MINUTES

The Regular meeting of Council was held on
Tuesday, September 15, @ 7 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:	Mayor Fergusson, D/M Keizer, Cr. Benwell, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette
Regrets:	Cr. Bathe and Cr. Heaton
Staff Present:	David Henderson, Senior Administrative Officer Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary Samantha Stokell, Acting Director of Community Services Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services Awa Mbacke, Director of Corporate 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

 # 26-199 **Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**
Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

PASSED

Cr. Couvrette requested a moment of silence prior to the adoption of the agenda to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in Wainwright, Alberta, and to extend thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery to those injured.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting of Council October 6, 2026

 # 26-200 **Moved by: Cr. Cox**
Seconded by: Cr. Benwell

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 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

Samantha provided several departmental updates, highlighting the success of the Lawrie Hobart Volleyball Tournament, which attracted over 1,000 visitors to the Recreation Centre.

each day. PWK expressed appreciation for the Town's support in making the event successful. New Canadian-made exercise equipment is nearly ready for shipment. The Library launched a monthly outreach program at the Northern Lights Special Care Home, providing large-print books, audiobooks, and library memberships to residents. The Canada Bears National Mural Mosaic was unveiled at N60, featuring contributions from 42 local families. Daycare operations continue to go well, and swimming lessons have resumed with 38 participants ranging from infants to adults.

Cr. Karasiuk inquired about the ongoing lifeguard shortage and whether the situation had improved. Administration advised that efforts are underway to explore training opportunities, including upgrading junior lifeguards to National Lifeguard certification. Potential certification courses in Hay River are being considered, along with opportunities to collaborate with the Hay River pool manager. Recruitment and training strategies are still being developed, and interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Recreation Department.

b. Municipal Services

Director Grenier provided updates on several ongoing projects. The cemetery fence project is nearing completion, with the remaining work scheduled for next year. Installation of the new streetscape garbage containers is awaiting concrete work by a local contractor. Annual fire prevention inspections were completed at municipal facilities, with any identified deficiencies to be addressed upon receipt of the report.

The commercial garbage collection pilot project has received positive feedback, with minor concerns being addressed. The pilot will continue through the winter before a final decision is made. The transition to a two-day residential garbage collection schedule has shown significant operational benefits, including reduced equipment wear and improved maintenance.

Director Grenier also reported that the water valve repair near Aurora College was successful, with no water service interruptions required. The associated road closure is expected to end the following day at 5:00 p.m.

Cr. Karasiuk requested clarification on the proposed commercial garbage collection schedule and whether high-volume users would receive twice-weekly service. Administration clarified that the proposal involves dividing the existing once-weekly collection service over two days, similar to residential collection. Additional pickups may be considered through the rates and fees structure. The pilot project involves transitioning from steel bins to plastic side-loading bins to allow for a single-truck collection system. Administration noted that increased commercial waste during the summer was partly attributed to higher visitor activity, with volumes subsequently declining. Further analysis and discussions with affected businesses are required before any decisions are made following the completion of the pilot project.

Mayor Fergusson expressed appreciation for the progress on the cemetery fence project, noting that despite some scheduling challenges, the fence looks excellent. He commended the collaborative efforts between the Town and TDN in completing a project that has been highly anticipated by the community.

c. Briefing Note: DPA-045-26 Home Occupation Aquila Solutions

# 26-201	Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk

That DPA-045-26, submitted by Dave Porter and Sarah Rosolen, for the operation of a consulting, advisory, and administrative support business, from Lot 229, Plan 207, 69 Pine Crescent, Fort Smith, be approved.

PASSED

d. Briefing Note: DPA-046-26 Home Occupation M.B. Contracting

# 26-202	Moved by: Cr. Tuckey Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That DPA-046-26, submitted by Delbert Bourke, for the operation of a carpentry and construction business, from Lot 682, Plan 358, 208 Primrose Lane, Fort Smith, be approved.

PASSED

e. SAO Report

Council requested an update on the previous motion directing Administration to develop a timeline, in consultation with the Bylaw Committee, to review at least five policies before the end of Council's term. Administration confirmed that work is underway, with the Fire Bylaw and Animal Control Bylaw expected to return to Council shortly. Council also requested a prioritized list of the five policies to be reviewed, which Administration indicated would be provided soon.

f. 2025 Audited Financial Statements

# 26-203	Moved by: Mayor Fergusson Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk

That Council accept the 2025 audited financial statements.

