

**TOWN OF MAGRATH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 5:58 p.m.
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Baker
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM - none
- 4) DELEGATIONS - none
- 5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2024-03-10 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adopt the agenda as presented.
Carried

- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2024

2024-03-11 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.
Carried

- 7) BUSINESS FROM MINUTES - none
- 8) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Ground Mount Solar Project

2024-03-12 Motion from Councillor Christensen to approve the contract for the Ground Mount Solar Project without the extended warranty.
Carried

- 9) FINANCIAL REPORTS
 - a) Payables Cheques #20240303 to #20240363

2024-03-13 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve the Financial Reports as presented.
Carried

10) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Cardston County – Development Application #08.2024

2024-03-14 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to receive the Cardston County Development Application #08-2024.

Carried

b) Cardston Tourism – 2024 Cardston County Visitors Guide

2024-03-15 Motion from Councillor Christensen to approve a full-page advertisement in the 2024 Cardston County Visitors Guide using the same photos as last year with the addition of a QR Code and change the text to include a reference to the Town's 125th Anniversary.

Carried

11) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- Framing construction on the Public Works vehicle storage is nearly complete with metal roofing to be installed in the near future.
- Auditors were at the Town Hall this past week completing the site visit for the 2023 Audit. The Audit is scheduled to be presented to Council on April 23, 2024.
- Ice has been removed from the arena and the arena is prepared for upcoming baseball camps.
- I took part in the quarterly regional meeting with Mayor Cook and the representatives of Cardston, Raymond, and Stirling.
- I reviewed the CEIP webinar and forwarded this to the Council for possible consideration.
- I attended the Spring Leaders convention with Councillor Christensen which focused on drought planning and fostering respect in communities along with question-and-answer sessions from Ministers and the Premier.

James Suffredine, CAO

2024-03-16 Motion from Councillor Christensen to accept the Administrator's Report as presented.

Carried

12) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

a) Ken Baker

- Recreation Committee – will hold its AGM on Thursday, March 28, 2024.
- Golf Board – will hold its first meeting with the new board on March 27, 2024.
- Magrath Days
 - Sponsor Information sheets were handed out.
 - Planning is going well.
 - Ken will update the sponsor spreadsheet and add it to Google Drive.
 - On Saturday morning of Magrath Days SASH will be holding a pancake breakfast.
 - The Cultural Arts will be producing a shortened version of the Magrath History Chautauqua Play in the theatre during the week of Magrath Days. They will sell tickets for assigned seats rather than rush seating.
 - The Museum has a video they would like to have available for viewing during Magrath Days and are working for additional trail signs to be installed before Magrath Days this year.
 - Councillor Baker would like to hold a recognition dinner event for the organizers of the various Magrath Days activities.

b) Gerry Baril

- Emergency Services – the Fire Department has been paying the dispatch contract and that will be taken over by the Town going forward to be consistent with the rest of the County Emergency Services.
- Chinook Foundation
 - has completed its annual audit and are in a good financial position.
 - The Chinook Lodge in Cardston has 12 beds for additional care that AHS has not been reimbursing properly for. Going forward, the Foundation will receive \$200,000/year for these services.

c) Josh Bourelle

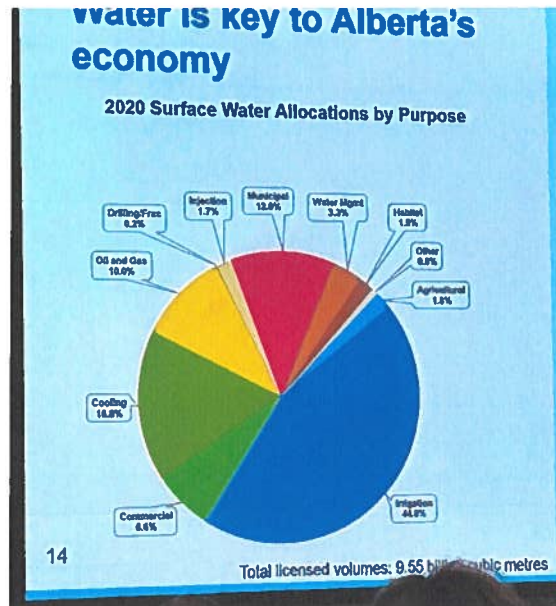
- Local Society Coordinating Committee – the committee is looking at developing videos from each Society to explain their roles in the community and to encourage more people to volunteer as members of the various Societies.

d) Darryl Christensen – Submitted a written report from the Alberta Municipalities Spring Conference he attended.

