



Council of the Town of Fort Smith
April 28, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

MINUTES

The Regular meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday, April 28, @ 7 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Fergusson, D/M Keizer, Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Bathe, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette

Regrets:

Staff Present: Cassandra Gibbons, Acting Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Lauren Howes, Director of Community Services
Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services
Adam McNab, Director of Protective Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Mayor Fergusson confirms quorum and reads the Acknowledgment of First Nations. Mayor Fergusson hands the chair to Cr. Couvrette

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

26-063

Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

PASSED

3. DELEGATIONS

- a. Audited Financial Statements Presented by William Senfuma of Avery Cooper

Audit Result

- The Town received a clean, unqualified audit opinion for the latest fiscal year.
- The auditor confirmed there were no major concerns with the financial statements.
- He reiterated that the statements are management's and Council's responsibility, with the auditor providing independent assurance.

Financial Health

- The Town's overall financial position improved compared to the previous year.
- Cash on hand increased, and the Town's net financial resources grew, indicating stronger short-term capacity to meet obligations.
- The Town continued to invest in capital projects (infrastructure, buildings, roads, equipment), which increased the value of its long-term assets.
- The Town's accumulated surplus increased, reflecting that, overall, it continues to build financial capacity over time.

Key Drivers and Explanations

- A major factor in the stronger cash position was the catch-up payment of past Gas Tax funding, which had been outstanding for prior years and was received during the audit year.
- Some revenues, like user fees and investment income, declined, and William indicated the specific reasons for those changes should come from management, as they are operational rather than audit issues.
- There is a clear distinction between:
 - Restricted funds (such as Gas Tax and other infrastructure funding) and



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- Money that is truly available for day-to-day operations. Much of the Town's cash is earmarked for specific purposes or held in reserves.

Reserves, Restrictions, and Liquidity

- The Town holds multiple reserves for operations, infrastructure replacement, environmental services, and contingency needs.
- Some reserves are not fully funded in a strict, account-by-account sense, because cash is sitting in different designated accounts; the auditor suggested reallocating between bank accounts so each reserve is more clearly funded.
- Despite these internal allocations, the auditor's view is that the Town's liquidity is sound, but Council should always remember that not all cash is truly discretionary.

Monitoring, Funding, and Next Steps

- The statements include detailed notes and schedules breaking down revenues, expenses, taxation, government transfers, and capital projects by function and by type.
- The Town has multi-year funding commitments for several major projects (infrastructure, slope monitoring, housing, and homelessness initiatives), which will bring in additional resources in future years.
- The process requires two approvals:
 1. Council approval of the financial statements (provided at this meeting), and
 2. Approval from the territorial department (MACA).After both, the auditor will finalize and distribute the statements.

Overall Message

- The Town is in a good, stable financial position, with:
 - A clean audit,
 - Strong but largely designated cash holdings,
 - Growing long-term assets, and
 - A positive overall surplus trend.
- The main cautions relate to:
 - Understanding which funds are restricted vs. available, and
 - Providing management explanations for specific revenue changes such as user fees and investment income.

- b. Fort Smith Slope Stability 2026 Update Presented by Blade Brodland of WSP

Background & Scale of the Problem

- Blake and colleagues from WSP presented on riverbank instability and landslides along about 4.5 km of the Slave River at Fort Smith.
- The slope has a long history of landslides, including the major 1968 slide and others before and after; many are concentrated near the rapids.
- If someone asked today whether this is a good place to build a new community right on that bank, Blake said they'd likely recommend a different location because of the inherent instability.

Why It's Hard to "Fix" the Slope

Blake and Ed McRoberts highlighted several challenges:

- Ongoing river erosion at the toe: the Slave River, especially at the rapids, is constantly chewing away at the base of the slope.
- Deep landslide structure: historic ground-movement instruments showed movement tens of metres deep, meaning these are deep-seated, large-scale failures, not small surface slumps.
- Problematic soils & possible permafrost: loose glacial/lacustrine materials, shallow groundwater, and possible permafrost make the slope more unstable and failure can be rapid once triggered.



