





## Regular Meeting of Council 03-25

- Footage is uneditable and stored securely for up to 99 years, enhancing transparency and evidentiary value.
- Built-in AI provides language translation support, though with limitations.
- Sgt. Doucet noted body cams aid in clarity, accountability, and accurate documentation, especially during complex or emotional incidents.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a. Regular Meeting of Council 02-25

**# 25-046**

**Moved by: Cr. Cox**

**Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey**

That the minutes from the Regular Meeting 02-25 on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be adopted as presented.

**PASSED**

### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 6. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

1. Motion #25-056 Cr. Couvrette
2. Motion #25-057 to #25-059 Cr. Benwell
3. Motion # 25-064 Cr. Bathe

### 7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### a. Council Business

##### i. Protective Services Standing Committee Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**PROTECTIVE**

**# 25-047**

**Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**

**Seconded by: D/M Keizer**

That the Protective Services Standing Committee minutes from March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be adopted as presented.

**PASSED**

Briefing Note – DPA-003-25 Home Occupation Development Permit – Pimatisiwin Designs

**PROTECTIVE**

**# 25-048**

**Moved by: Cr. Tuckey**

**Seconded by: Cr. Cox**

That DPA-003-25, submitted by Lida Blesse, to operate a traditional crafting business, Pimatisiwin Designs, from Lot 654, Plan 319, 100 Whipoorwill Cr., Fort Smith, be approved.

**PASSED**

Briefing Note – DPA-006-25 Home Occupation Development Permit – Co-Create Pluralities

**PROTECTIVE**

**# 25-049**

**Moved by: Cr. Cox**

**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**

That DPA-006-25, submitted by Tonya Hoddinott, to operate a consulting and coaching business, Co-create Pluralities, from Lot 1203, Plan 1588, 111 Wilderness Rd., Fort Smith, be approved.

**PASSED**



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Briefing Note – DPA-007-25 Home Occupation Development Permit – JS Consulting

<b>PROTECTIVE</b>	<b># 25-050</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Cox</b>
	That DPA-007-25, submitted by Jean Soucy, to operate a consulting business, JS Consulting, from Lot 939, Plan 1534, 6 Wapiti St., Fort Smith, be approved.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – Angled Parking on Simpson Street

<b>PROTECTIVE</b>	<b># 25-051</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Cox</b>
	That Council select option 3 – replace angled parking to parallel parking and introduce barriers separating parking stalls from the sidewalk - to address the on-street parking configuration on Simpson St.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

### ii. Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-052</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: D/M Keizer</b>
	That the minutes from the Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting on March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, be adopted as presented.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-053</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette</b>
	To have the Mayor follow up with ITI and the Minister about the level and degree of consultation with the community of Fort Smith, regarding the 2030 tourism strategy.	

Briefing Note – Approval of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-054</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Cox</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette</b>
	That Council approve the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan: <i>Foundations for the Future: Our Strategic Path 2025-2029</i> , as presented, and direct Administration to proceed with implementation.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – 2025 Mill Rate Calculations

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-055</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey</b>
	That Council selects the option in which the weighting factor used for Residential and Country Residential properties is unchanged, and the weighting factor for Industrial, Institutional and Telecommunications is increased by 5%. This scenario is to be used for the calculation to be used in the preparation of the 2025 Mill Rate Bylaw.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – Status Update – NLMCC Co-Stewardship Agreement in Principal



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<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-056</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: D/M Keizer</b>
	That Council direct Administration to engage with TLC partners to clarify the Town's position, ensure alignment with Council's original directive regarding the working group, and bring any proposed revisions to the Draft AIP back to Council for review prior to further engagement.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

*\* Cr. Couvrette abstained due to conflict of interest*

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-057</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Cox</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey</b>
	That Council move in-camera in accordance with the Cities, Towns, and Villages Act, Section 23(3)(e) a matter still under consideration and on which Council has not yet publicly announced a decision if discussion in public would likely prejudice the municipal corporation's ability to carry out its activities or negotiations.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-058</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: D/M Keizer</b>
	That Council move out of in-camera at 9 pm.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

