-02 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve the August 12, 2025, Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Carried

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) Outstanding A/R - transfer to taxes

2025-09-03 Motion from Councillor Christensen to transfer outstanding A/R to the taxes of a property in town. Carried

b) Closed Session [ATIA(32)1] [ATIA(30)1]

2025-09-04 Motion from Councillor Baker to enter closed session under ATIA[32(1)], ATIA[30(1)] at 6:45 pm. Carried

2025-09-05 Motion from Councillor Baril to exit closed session at 7:27 pm. Carried

2025-09-06 Motion from Councillor Baker to move forward with the Keith Passey contract. Carried

8) FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Payables Cheques 20250302 to 2025 and EFT's 1000 to 1230

2025-09-07 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve the financial reports as presented. Carried

b) May 2025 Bank Reconciliation

2025-09-08 Motion from Councillor Christensen to approve the bank reconciliation for May as presented. Carried

9) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Chinook Arch Regional Library System

2025-09-09 Motion from Councillor Baker to accept this correspondence as information. Carried

b) Resident Letter – Parade Safety 1

2025-09-10 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to accept this correspondence as information. Carried

c) Resident Letter – Parade Safety 2

2025-09-11 Motion from Councillor Baker to accept this correspondence as information.  
Carried

d) Resident Letter – Sewerline

2025-09-12 Motion from Councillor Christensen to accept this correspondence as information and respond, offering to waive half the costs of the sewer line hookup fees.  
Carried

e) Fortis – Condolences

2025-09-13 Motion from Councillor Baril to accept this correspondence as information.  
Carried

f) Mag-Wrath Robotics - Donations

2025-09-14 Motion from Councillor Baril to accept this correspondence as information and provide a \$500 donation to the club.  
Carried

2025-09-15 Motion from Councillor Christensen to donate \$1100 to the Bouelle Family  
Carried

## 10) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Highlights for Town Administration include the following items:

- Additional Peace officer enforcement was scheduled for the start of school. The peace officers reported reasonable traffic patterns with only a need to issue a couple of warnings for people who were stopping on the sidewalk to drop off their children.
- Football light installation was completed with great cooperation between stakeholders and the Town staff. This brings up the question as to how we should, by policy, manage the light operation and determine any fee structures that may be appropriate.
- The Town passed its OHS inspection without any change orders made.

- Phase 2 of our solar array goes before the county's MPC for a development permit on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and assembly is scheduled to be completed by the contractor following the approval.
- The final day for irrigation will be September 28<sup>th</sup>
- Ice making in the arena will begin soon in preparation for the hockey Season.
- Election preparation is well underway, and the Town is prepared for election day on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

James Suffredine, CAO

- 70,000 goldfish have been removed from the North Entrance Retention Pond.

2025-09-16 Motion from Councillor Christensen to accept the administrator's report as presented.

Carried

## 11) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

### a) Councillor Baril

#### i. Chinook Foundation

- Alberta Health Services will be contributing an additional \$500,000 annually towards care.
- Work is underway towards developing a new lodge in Cardston, projected at \$12–14 million. No government funding is currently available to assist with this project.

#### ii. EMS

- Fire Chief Cliff Blackwell has retired. Scott Neilson has been appointed as the new Fire Chief.

### b) Councillor Baker

#### i. Events

- Emphasis was placed on transitioning community events away from direct council responsibility and into broader community organization.
- Remembrance Day preparations:
  - a. Fergus Jones has committed to playing the bagpipes.
  - b. A flute group will also perform.
  - c. Sgt. Wright will deliver remarks at the ceremony.
- Hometown Christmas is also approaching.

#### ii. Golf

- The Golf Course is still looking for assistance in replacing the aging irrigation system.

- iii. FCSS
  - Nothing to Report
- iv. Magrath Days
  - Reminder of the “thank you barbecue” for volunteers and staff who assisted with Magrath Days.

c) Councillor Christensen

i. Library Board

- New shelving has been installed at the library.

2025-09-17 Motion from Councillor Christensen to appoint Meghan Gorham to the Library Board for a 3 year term and to send a letter confirming the appointment to the library board.

Carried

ii. Chinook Arch

- The organization is experiencing financial strain as requisitions have not increased for four consecutive years, with no change anticipated next year.
- Steps are being taken to balance finances, including changing staffing levels and hours.

iii. MPC

- Two meetings have been held since the last council meeting.
  - a. First meeting: Approved a backyard suite and a moved-in shed.
  - b. Second meeting: Denied a request for a 75' front yard setback waiver but approved a 50' setback waiver.

iv. Water Commission

- As the plant ages, there are more replacements and costs to keep in mind.
- An application is underway for grant funding for the second water line, with hopes of engaging Minister Schow to support the approval process.

d) Councillor Zaugg

i. Museum

- A question was raised during the last Museum Board Meeting about the bench located south of the museum and whether a plaque could be placed on it in honour of Wendy Coleman.

ii. EMS

- The Fire Department is currently low on income generation.
- Retirement send off for Cliff Blackwell is being done by the fire Department, the town will assist if needed.

- e) Councillor Ralph – Written report submitted
  - i. Chinook Foundation
    - Diamond Willow Irrigation and Landscaping has been completed. Upgrades cost \$6000.00 more than budgeted.
    - Capital Projects: Consultants have been chosen for the door fob project for Temple City Villa and Chinook Lodge, and also for the windows at Temple City Villa.
    - Diamond Willow Nurse Call System: The System was down for 6 weeks. New server installed and everything was up and running by July 28<sup>th</sup>. Cost was just over \$30,000.00.
    - Changes to LAP Funding: The government has raised the threshold for the Lodge Assistance Program Grant for low-income residents from \$31,230 to \$34,770. This allows more residents to qualify for subsidized rent.
    - The board was provided with a first draft of the 2026 Budget. Budget to be passed in the coming months.
  - ii. Ag Society
    - Lots of building improvements are going on. Looking at horse pens and looking at size and measurements for this, as well as for the run. The Ag Society is getting into its busy season for rentals, etc. The Ag Society's new year starts in November for booking and memberships.

## 12) MAYOR'S REPORT

- a) South Grow
  - i. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm
- b) Chief Mountain Solid Waste Commission
  - i. It was resolved in the last meeting that no transfer stations will be closed at this time, and current operations will be maintained.
- c) Football lights
  - i. Appreciation was expressed for Nash Millward of Summit Electric, who was noted as excellent to work with.
  - ii. A great community event and football was hosted by Minor Football to celebrate the completion of the installation of the lights at the football field.
- d) Pickleball Lighting
  - i. An estimate was received for the installation of lighting at the pickleball courts:
    - \$800 per light if installed by the Town.
    - \$1,600 per light if installation is contracted to the supplier.
- e) Thank You
  - i. The Mayor thanked Councillor Baril, Baker, Zaugg, and Bourelle for their service on council.

2025-09-18 Moved by Councillor Baril that the Mayor assume Councillor Bourelle's committee commitments until the upcoming election.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT


2025-09-19 Motion from Councillor Baker to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm

Carried



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Mayor – Byrnie Cook



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CAO – James Suffredine