Drought preparation

- 51 water shortage conditions

- Most are in the south, but the Peace River area is now also included for the first time.
- Snowpack is below normal,



- Peak snow is usually in mid-April and June is the rainiest month.
- Collaboration must take place for us to mitigate the problem.
- Water Sharing agreements are being developed in the South Saskatchewan River Basin.

Working Together

We are counting on all municipalities to consider how they can reduce their water demand.

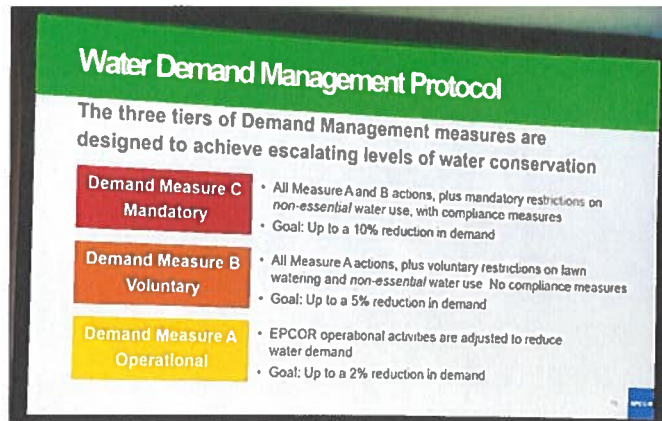
- Review the conditions of your water licence
- Monitor water levels and forecasts
- Develop plans to appropriately conserve water as needed based on your local water systems, local economy, etc...

Reach out to EPA if you have any questions or concerns. We can help!

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Alberta

- EPCOR had an electrical equipment failure and reduced water use in Edmonton to only essential use for 2 days.
- Demand management protocols were in place, they went to Demand Measure C immediately.



AFTERNOON SESSION - UNITING DIVIDED COMMUNITIES.

The discussion was on how we can encourage people to run for office and also for our town administration since many take abuse when they are in those positions.

- Mayor of Coutts discussed the blockade. The big takeaway is that they don't discuss politics in council since the council was also very divided with the blockade, another reason to keep parties out of municipal government.
- Counsel from Brownlee talked about being a professional in council.
- Procedure ensures that the public observe but need not participate.
- Creating safety in public engagement. Same message as he presented in our seminar last fall.

e) Cynthia Ralph

➤ Chinook Foundation

- They have received the money for the air handling system upgrades.
- The renovation of the Chinook Lodge has gone over their budget.
- They are working on a grant application that is needed to add energy efficiency to their buildings.

f) Aaron Zaugg

➤ Emergency Services

- They are considering being available for Provincial wildfire response but will not leave the Town unprotected.
- They will be participating in the CCREMA mock disaster exercise this fall and are working on getting the required training completed.

➤ Museum

- The AGM went well. Ricks Smith is the new President, Board Members are Wade Alston, Renae Hatch, Blake Eves, David Blumell, and Denise Strate. The Treasurer position is vacant. Past Presidents Brooks Harker, Alan Dudley and Wes Balderson are all still willing to assist the board where needed.
- They have accumulated a lot of volunteer hours.

- Ricks Smith will be taking a course on web design to benefit the museum.
- They are working with touchscreen technology updates at the museum.
- They want to participate in Magrath Days but have not developed their plan yet.
- Financially, costs have gone up and they will be sending a letter to the Town to request increased funding.

13) MAYOR'S REPORT

➤ CCREMA

- Training will be ongoing throughout April.
- The Town is in charge during an emergency – not the Church, but we need a list of names of people from the churches to participate in training.
- Reeve Bullock and Mayor Cook are to get people signed up.

➤ Mayors Meeting

- Items discussed included:
 - ICF negotiations – we are fortunate to get funding from Cardston County, Raymond is not so fortunate.
 - Policing – we are paying for front-line policing, no matter how the province describes the funding model.
 - Joint Use Planning Agreements – all communities in the Westwind School Division need to be treated equally.
 - Wildfire – Stirling sent firefighters and had revenues over \$50,000 for their participation. Magrath has considered participating in the Provincial wildfire response with personnel and vehicles but must ensure that the Town/County is still protected – Risk Management.
 - Stars & Halo – Halo is not supported by Raymond, Cardston or Stirling.
 - Subdivision – for large developers, rather than requiring large offsite levies and development bonds, Cardston takes ½ of the lots for collateral and the developer cannot sell any lots until the Town is satisfied that the development is complete.
 - Local tax rates – no one is reducing the mill rate. Cardston suggests putting some LGFF funds as a reserve to balance out the expected lower funding next year.

14) ADJOURNMENT

2024-03-17 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Carried



 Mayor – Byrne Cook



 CAO – James Suffredine