PASSED

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Bylaws and Policies

b. Appointments

c. Mayor and Council Round Table

i. Cr. Tuckey extended condolences to the families who have recently lost their loved ones, as well as to the families of the military personnel who lost their lives at CFB Wainwright. He also expressed hope for a full recovery for those injured. He commended the success of the weekend's volleyball tournaments, noting the increased activity throughout the community and how encouraging it was to see the town so lively.

ii. Cr. Cox expressed appreciation for the progress on new sidewalk installations, the demolition of derelict properties, and the cemetery fence project. He reported attending a virtual meeting on riverbank erosion, noting that while Fort Smith appears to be ahead of other communities in addressing the issue, further assessment and quantification of risks are still needed. He offered to share the meeting updates with interested Council members. He also noted an upcoming

Wood Buffalo Winter Road open house and expressed interest in attending to learn about any potential changes.

iii. Cr. Couvrette expressed his personal concern regarding businesses and organizations displaying Christmas decorations immediately following Halloween, particularly in light of the recent events in Wainwright. He shared his belief that waiting until after Remembrance Day would demonstrate respect for veterans and those who serve our country. He personally encouraged local businesses and organizations to consider delaying Christmas displays until November 12 as a gesture of remembrance and respect.

iv. Cr. Benwell expressed her personal concern regarding what she perceives as an increasing number of foxes roaming throughout the community. She noted that, in her observation, there appear to be more foxes roaming freely than dogs and expressed concern about the potential risk to public safety, particularly for children. She emphasized her belief that the issue should be addressed proactively to prevent possible bites or exposure to rabies, especially with winter approaching.

v. Cr. Karasiuk commended the Town and contractors for their professional and efficient work on the sidewalk improvements. He also expressed appreciation to Recreation Centre staff, JBT, PWK, and community members for their support of the successful volleyball tournament. He raised concerns about the deteriorating scoreboard at the Recreation Centre gym and suggested exploring replacement options, potentially through sponsorship.

Cr. Karasiuk also expressed frustration with the accuracy of Northwest Territories Power Corporation's communications regarding scheduled power outages, noting discrepancies between the published outage maps and actual interruptions. However, he acknowledged and appreciated the corporation's willingness to reschedule an outage to avoid disrupting the volleyball tournament. He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

vi. D/M Keizer expressed interest in seeing the completed sidewalk improvements, noting that construction was underway when he left the community. He advised that Parks Canada had contacted him regarding a potential briefing and that he had forwarded the information to the Mayor for follow-up. He also expressed his personal satisfaction with the recent vote in Alberta, thanking Albertans for what he viewed as their contribution to keeping Canada strong.

vii. Mayor Fergusson provided several updates, including plans through TLC to organize a community safety and well-being event addressing concerns related to crime and illicit drug activity, with an emphasis on developing actionable solutions. An initial planning meeting is anticipated by November 6. She also reported presenting Fort Smith's concerns and six proposed outcomes to the Aurora College Board of Governors and participating in a governance discussion with municipal leaders.

Mayor Fergusson emphasized the need for additional community volunteers to fill vacancies on municipal advisory boards and encouraged residents to apply. She also reported meeting with Parks Canada regarding organizational restructuring and workforce reductions, as well as upcoming changes to winter road operations. An open house is scheduled to provide further information. She concluded by inviting.

residents to meet with her at N60 the following week from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. to discuss community concerns and ask questions.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Notice of Motion

10. PROCLAMATIONS

11. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting of Council (Protective & Corporate)	November 3rd, 2026, @ 7 pm to be chaired by Cr. Benwell
Regular Meeting of Council (Community & Municipal)	November 17th, 2026, @ 7 pm to be chaired by Mayor Fergusson

12. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

 # 26-204 **Moved by: Mayor Fergusson**
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That Cr. Bathe and Cr. Heaton be excused from the regular meeting of Council on October 20, 2026.

PASSED

13. IN-CAMERA

 # 26-205 **Moved by: Cr. Cox**
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That Council move in camera in accordance with the Cities, Towns, and Villages Act, Section 23(c) at 7:39 pm.

PASSED

 # 26-206 **Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**
Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey

That Council move out of in camera at 9:31 pm.

PASSED

14. QUESTION PERIOD

15. ADJOURNMENT

 # 26-207 **Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:32 pm.

PASSED

Minutes adopted this 3rd day of November 2026.

Dana Fergusson
Mayor

Certified Correct by David Henderson
Senior Administrative Officer

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
SEAL