

**TOWN OF MAGRATH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Christensen
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM - none
- 4) DELEGATIONS
 - a) RCMP – Sgt. Noss
 - Sgt. Noss reported on the 3rd quarter detachment statistics.
 - Requested Council identify needs and goals for the new fiscal year.
 - b) STARS – Jackie Seely
 - Presented the mission and statistics of the STARS foundation.
 - Requested the municipality to join as a member of STARS by contributing \$1.00 per capita to their organization.
- 5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2024-02-01 Motion from Councillor Baril to adopt the agenda with the addition of 8)a) STARS discussion and 8)b) Multi-family Housing. Carried

- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2024

2024-02-02 Motion from Councillor Baker to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024, regular council meeting. Carried

- 7) BUSINESS FROM MINUTES - none

- 8) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) STARS discussion

2024-02-03 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to contribute \$1.00 per capita to STARS and build this amount into the annual budget for ongoing contributions. Carried

b) Multi-family Housing

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Payables Cheques #20240118 to #20240194

2024-02-04 Motion from Councillor Baril to approve the financial reports as presented. Carried

10) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Boralex – Old Elm Wind Farm

2024-02-05 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to accept the Boralex letter. Carried

b) Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Drought Command Team

2024-02-06 Motion from Councillor Baker to accept the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas letter. Carried

11) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Highlights since the last council meeting for Town Operations include the following items:

- A water break on 1 St E was discovered and repaired.
- Snow clearing and removal from priority areas has continued sporadically over the past couple of weeks.
- Municipal Affairs hosted a webinar on the new LGFF program. Applications have not yet started to be accepted but they hope to have this function online in mid to late March.
- The Annual Assessment Audit has been approved by the Government of Alberta. The Government Auditor's comments for our Assessor's submission were "Excellent Data Check of 99.5%".

James Suffredine, CAO

2024-02-07 Motion from Councillor Christensen to accept the Administrator's Report as presented. Carried

12) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Ken Baker
 - Celebration
 - Plans are rolling forward.
 - The aerial motorcycles have been booked for this year.
 - Coyote Junction will be playing at the beer gardens on Friday and at the evening entertainment on Saturday.
 - Golf Board
 - AGM is coming up and all indications point to much of the current executive stepping down.

- b) Gerry Baril
 - Seniors Board
 - They are planning on honouring a "Senior of the Year".
 - They have been encouraged to showcase them in the Magrath Days Parade.
 - They are looking at ways to engage more with the residents of the Diamond Willow Lodge.

- c) Josh Bouelle
 - MPC – was cancelled because there were no discretionary permit applications to review.
 - Local Society Coordinating Committee
 - Had their initial meeting of the year and have scheduled the next one for February 29.
 - Two of the groups had sent alternates to the meeting.
 - The various boards are finding it difficult to get younger board members.
 - The group is looking at doing a "volunteer fair" to promote the various boards and volunteer opportunities.
 - Would like assistance from the Town to recognize the various boards and their members on social media.
 - Would like to create a list of all the various boards from the past and the members who have served the community.

- d) Darryl Christensen
 - Magrath Irrigation District
 - At their meeting they discussed the provincial control over the flow of water and how the MID must send forward whatever water the province requires them to.
 - They are dealing with drought mitigation as best they can, but it is a provincial jurisdiction.
 - Magrath Library – many term board positions are expiring this year.

2024-02-08 Motion from Councillor Christensen to appoint Gabby Andersen to the Library Board for a 3-year term.

Carried

- Westwind School Liaison
 - The School and Cultural Arts committee are working toward a resolution of their differences regarding the use of the Black Box Theatre.

- e) Cynthia Ralph
 - Ag Society
 - The board has appointed a new secretary -- Terry Beaton
 - For Magrath Days they plan on holding a Bronc Event on Thursday evening.
 - It was brought up that the "Gentlemen's Ride" needs more safety considerations if they are going to have that event again.
 - Aric Wutzke – Community Garden Project - would like to make a presentation to the Council in an upcoming meeting.

- f) Aaron Zaugg
 - Emergency Services
 - In 2023 there were more Motor Vehicle Accidents that injected additional revenue for the department.
 - They are looking at purchasing a software program to better track the incidents and personnel called out to the incident scenes.
 - Museum – AGM is March 25th.
 - Community Futures – there has been no further correspondence regarding the Blackfoot sign.


13) MAYOR'S REPORT

- SouthGrow – The government is cutting their funding, so their future is uncertain.
- MLA Mandate letters
 - The MLA's are very focused on fulfilling the prescribed outcomes of their Mandate Letters.
 - We need to be familiar with these letters and find opportunities for engaging with the MLA's on projects we would like to accomplish.
- Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority – they have submitted another large invoice for truck repairs.


14) ADJOURNMENT

2024-02-09 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Carried



 Mayor – Byrne Cook



 CAO – James Suffredine