

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

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Zaugg
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM - none
- 4) DELEGATIONS
 - a) RCMP – Q2 Reports
 - Sgt. Noss reported on the second quarter statistics indicating that the greatest increase in calls has been for mental health checks. These calls take anywhere from 2 – 6 hours. The PACT (Police and Crisis Team) is doing well in the area and is very helpful on mental health calls.
 - Body cameras for the officers are scheduled to arrive in March.
 - They have one new officer who has started in Raymond and another set to start in January.

5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2024-11-01 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Organizational Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024

2024-11-02 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 Organizational Meeting. Carried

- b) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024

2024-11-03 Motion from Councillor Baker to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Carried

7) BUSINESS FROM MINUTES - none

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) Bylaw 1311 – LUB Amendment – R1 – C2

2024-11-04 Motion from Councillor Bourelle approve 3rd and Final reading of Bylaw 1311 – LUB Amendment – R1 to C2. Defeated

b) Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership Grant

2024-11-05 Motion from Councillor Baril that the Town of Magrath supports the submission of a 2024/25 Alberta Municipal Water Wastewater Partnership grant application by the Magrath and District Regional Water Services Commission for their Regional Water Transmission Line project. The Commission is qualified to manage the grant project and related compliance requirements. The estimated project cost is up to \$4,459,000 phased over two years.

The estimated eligible project costs would be calculated under a 50.11% provincial grant (\$2,234,405) / 49.89% (\$2,224,595) commission contribution cost share arrangement.

Carried

2024-11-06 Motion from Councillor Baker that the Town of Magrath Council supports the submission of a 2024/25 Alberta Municipal Water Wastewater Partnership grant application for its West Life Station project. The Town is qualified to manage the grant project and related compliance requirements. The estimated project cost is up to \$1,000,000 in 2025.

The estimated eligible project costs would be calculated under a 60.08% provincial grant (\$600,800) / 39.92% (\$399,200) Town contribution cost share arrangement.

Carried

c) Non-Patent Parcel Sale

2024-11-07 Motion from Councillor Baker that the Town of Magrath intends to dispose of Lot 10, Block 74A, Plan 2312358 to an adjacent landowner for less than market value and advertise that a public hearing will be held on December 10, 2024, in compliance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 70. Carried

d) Senior Management Wage Benchmarking Policy

2024-11-08 Motion from Councillor Ralph that Council approves CP-024, the Senior Management Wage Benchmarking Policy. Carried

e) Closed Session [FOIPPA Section 24(1)]

2024-11-09 Motion from Councillor Baker to enter a closed session at 6:41 p.m.
Carried

2024-11-10 Motion from Councillor Christensen to exit the closed session at 7:04 p.m.
Carried

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Payables Cheques #20241580 to #20241733

2024-11-11 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the payables report as presented.
Carried

b) September 2024 Bank Reconciliation

2024-11-12 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to approve the September Bank Reconciliation.
Carried

c) October 2024 Bank Reconciliation

2024-11-13 Motion from Councillor Baril to approve the October Bank Reconciliation.
Carried

10) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Cardston County – FCSS Board Appointments

- Administration was directed to meet with the Town and Cardston County FCSS Board Appointees.

b) Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Water and Circular Economy Division – Water Management Engagement

2024-11-14 Motion from Councillor Baker to receive the information.
Carried

c) O.R.R.S.C. – Membership Rates

2024-11-15 Motion from Councillor Zaugg to receive the information.
Carried

d) Magrath Robotics – Sponsorship

2024-11-16 Motion from Councillor Christensen that the Town sponsors Magrath Robotics for \$1,000.00 to assist with startup costs.

Carried

11) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Highlights for Town Operations include the following items:

- Paving has been completed along the 1st Ave N and Centre St. Project
- Solar Field is nearing completion. The site contractor estimates that our system will be energized by the end of the year but some of the final initialization does depend on other third parties like Fortis. Administratively, work is ongoing now to secure the best generation rate.
- The emergency management functional exercise completed on October 24th was the culminating event of 18 months of training and regional cooperation. The exercise was performed well and follow-up debriefing has helped the agency to set priorities for future training and capacity building. In general, looking back at how far we have come in emergency management practices, I have been very pleased with the efforts of the regional group and expect our capacity to continue to grow.
- The 2025 Interim Budget and 2025 Fees and Rates Bylaw are on schedule to be presented at the December meeting of the Council.

