

**LAC LA BICHE COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MCARTHUR PLACE, LAC LA BICHE**

February 4, 2025-10:00 a.m.

Minutes of the Lac La Biche County Regular Council Meeting held February 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Reutov called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Mayor Reutov delivered the Lac La Biche County Land Acknowledgement: We respectfully acknowledge the traditional and ancestral lands of the First Nations peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Treaty 10 territories and the Homeland of the Metis People. Lac La Biche County continues to be home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and we recognize the vital contributions of Indigenous culture, history and perspectives in our shared past, present and future.

PRESENT

Paul Reutov	Mayor
John Mondal	Councillor
Darlene Beniuk	Councillor
Kevin Paré	Councillor
Colette Borgun	Councillor
Lorin Tkachuk	Councillor
Charlyn Moore	Councillor
Jason Stedman	Councillor/Deputy Mayor (<i>Participated electronically/arrived at 11:13 a.m./departed at 12:25 p.m.</i>)
Sterling Johnson	Councillor

**STAFF IN
ATTENDANCE**

Manny Deol	Chief Administrative Officer
Ali Memon	GM, Infrastructure
Kashif Ijaz	GM, Strategy & Community Growth
John Kokotilo	GM, Protective Services
Mackenzie Zilinski	Senior Executive Assistant
Heather Reid	Lead Legislative Officer
Danielle Patenaude	Legislative Officer

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

25.023 **MOVED**
To adopt the February 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting agenda as presented.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

The following reports are recommended for the Consent Agenda:

- Item 4.1 - January 28, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and January 28, 2025 Strategic Committee of Council Minutes
- Item 8.2 - Councillor Expense Claims - December 2024

25.024 **MOVED**
That the recommendations contained in the following reports be approved:

- Item 4.1 –January 28, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and January 28, 2025 Strategic Committee of Council Meeting Minutes
- Item 8.2 – Councillor Expense Claims – December 2024

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The following motion was approved on the Consent Agenda:

25.024 To adopt the January 28, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes and the January 28, 2025 Strategic Committee of Council Meeting minutes as presented.

DELEGATION

7.1 10:15 a.m. Delegation - Lac La Biche RCMP Annual Update

Sgt. Trevor Cardinal with the Lac La Biche RCMP Detachment presented the detachment's annual update and responded to questions.

The presentation was received as information.

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Councillor Reports

Each Councillor in attendance presented their Councillor Reports which was received as information.

Councillor Pare exited Chambers at 10:05 a.m. and returned at the same time.

The following motion arose as part of the Councillor Reports item:

25.025

MOVED

To direct Administration, as part of the Land Use Bylaw review, to explore farmland and other usage for renewable energy projects and to receive an update from the Alberta Government respecting their provincial guidelines, and to provide input as part of the provincial guidelines.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 Councillor Expense Claims – December 2024

The following motion was approved on the Consent Agenda:

25.024

That Council approves the Council expense claims processed for the period of December 2024.

8.3 Road Naming Request - Township Road 682

Ms. Mackenzie Zilinski, Senior Executive Assistant presented the Road Naming Request - Township Road 682 item and responded to questions.

25.026 **MOVED**
That Council approves the naming of Township Road 682 to Ladouceur Way, in accordance with PW-30-023 Naming of County Streets and Roads.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECESS Mayor Reutov called a recess 10:40 a.m.

RECONVENE Mayor Reutov reconvened the meeting at 10:58 a.m. with all those Members of Council previously listed in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

8.4 January 23 Council and Administration Workshop Resolutions

Mr. Manny Deol, CAO presented the January 23 Council and Administration Workshop Resolutions and responded to questions.

25.027 **MOVED**
That Council direct Administration to stabilize and secure the existing clinic infrastructure while developing a long-term plan to enhance regional healthcare services, including options for a modernized facility.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.028 MOVED
That Council directs Administration to develop a Safe Community Plan leveraging technology, tools, training, and education, in collaboration with Portage College, to enhance applied research through new technological innovations.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.029 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to conduct a comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in affordable rental housing, including multi-unit developments, and to work with development industry to address the needs.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.030 MOVED
That Council directs Administration to collaborate with Portage College in meeting the needs of the students/community housing.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.031 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to conduct a feasibility study for the development of a lagoon, evaluating potential locations, economic benefits, and environmental impacts.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deputy Mayor Stedman joined the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