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- Massive engineering effort required:
 - To regrade the whole slope (as was done in the 1968 slide area) across the full length would mean moving huge volumes of soil, impacting trees, roads, and other infrastructure.
 - Effective erosion protection would likely require very large rock (“riprap”) sourced from far away, at extremely high cost.
- Conclusion: there is no easy, affordable engineering fix for the whole slope; partial measures would mostly buy time, not eliminate risk.

Risk-Based Approach

Given that, WSP and the Town have adopted a risk-based approach instead of trying to “fix everything”:

1. Setback line
 - A historic setback line (originally defined in a 1978 Klohn study) shows a boundary between:
 - Higher-risk landslide area closer to the river, and
 - More stable ground farther back.
 - Most key infrastructure is already behind (upslope of) this line, but some important elements inside the risk zone were identified:
 - Water intake structure and pipeline
 - Lagoon outfall
 - Cemetery
 - Arena
 - WSP sees the Klohn line as historical but still reasonable, though they have not re-modelled it in detail.
2. Contingency planning
 - The Town is encouraged to have clear contingency plans for what happens if key infrastructure is damaged by a landslide (e.g., water intake failure, arena risk, cemetery impacts).
 - For the water intake in particular, Ed suggested it might be cheaper and more realistic to relocate it than to try to fully stabilize the riverbank in that area.
 - For public safety at places where people gather (such as the arena), WSP recommended considering early-warning / monitoring systems that could trigger alarms if the slope begins to move.
3. Ongoing monitoring
 - WSP is providing regular monitoring rather than major physical works:
 - Visual inspections of the slope.
 - LIDAR surveys (airborne laser mapping) every so often, comparing surfaces over time to detect ground movement.
 - Survey pins to track more local shifts.
 - Earlier, they also reviewed satellite data supplied by GNWT.
 - The program has been supported by funding from GNWT and more recently through the Climate Change Preparedness in the North program (although WSP emphasized the problem is fundamentally geologic/erosional, not new with climate change).

What the Monitoring Is Showing

- LIDAR “change detection” maps and field photos show:
 - Active ground movement and cracking near the toe of the slope along the river, including areas downslope of the cemetery.
 - Large cracks, fallen trees, and exposed soil confirm ongoing activity in these locations.
- The regraded area from the 1968 landslide shows less dramatic head scarp expression, but the overall landslide system is still active along the length.
- Importantly:



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- Current monitoring is mostly surface-based and performed about once a year, so it can miss short-term or deeper subsurface changes.
- A major deep-seated failure could occur quickly, and annual snapshots might not give enough warning in between.

Need for Better Instrumentation

- WSP stressed that subsurface instrumentation (e.g., instruments installed in boreholes) in a few critical areas would:
 - Track ground movement at depth, where the main slip surfaces lie.
 - Provide more frequent data, potentially daily, via telemetry.
 - Significantly improve the ability to assess risk and detect accelerating movement.
- They had previously helped the Town apply for a large grant to fund such instrumentation and automation; that grant was not approved, but they are willing to support future applications.
- The rough cost estimate for a minimal advanced monitoring system at key sites (water intake, cemetery, arena zone) was in the order of a significant six- or seven-figure amount, which is why outside funding is important.

Safety, Zoning, and Future Planning

- Safety was repeatedly emphasized:
 - Historical records include at least one fatality in the 1968 slide.
 - Failures can be very rapid, giving little time to react.
- On zoning and development:
 - The Town already has the area between the river and the setback line largely recognized as an environmental slide zone / development-exclusion area in the zoning bylaw.
 - There are still existing homes inside or near the line, particularly where the line runs closer to existing residential streets.
 - WSP suggested:
 - Continued use of the setback concept in zoning and land-use planning.
 - Possibly differentiating between what types of development are acceptable (e.g., houses vs. major critical facilities).
- For existing residences:
 - Ed suggested that people closer to the bank should watch for cracks and be prepared to leave if they see signs of movement.
 - Distance from the head scarp matters: farther back generally means lower risk, but there is no exact safe distance because it depends on the depth and size of any future slide.