James Suffredine, CAO

2024-11-17 Motion from Councillor Ralph to accept the Administrator's Report as presented.

Carried

12) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

a) Ken Baker

- Remembrance Day
 - Thanks for the help from everyone.
 - We have received many thanks from community members for the lovely program.
- Hometown Christmas
 - Plans are rolling along and everything is in place for another successful event.

- b) Gerry Baril
 - Seniors
 - Are applying for two grants that will go to building upkeep and improvements.
 - They are ready to participate in Hometown Christmas with craft sale tables and chili/soup/buns for purchase.
 - Chinook Foundation
 - They have approved their budget and the requisition for 2025 will be increasing by 2%.
 - They are still working on the sewer issues in the Diamond Willow Lodge.

- c) Josh Bourelle
 - Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority
 - There will be a minor adjustment in the 2025 requisition.
 - They have approved \$750,000 for equipment purchase.
 - Councillor Bourelle has been appointed to the Finance Committee of the Board.
 - CMRSWA will meet regularly every month.
 - They have extended the contract for Marian Carlson for two years.

- d) Darryl Christensen
 - Water Commission
 - They have set the new water rates to be charged to the Town and the County for 2025.
 - They are applying for a grant that will cover 50% of the cost of a parallel water line from the water plant to the pressure-reducing station.
 - Library Board
 - Stephanie Poitras has resigned from the board due to employment conflicts.

2024-11-18 Motion from Councillor Christensen to appoint Stephanie Gruninger and Jerri-Lynn Peterson to three-year terms on the Magrath Library Board.

Carried

- e) Cynthia Ralph
 - Chinook Foundation Report:
 - Appointment of officers: Wayne Harris Board Chair, Gerry Baril Vice Chair and Tim Court Treasurer.
 - Housing Needs Assessment is done. Met with CAO's today to discuss recommendations.
 - Diamond Willow:
 - i. Parking - paved on November 18th. November 19th Jenex finished shaping ground around the parking lot and on the

20th, they installed cement blocks for parking stalls. Still waiting for line painting (Spring) and installation of railings for the stairs.

- ii. Lift Station: We were able to secure \$60,000.00 in emergency funding from the government of Alberta for the project. It is our understanding that if the costs exceed this amount, the government will pay the costs. Unfortunately, when the work was done, nothing was found that would explain the lack of pumping effectiveness. When pressure gauges are installed, we will be able to determine if the pumps are pumping with adequate pressure to pump to higher elevations. If not, we may need new pumps. Another possibility is a blockage in the line from the lift station to the town manhole a distance of 300'.

- iii. Diamond Willow Lodge is full and has a growing waiting list.
 - Christmas parties are planned with Board members attending where they can. Diamond Willow's party is On December 6th.
 - 2025 Requisition will be increasing by 2%
- Magrath Ag Society
 - AGM is December 2, 2024.
 - In the process of fixing feeders for cattle. The furnace is being fixed. Memberships are getting purchased and there are only a few members who have outstanding debts. The website is going well. Looking at linking the website to Facebook.

- f) Aaron Zaugg
 - Museum
 - They are ready to participate in the Hometown Christmas with their fudge and hot apple cider.
 - Fright Night was a big success, and they made money at it.

13) MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayors & Reeves Meeting Topics
 - U of L Medical School – The Mayor is corresponding with U of L regarding opportunities with the Town to utilize the Health Care Centre. An expression of interest has been submitted for a grant for renovations and copied to Joe Schow and Nathan Neudorf.
 - The South Zone of AHS has been split into two areas.
- Deer Cull
 - The deer cull will be for 5 weekends beginning December 5 (excluding December 26-28) with 250 tags available.
 - Tags are selling quickly.

- Rockport Fire
 - The colony is hauling water from the fill station for their needs.

2024-11-19 Motion from Councillor Baker to donate \$802.00 to the colony to cover some of their water charges incurred.

Carried

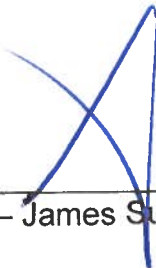
14) ADJOURNMENT

2024-11-20 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Carried



Mayor – Byrne Cook



CAO – James Suffredine