25.032

MOVED

That Council direct Administration to develop a detailed plan for expanding sports tourism and events, in collaboration with tourism partners, and to create a comprehensive marketing package to promote the region as a sports tourism destination.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.033

MOVED

That Council direct Administration to explore and pursue viable options for a conference center/hotel, including potential locations, business partners, and economic feasibility.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.034

MOVED

That Council direct Administration to procure water transport options for emergency response and tourism within Lac La Biche County, including identifying suitable vessels and an implementation strategy.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.035 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to develop a growth strategy to support public and private campground facilities, including streamlining permitting processes and identifying potential bylaw amendments.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.036 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to conduct a feasibility study for industrial recycling operations to support a circular economy and job creation, in collaboration with Indigenous communities, private businesses, and industry stakeholders.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.037 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to develop a Work & Live Strategy to attract and retain workers in Lac La Biche County by promoting key benefits such as transportation accessibility, education opportunities, and quality of life.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.038 MOVED
That Council direct Administration to provide a report on shovel-ready and development ready lands inventory for industrial, commercial, and residential development.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.039 MOVED

That Council direct Administration to collaborate with a third-party consultant to develop a long-term Rail Transport Strategy, exploring opportunities for freight, commuter, and tourism connectivity and economic development.

In Favour (7): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

Opposed (2): Councillor Moore, and Councillor Beniuk

CARRIED

25.040 MOVED

That Council direct Administration to develop a streamlined system to enhance engagement with the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Industrial Committee for more effective collaboration and decision-making.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.041 MOVED

That council directs Administration to work collaboratively with Portage College to identify, zone and subdivide lands required for both the trades lab and housing projects and furthermore to have agreements in place for both sections of land to be acquired by the college with a targeted completion date of January 2026.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.042 MOVED
Council approves a Budget of \$350,000 to support and deliver economic development through effective engagement with investment partners, feasibility studies, retaining consultants/experts, relationship-building, lobbying efforts, and related activities.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.5 2025 Event Planning - August Long-Weekend

Mr. Kashif Ijaz, GM Strategic Initiatives and Chenee Miller, Interim Special Events Coordinator presented the 2025 Event Planning - August Long-Weekend item and responded to questions.

Councillor Borgun exited Chambers at 11:56 a.m. and returned at 11:59 a.m.

A portion of this item was discussed in Closed Session.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

There was no in attendance for the Public Input Session.

CLOSED SESSION

25.043 MOVED
To go into Closed Session at 12:17 p.m. pursuant to the *Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*.

In Favour (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.1 2025 Event Planning - August Long-Weekend (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials; s.17 FOIP - Disclosure harmful to personal privacy)

The following Members of Administration were present for presentation and recording purposes: Manny Deol, Gary Harman, Heather Reid, Danielle Patenaude, Mackenzie Zilinski, Kashif Ijaz, Ali Memon, Chenee Miller, and Najiah Moghrabi.

Mayor Reutov exited Chambers at 12:23 p.m. and Councillor Mondal assumed the role of the Chair. Mayor Reutov returned to Chambers at 12:26 p.m. and resumed the role of Chair.

Deputy Mayor Stedman exited the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Councillor Tkachuk exited Chambers at 12:32 p.m. and returned at 12:35 p.m.

9.2 Alberta Counsel Update (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials)

The following Members of Administration were present for presentation and recording purposes: Manny Deol, Gary Harman, Heather Reid, Danielle Patenaude, Mackenzie Zilinski, Kashif Ijaz, and Ali Memon.

9.3 CAO Update (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials)

The following Members of Administration were present for presentation and recording purposes: Manny Deol, Gary Harman, Heather Reid, Danielle Patenaude, Mackenzie Zilinski, Kashif Ijaz, and Ali Memon.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

25.044 MOVED
 To return to Open Session at 12:45 p.m.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

9.1 2025 Event Planning - August Long-Weekend (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials; s.17 FOIP - Disclosure harmful to personal privacy)

25.045 MOVED
To direct Administration to continue collaborating with community groups and the Indigenous Collaboration Committee for this premier regional and cultural event.

In Favour (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Alberta Counsel Update (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials)

The item was received as information.

9.3 CAO Update (s.24 FOIP - Advice from officials)

The item was received as information.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reutov adjourned the February 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Paul Reutov, Mayor

Manny Deol, Chief Administrative Officer