Funding and Next Steps

- WSP has:
 - Completed several years of inspections and LIDAR analysis through GNWT and climate-preparedness funding.
 - Recently issued a 2025 monitoring report to the Town.
- There are two more years of climate-preparedness funding in place to continue the current monitoring regime.
- They encouraged:
 - Maintaining and strengthening the risk-based approach (setback line, contingency plans, monitoring).
 - Exploring new funding to install deeper, real-time instrumentation.
 - Focusing capital spending on relocating critical infrastructure and safety measures, rather than trying to permanently stop the natural slope processes, which would be extremely costly and environmentally disruptive.



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Bottom Line

- The riverbank will continue to move over time; this is a long-standing, natural, large-scale geologic process.
- The Town cannot realistically “fix” the entire slope, but it can:
 - Limit new development in the highest-risk areas,
 - Monitor the slope intelligently,
 - Plan contingencies for key infrastructure and public safety, and
 - Seek targeted funding for better monitoring and, where most effective, relocation or focused protection of critical assets.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of Council April 14th, 2026

26-064

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14th, 2026, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

7. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Community Services

- i. Director’s Report

Director Howes reported that there was a high level of community activity, including successful snowboarding events and the hosting of territorials. Recreation and Community Services staff supported 26 events throughout the year to date, including youth dances at the Recreation Centre and community bingo. She highlighted staff contributions, noting that ETDO served as an engaging MC at multiple events.

She also noted that the library delivered quiet and creative programming, and the Joel Tetso Tournament was successfully hosted with 10 participating teams.

Director Howes advised that the pool experienced a temporary closure followed by its reopening, during which time important maintenance and administrative work was completed, including pump and plumbing repairs, electrical work, inventory updates, and revisions to SOPs.

She shared that the childcare team is currently recruiting and demonstrated creativity in programming during the colder month of March.

Looking ahead, Director Howes noted that Recreation will be supporting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s March on May 5, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with the route running from Salt River to the First Nation Conference Centre and continuing to Uncle Gabe’s via McDougal Road.

Cr. Bathe shared that several parents had approached him regarding the reopening of the pool. While they are pleased it is open again, he noted that children previously enjoyed swimming lessons and asked when those programs might be offered again.



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Director Howes Yes, we are in the middle of getting that action. We're in the middle of getting staff trained for that that'll be coming week. So we're hopeful for a summer rollout, that it's the goal, but I can come next month as well with a further update on that progress.

ii. Briefing Note: Fireweed Festival Consolidated Request

26-065

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson

Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That Council approve the provision of municipal equipment, personnel, and financial assistance of \$5,000, in accordance with applicable policies, to support Fireweed Festival NT, 2026.

MOTION TABLED

The briefing note requested Council approval for a \$5,000 contribution along with a range of in kind supports such as staff time, equipment, and portable washrooms. During discussion, councillors expressed concern that it was unclear whether the \$5,000 represented only a cash contribution or if it also included the cost of the in kind supports. They noted that the request did not itemize or assign value to these supports, leaving the total contribution unknown. While several members indicated they were generally supportive of the festival, they were uncomfortable approving a motion without clearer financial detail. Administration advised they were confident the support could be managed within the proposed amount, but Council requested a more detailed written breakdown and potentially revised wording. As a result, the mover withdrew support for immediate consideration, and the motion was tabled to a future meeting to allow administration to return with a more precise and itemized request.

iii. Briefing Note: Fireweed Festival Riverside Campground Overflow Request

26-067

Moved by: Cr. Bathe

Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That Council approve the temporary use and designation of Riverside Park as overflow camping for Fireweed Festival NT 2026, subject to compliance with all applicable municipal and territorial regulations, to support increased visitation and ensure safe, organized accommodation of festival attendees.

PASSED

Mayor Fergusson expressed excitement about the area being filled with campers and community members, noting the positive energy it will bring. She added that she hopes this event will help set a strong foundation for future large scale events in the community by establishing a clear framework for others to build on.

D/M Keizer acknowledged that the event has the potential to be a great community gathering, but emphasized the need to balance that with respect for the surrounding residential area. He noted that the proposed camping location is within a neighbourhood where people live year-round and expressed concern about potential impacts such as noise and late night activity. He asked whether there would be appropriate structure in place, including security, a campground host, and clear oversight to manage behaviour.