<b>CORPORATE</b>	<b># 25-059</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Cox</b>
	That Council reaffirms its commitment to working collaboratively with Salt River First Nation to develop a fair, equitable, and sustainable Municipal Services Agreement that benefits both parties. Council remains dedicated to fostering a strong partnership and ensuring that a mutually beneficial agreement is reached as a priority.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

**i. Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-060</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Cox</b>
	That the minutes from the Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, be adopted as presented.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – Donation Policy

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-061</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Cox</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette</b>
	Council Directs Administration to provide a breakdown of how the Ad hoc Donation Budget has been utilized in the previous two fiscal years.	
		<b>PASSED</b>



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Briefing Note – Fort Smith Ice Fishing Derby 2025 Donation Request

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-062</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Benwell</b>
	That Council support the Fort Smith Ice Fishing Derby through a financial contribution of \$300.00 to help sustain this valued community event and benefit the local families who participate.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – Council Honorarium Bylaw 1022

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-063</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Cox</b>
	That Council direct administration to postpone the implementation of the Council Honorarium Bylaw 1022 Schedule A increase until the bylaw is reviewed and, if necessary, amended prior to the end of the current Council term.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

Briefing Note – Award Recommendation – Bylaw and Policy Review and Development RFP

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-064</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Tuckey</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette</b>
	That Council approves the awarding of the Bylaw and Policy Review and Development contract to PlanIT North for \$100,019.35, as recommended by the Bylaw Review Committee.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

*\* Cr. Bathe abstained due to conflict of interest*

Briefing Note – Community Plan – Second Reading and Submission to Minister

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b># 25-065</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Cox</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey</b>
	That Council gives Second Reading to Bylaw 1060, cited as the Town of Fort Smith Community Plan, and directs Administration to submit the plan to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for final review and consultation with First Nation and Indigenous governments.	
		<b>PASSED</b>

### ii. Municipal Services Standing Committee Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

<b>MUNICIPAL</b>	<b># 25-066</b>	<b>Moved by: Cr. Couvrette</b> <b>Seconded by: Cr. Benwell</b>
	The minutes from the Municipal Services Standing Committee Meeting on March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, be adopted as presented.	
		<b>PASSED</b>



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Briefing Note - Update Metis Proposed Land Swap – March 11, 2025

MUNICIPAL

# 25-067

**Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**  
**Seconded by: D/M Keizer**

**THAT** Council defer the decision on the proposed land trade between the Town of Fort Smith and the Fort Smith Métis Council until critical information becomes available, including formal confirmation from the Government of the Northwest Territories on the land withdrawal status and the completion of additional data collection on long-term municipal infrastructure needs and alternatives.

**FURTHER THAT** Administration continue monitoring relevant developments and provide updates to Council as necessary.

**PASSED**

**b. Bylaws and Policies**

**c. Appointments**

**d. Administration**

- i. Briefing Note – Update\* Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Tradeshow 2025

#25-069

**Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**  
**Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey**

Motion amended:

That Council approve the attendance of Mayor Fergusson and Cr. Heaton at the FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show, with the option for the SAO to attend if deemed beneficial.

**PASSED**

- ii. Briefing Note – Establishment of a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) working Committee

#25-070

**Moved by: Cr. Tuckey**  
**Seconded by: Cr. Benwell**

Motion amended:

**THAT** Council establish a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Committee, consisting of up to eight members plus staff, including at least one Council member and public representatives, with priority for Sustainable Development Advisory Board (SDAB) members.

**AND THAT** the committee support the implementation of HAF initiatives, including developing an RFP and selecting a Project Coordinator.

**AND THAT** Council appoint D/M Keizer, and Administration recruit public members and facilitate committee operations.

**PASSED**

**e. Mayor and Council/Board Representative**

- i. Cr. Tuckey – expressed his condolences to the families who have recently lost loved ones and thanked everyone who participated in the Frolics event. Although he was out of town, he mentioned hearing great things about the event.



