

**TOWN OF MAGRATH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.
- 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councillor Baker
- 3) PUBLIC FORUM
 - a) Public Hearing for Non-Patent Land Sale

2024-12-01 Motion from Councillor Baker to open the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.
Carried

2024-12-02 Motion from Councillor Bouelle to close the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.
Carried

- 4) DELEGATIONS - none
- 5) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2024-12-03 Motion from Councillor Baril to adopt the agenda with the addition of 8)e) Closed Session [FOIPPA Section 24.1]
Carried

- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes: November 26, 2024

2024-12-04 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024 Regular Council Meeting as presented.
Carried

- 7) BUSINESS FROM MINUTES - none

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) Non-Patent Parcel Sale

2024-12-05 Motion from Councillor Zaugg that the Town of Magrath dispose of Lot 10, Block 74A, Plan 2312358 to an adjacent landowner for \$1 with the transfer costs to be paid by the purchaser.
Carried

b) Bylaw 1313 – 2025 Fees & Rates

2024-12-06 Motion from Councillor Christensen to approve 1st Reading of Bylaw 1313 – 2025 Fees & Rates.
Carried

2024-12-07 Motion from Councillor Baker to approve 2nd Reading of Bylaw 1313 – 2025 Fees & Rates.
Carried

2024-12-08 Motion from Councillor Baril to introduce Bylaw 1313 – 2025 Fees & Rates for 3rd and Final Reading.
Carried Unanimously

2024-12-09 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to approve 3rd and Final Reading of Bylaw 1313 – 2025 Fees & Rates
Carried

c) Interim 2025 Budget

2024-12-10 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the 2025 Interim Budget as presented.
Carried

2024-12-11 Motion from Councillor Baril to advance the Town's portion of the money required for the Fire Department to purchase 12 new radios.
Carried

d) Heritage Road Pavement Tender Review

2024-12-12 Motion from Councillor Baker that the Town of Magrath selects Groundbreakers as the contractor for the Heritage Road paving project
Carried

e) Closed Session [FOIPPA Section 24.1]

2024-12-13 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to enter a closed session at 6:29 p.m.
Carried

2024-12-14 Motion from Councillor Baker to exit the closed session at 6:43 p.m.
Carried

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Payables Cheques #20241733 to #20241769

2024-12-15 Motion from Councillor Ralph to approve the financial report as presented.
Carried

10) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Minister of Municipal Affairs

2024-12-16 Motion from Councillor Baker to receive the correspondence as information.
Carried

11) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Highlights for Town Operations include the following items:

- Holiday lights have all been hung on the downtown trees and Town Hall.
- Hometown Christmas was very well attended this year. The lineup to see Santa Claus snaked throughout the fire hall and then spilled out of the building and halfway down the block. In addition, the lighting of the Town Hall tradition was restarted.
- The Town's land annexation has received final authorization from the Provincial Government and is scheduled to transfer on January 1st, 2025.
- The AMWWP application submitted by the Town for the lift station was not accepted by the Ministry of Transportation. In their response, they stated that they will only provide funding for lift stations that are responsible for 100% of the wastewater flow which for the Town of Magrath is the East lift station that pumps everything to the lagoon.
- The Town was selected to receive grant funding from the Alberta Community Partnership Grant by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to host an Intern for 18 months beginning in the spring of 2025.

James Suffredine, CAO

2024-12-16 Motion from Councillor Bourelle to accept the Administrator's Report as presented.
Carried

12) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a) Ken Baker
 - Council/Staff Christmas Party – thank you for the very nice evening.
 - Hometown Christmas
 - There was a great turnout.
 - Please thank all of the committees that participated.
 - The activities were very good.
 - The Carolers were appreciated.
 - FCSS – the meeting with the County Representatives has not yet been scheduled.

- b) Gerry Baril
 - Emergency Services – purchasing new radios
 - ORRSC – the fees are going up in the new year
 - Seniors – had a good turn out to the Hometown Christmas events

- c) Josh Bouelle – nothing to report

- d) Darryl Christensen
 - Library
 - Had activities during Hometown Christmas including local authors on site for book signing and an art competition.
 - They received a matching grant for \$62,499 that they will be using to upgrade shelving and furniture.
 - Chinook Arch
 - Darryl is the new chairman beginning in the new year.
 - Budget will be very tight.
 - They did a benefit analysis and Lethbridge is getting the greatest benefit so hopefully they will increase the funding for the next 4-year term.

- e) Cynthia Ralph
 - Ag Society
 - Held their AGM and the returning board members are Tammy Berezy, Dana Smith and Alesa Neilson. The whole board is now women.
 - Chinook Foundation
 - They had a nice Christmas Party for their residents, staff and board members including a dinner and entertainment. It was well received.

- f) Aaron Zaugg
 - EMS – they are purchasing radios as previously discussed.
 - Museum
 - They served 500 pieces of fudge and 400 cups of apple cider during Hometown Christmas – a good turnout.

- Community Futures
 - They are expanding their branch of service to help business owners sell their business and help new purchasers buy businesses.
 - They are looking at different loan options.
 - Some of their existing loans have defaulted on their payments.
 - They have had some success stories as well.

13) MAYOR'S REPORT

- 4 Mayors Meeting
 - They are working on the Joint Use Partnership Agreement with the other municipalities to approach the School Division with one agreement for all.
 - We need to make sure our buildings are insured sufficiently.
- AHS
 - Meetings continue to move forward regarding the use of the old hospital facility for a clinic and the return of lab and x-ray services along with training facilities for the University of Lethbridge Medical School.
- Quota Hunt
 - Mayor Cook and CAO Suffredine met with the biologists regarding the quota hunt. They hope a new Wildlife Management Unit will be designated to allow for a longer hunting season in our area.
 - We need to use other measures to control deer populations rather than quota hunts, such as bylaws, research movement patterns, etc.
 - Lethbridge Polytechnic may have research students who can use drones to do a deer count and monitor movement patterns.
 - The community needs to be involved in controlling deer by not providing optimum feeding options for them – cleaning up apples on the ground, incorporating deer-resistant plants in their yards, etc.

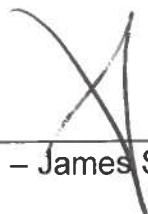
14) ADJOURNMENT

2024-12-17 Motion from Councillor Ralph to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Carried



 Mayor – Byrne Cook



 CAO – James Suffredine