D/M Keizer stressed the importance of ensuring local residents are not negatively affected or left to address issues themselves, emphasizing that the area should be treated as a neighbourhood first.

Cr. Cox agreed with the Deputy Mayor, noting that the event is a strong idea and likely would have been beneficial in the previous year. He asked whether Protective Services had any concerns with the proposal and indicated he would like to see more clarity around oversight and management. Cr. Cox added that this may be a learning experience for the



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community, with the potential to inform future events, and emphasized the importance of having appropriate controls and safeguards in place to help ensure it is successful.

Director Gibbons advised that, even during a festival, all existing bylaws remain in effect for anyone camping in the area. She noted that this includes regulations related to noise, property use, and general conduct. She emphasized that it is the responsibility of the festival organizers to ensure full compliance with all Town bylaws and policies while operating on municipal property.

Director Gibbons added that, based on previous direction, the Town will require the organizers to remain in good standing with all applicable regulations. She indicated that the organizers would be expected to establish and manage the campground appropriately, and to work closely with the Town as the event approaches to ensure all requirements are met and to support a successful first year for this new campground component.

Cr Tuckey asked whether there are any external policies or obligations related to community safety when Town property is used, particularly regarding the provision of security. He questioned if the Town would be responsible for providing security in this case, noting that security was required during evacuation-related camps. While expressing support for the festival, he emphasized the need to clearly understand the Town's responsibilities.

Director Gibbons explained that the festival differs from an evacuation scenario, as it is not initiated or managed by the Town but by an external group requesting use of municipal property. As such, the responsibility for safety and operations rests with the organizers, who are expected to comply with all applicable bylaws, policies, and practices. She noted that this expectation is consistent with other agreements the Town has in place, such as with the snowboarding group, where users are responsible for proper conduct and care of Town property and facilities.

Director McNab noted that the report effectively captured the concerns he had raised, particularly regarding public safety, environmental considerations, and bylaw compliance. He highlighted key priorities such as emergency planning, maintaining access for fire apparatus, appropriate spacing, adherence to fire bans, limiting fires to propane where permitted, and ensuring the availability of first aid and fire extinguishers in line with fire code requirements. He added that, to provide additional assurance to Council, conditions such as on site security and proof of liability insurance could be included. Overall, he indicated that his concerns had been addressed and that the proposal aligns with required standards.

Director Howes noted that her discussions with festival organizers were not fully reflected in the report and that she will ensure this is captured more clearly in future. She advised that organizers confirmed they would provide insurance and establish campground personnel.

iv. Briefing Note: Tthebatthie Denesųtiné Treaty Day Donation Request

26-068

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson

Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That Mayor and Council approve the provision of requested Town resources and support for the Tthebatthie Denesųtiné Treaty Day event, subject to staff availability and operational considerations.

PASSED



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b. Municipal Services

i. Director's Report

Director Grenier provided several operational updates. He advised that recent work has been completed successfully and is now moving through final approvals. He noted that challenging weather conditions, particularly freezing during water production, created difficulties across departments, but overall progress has been positive. He highlighted that recent repair work was important and at times challenging, especially in sourcing parts, but was ultimately completed successfully.

He also reported ongoing work at the landfill in preparation for the upcoming season, including efforts to have the fence operational by May 1, although snow and site conditions have made progress difficult. Director Grenier added that contingency planning is in place if timelines shift.

In addition, he noted that preparations are underway for wildlife management, including bear related measures as the season changes. Work is also continuing on site maintenance and community areas, alongside coordination on contracts and administrative requirements. Overall, he acknowledged the challenges but indicated steady progress across multiple projects.

D/M Keizer noted that feedback from discussions at the trade show was largely positive, estimating that about 75 to 80 percent of comments reflected strong support and enthusiasm. He shared that while there were some questions and concerns, they were more constructive than critical. He asked Administration to follow up with individuals who had raised questions, particularly those who are well known in the community and may influence others, suggesting that timely, clear responses could help address concerns early. He also noted the value of looking to other communities for approaches, particularly in supporting residents who may face challenges. D/M Keizer praised the handout materials, noting they were very effective in communicating information, and emphasized the importance of continued follow up to maintain momentum.