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- ii. Cr. Cox – mentioned attending the CSAB meeting, describing it as a great experience. He also noted that the Fishing Derby is coming up this weekend and shared that he had visited the site, where the trails were freshly prepared—better than he had ever seen them. He encouraged everyone who is able to attend to do so.
- iii. Cr. Couvrette – expressed his condolences to the families who have recently lost loved ones. He spoke about the NTPC Intervention Committee and its response to questions, explaining that he plans to bring up at the next committee meeting the suggestion of sending a letter to the NWT Public Utility Board and the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. The letter would request a thorough review of the timelines provided to intervenors and other parties in response to information requests, particularly in relation to the general rate application intervention.
- iv. Cr. Benwell – expressed her condolences to those who have lost family members and are currently grieving. She also mentioned that she sits on the museum board, which is in the process of hiring a new manager and curator, as the previous individuals in those positions have stepped down.
- v. Cr. Heaton – expressed her deepest condolences to the family of Joan Delorme, describing her as a lovely lady and a significant loss to the community. She also acknowledged the tragic deaths by suicide of Janeyaa Edgi and Christina Wanderingspirit, highlighting the mental health crisis among young people, particularly Indigenous youth, in the community. She noted that Christina Wanderingspirit was a kind young woman whose presence will be deeply missed by the elders she served.
- vi. Cr. Karasiuk – requested to pass, he is losing his voice.
- vii. Cr. Bathe - expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers who helped organize the recent events, including the Big Fun and the Frolics, both of which were huge successes and standout moments for the community. He acknowledged the Mayor's contribution but also recognized the efforts of several counselors who helped with both events. He noted it was wonderful to see people from across the territory, as well as travelers from Alberta, coming to participate. Overall, he described it as a great weekend and appreciated the opportunity to showcase Fort Smith to everyone.
- viii. Deputy Mayor Keizer - mentioned two things he'd like to highlight. First, he shared his experience working at the Wood Buffalo Frolics kids' event, where he helped with two games. He said he felt it the next day—not from getting older, but from the energy of the amazing kids who participated. He was glad to see the community engaging and working with the children, making it a wonderful time.

He also spoke about his experience announcing the opening of the hockey tournament, which he described as one of the more moving moments he's had in a while. He highlighted the respect shown for the families and the beautiful stories shared during the event. He commended everyone involved in both the Frolics and the hockey tournament, saying it was all beautifully done.

Finally, he reiterated a point he made earlier about the Mary Keizer Library, encouraging long-distance grandparents to take advantage of the library's great collection of books. With a video app on phones, tablets, or laptops, grandparents can engage with their kids anywhere in the world, which he



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personally practices. He highly recommended the services offered by the library, describing them as excellent.

- ix. Mayor Fergusson - expressed her gratitude to the community for their participation in the recent hockey weekend, which included teams from Délyne, Peace River, and local teams. She highlighted the successful turnout, with over 400 people attending the events at the arena. She also mentioned the snowboard hill event, where Olympian Liam Gill and other special coaches delivered high-level programming.

Mayor Fergusson praised Cr. Benwell for doing a fantastic job with the outdoor events, noting a positive turnout with strong local engagement from both youth and adults. She emphasized the efforts of town staff, who went above and beyond to ensure the success of all the venues, including the hill, arena, rec center, and even the teen dance. She credited key organizers like Emily Prescott and Daniel for their contributions.

Additionally, the Mayor mentioned two public engagement sessions held earlier in the month, which she considered a success. She noted that the sessions were productive, with discussions on topics like taxes and other community issues. Overall, the feedback was positive, and the Mayor appreciated the community's understanding and engagement. She concluded by mentioning the progress on the community plan.

### 8. PROCLAMATIONS

None.

### 9. ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PROTECTIVE

**# 25-071**

**Moved by: Cr. Cox**

**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**

That Cr. Tuckey be excused from the Protective Services Standing Committee meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**PASSED**

CORPORATE

**# 25-072**

**Moved by: Cr. Cox**

**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**

That Cr. Tuckey be excused from the Corporate Services Standing Committee meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**PASSED**

### 10. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Protective Services Standing Committee	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025, at 6:30 pm
Corporate Services Standing Committee	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025, to follow the Protective Services Meeting with a 5-minute break
Community Services Standing Committee	April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, at 6:30 pm
Municipal Services Standing Committee	April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, to follow the Community Services Meeting with a 5-minute break
Regular Meeting of Council	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025, at 7 pm



**11. ADJOURNMENT**

# 25-073

Moved by: Cr. Tuckey

Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 pm.

**PASSED**

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

A question period was offered in accordance with policy.