Director Gibbons confirmed that Administration will follow up with individuals who expressed concerns. She noted that staff will be going door to door to ensure households receive information about the program, and that personnel are well informed and able to answer questions directly while engaging with residents in the community.

Director Grenier advised that, as part of this effort, the carts are scheduled to begin arriving around May 15. He noted that a team will be coming in to support delivery and implementation, and that a truck is expected to arrive next week for training purposes. If timing allows, he welcomed Council to come view the equipment and speak with the team on site, who will be available to answer questions and provide information on the specialized equipment.

Cr. Cox expressed support for the new system and noted the strong positive feedback from the community, including experiences from other areas that have already transitioned. He emphasized the importance of giving residents adequate time and guidance, particularly for those with mobility challenges, when shifting away from existing bins. He also suggested this could create an opportunity for local youth to earn money by assisting residents with putting bins out and bringing them back in.

Mayor Fergusson praised the initiative, noting it has been a long time coming and originated from advisory group input. She commended Administration for moving it forward and engaging with the community. She also expressed interest in seeing the new truck in action



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and suggested creating a video or other engaging content, in collaboration with communications staff, to help residents better understand how the system works.

D/M Keizer shared that a common question from residents at the trade show was whether they needed to purchase a second bin right away. He explained that his response evolved to recommending residents start with one bin and assess their needs over time, noting that a second bin can always be added later if required. He indicated this approach helped ease concerns and would be useful to include in communications to clarify expectations.

ii. Briefing Note: Landfill Closure and Expansion: Tendering and Bid Acceptance

26-069

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That Council approve the issuance of a Landfill-focused tender for the closure of the current landfill cell, site expansion into a new cell, and installation of new fencing to restrict wildlife access.

PASSED

c. Briefing Note: Asset Management Plan

26-070

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson

Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That Council adopt the Asset Management Plan as presented.

d. Briefing Note: Signing Authorities

26-071

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson

Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That Council approve the signing authority records be updated to remove James (Jim) Hood as of May 3rd, 2026.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Bylaws and Policies

i. Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw No. 1076

26-072

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That the Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw No. 1076 be given third and final reading by title only.

PASSED

ii. SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077

26-073

Moved by: Cr. Bathe

Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077 be given first reading by title only.

PASSED



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iii. SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077

26-074

Moved by: Cr. Tuckey

Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the SAO Employment Bylaw No. 1077 be given second reading by title only.

PASSED

iv. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1080

26-075

Moved by: Cr. Bathe

Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1752 Plan 4330 23 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1080 be given first reading by title only.

PASSED

v. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1080

26-076

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1752 Plan 4330 23 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1080 be given second reading by title only.

PASSED

Mayor Fergusson asked whether Council would have the opportunity to review building drawings before construction begins, or if, given that it is a residential development in a designated zone, those plans would not come before Council.

Director McNab explained that while the Development Officer has the authority to issue permits for permitted uses, Administration can bring applications forward to Council if that is the preference of Mayor and Council. He noted this could be done either for information purposes or for Council to act in the role of Development Officer, rather than following the standard process.

Mayor Fergusson asked whether the Zoning Bylaw already includes guidance or standards related to the visual appearance of new homes or buildings within the community or in subdivision areas.

Director McNab advised that the Zoning Bylaw reflects Council's direction not to impose appearance requirements beyond basic size provisions.

vi. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1081

26-077

Moved by: Cr. Tuckey

Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1759 Plan 4330 7 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 108 be given first reading by title only.

PASSED

vii. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1081

26-078

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Cr. Benwell

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1759 Plan 4330 7 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1081 be given second reading by title only.

PASSED



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viii. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1082

26-079

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1739 Plan 4330 446 Calder Ave. Bylaw No. 1082 be given first reading by title only.

PASSED

ix. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1082

26-080

Moved by: Mayor Fergusson
Seconded by: Cr. Bathe

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1739 Plan 4330 446 Calder Ave. Bylaw No. 1082 be given second reading by title only.

PASSED

x. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1083

26-081

Moved by: Cr. Heaton
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1763 Plan 4330 14 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1083 be given first reading by title only.

PASSED

xi. Land Disposal Bylaw No. 1083

26-082

Moved by: Cr. Bathe
Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That the Land Disposal of Lot 1739 Plan 4330 14 Whitford Rd. Bylaw No. 1083 be given second reading by title only.

PASSED

b. Mayor and Council Round Table

- i. Cr. Benwell reminded everyone that the Red Dress March is coming up, noting it is a collaborative effort between the Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre, the Métis, Salt River First Nation, and the college, and encouraged people to attend and show support. She also shared that she was pleased to see the birdhouse on Sesame Street has been cleaned up and is looking much better.
- ii. Cr. Heaton echoed support for the Red Dress March and highlighted other community activities, including events at the Friendship Centre and a well attended trade show. She thanked volunteers who supported the animal shelter, noting successful fundraising efforts of about \$800 and increased volunteer interest. She shared that the lunch program remains active for a few more months and acknowledged the ongoing work at the thrift store, encouraging patience from the community as they manage high donation volumes and seasonal transitions. She also promoted volunteer opportunities at the animal shelter and the food bank, particularly for students seeking calm hours.
- iii. Cr. Karasiuk had nothing to report.



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- iv. Cr. Bathe shared insights from a recent Board of Revision meeting, noting it was helpful to hear directly from assessors and that property assessments remain a process many residents do not fully understand. He anticipated there may be **increased questions or concerns** once tax notices are issued and emphasized the value of clear communication going forward.

He also raised concerns about potential education funding cuts, noting impacts **seen in other communities and the risk of similar effects locally**. Cr. Bathe stressed the importance of advocacy for education funding in the Northwest Territories, highlighting that long term economic development should be supported by strong local education systems.

- v. D/M Keizer reported attending the college convocation on behalf of the Town, where he presented the Duncan McPherson Community Service Award to a deserving recipient and noted the event was well organized. He also attended the trade show, highlighting **strong community engagement and commending staff for their hard work and positive interactions with residents**.

He shared that he participated in a tourism and ITI luncheon, which generated useful discussion and ideas related to local tourism opportunities. In addition, he attended a Housing Accelerator Fund meeting, where three new applications were reviewed and approved, bringing the total number of submissions forward. He encouraged continued participation in the program to support community growth.

- vi. Mayor Fergusson reported on a number of recent meetings and initiatives. She highlighted a visit from Parks Canada representatives, including the Superintendent, noting positive updates such as plans for 16 new housing units, which signal ongoing investment and long term presence in the community. She also mentioned an upcoming visit from UNESCO representatives in August related to World Heritage Site status.

She shared that a recent meeting with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and Aurora College explored the potential for dual credit programming, allowing students to graduate with both a high school diploma and trade credentials. She noted strong support for the idea and indicated Fort Smith could be well positioned as a pilot location.

Mayor Fergusson also spoke to ongoing advocacy efforts related to education funding and Jordan's Principle, including collaboration with other municipalities. She emphasized the importance of protecting local opportunities amid broader changes and potential job impacts.

She concluded by **acknowledging the efforts of municipal staff, particularly infrastructure crews working extended hours on recent projects**.

- vii. Cr. Tuckey had nothing to report.
- viii. Cr. Cox noted the positive progress on Housing Accelerator Fund applications and extended congratulations to recent Aurora College graduates. He shared that discussions at the trade show included potential opportunities to support apprenticeships in collaboration with industry and the college.



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He also attended NTPC water licence meetings, noting that while much work has been completed, additional upgrades are still required, including infrastructure improvements that may lead to extended reliance on diesel generation during planned shutdowns.

Lastly, he encouraged residents to begin preparing for spring cleanup and FireSmart activities, noting how quickly seasonal conditions can change.

ix. Cr. Couvrette had nothing to report.

9. PROCLAMATIONS

10. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting of Council (Protective & Corporate)	May 5 th , 2026, @ 7 pm chaired by Mayor Fergusson
Regular Meeting of Council (Community & Municipal)	May 19 th , 2026, @ 7 pm chaired by Cr. Cox

11. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. ADJOURNMENT

26-083 **Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**
 Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:24 pm. **PASSED**

Minutes adopted this 5th day of May 2026.


Dana Fergusson
Mayor


Certified Correct by Cassandra Gibbons
Acting Senior Administrative Officer

