

**MACKENZIE COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 27, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers
Fort Vermilion, AB**

PRESENT:

Josh Knelsen	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
Peter F. Braun	Councillor
Cameron Cardinal	Councillor
David Driedger	Councillor (joined virtually at 10:56 a.m.)
Eileen Morris	Councillor (virtual, left the meeting at 12:10 p.m., joined the meeting in person at 12:57 p.m.)
Ernest Peters	Councillor
Garrell Smith	Councillor (virtual, left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)
Lisa Wardley	Councillor
Dale Wiebe	Councillor

REGRETS:

ADMINISTRATION:

Darrell Derksen	Chief Administrative Officer
Don Roberts	Director of Community Services
Jennifer Batt	Director of Finance
Andy Banman	Director of Operations
Caitlin Smith	Director of Planning and Development
John Zacharias	Director of Utilities
Louise Flooren	Manager of Legislative & Support Services/ Recording Secretary
Landon Driedger	Agricultural Fieldman

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the Public
Expedition Management Consulting Ltd. Maxwell Harrison (Zoom)
Justin Rousseau (Zoom)

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for Mackenzie County held on November 27, 2024 in the Council Chambers at the Fort Vermilion County Office.

CALL TO ORDER: 1. a) Call to Order

Reeve Knelsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA:

2. a) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 24-11-836

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the agenda be adopted with the following additions:

- 10. b) Fire Truck Pump Replacement
- 13. a) Wolfe Lake Water Point

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3. a) Minutes of the November 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION 24-11-837

MOVED by Councillor Wardley

That the minutes of the November 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3. b) Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Budget Council Meeting

MOTION 24-11-838

MOVED by Councillor Braun

That the minutes of the November 19, 2024 Budget Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3. c) Business Arising out of the Minutes

None.

CLOSED MEETING:

4. a) Closed Meeting

MOTION 24-11-839

MOVED by Councillor Braun

That Council move into a closed meeting at 10:04 a.m. to discuss the following:

- 4.a) Wop May Airport (Fort Vermilion) – Agriculture Lease Agreement (*FOIP Sections 23, 24 25 and 27*)
- 4.b) CAO Report (*FOIP Sections 16, 17, 23 and 24*)

CARRIED

The following individuals were present during the closed meeting discussion. (*MGA Section 197*)

- All Councillors Present excluding Councillor Driedger
- Darrell Derksen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Caitlin Smith, Director of Planning and Development
- Louise Flooren, Manager of Legislative & Support Services/ Recording Secretary

MOTION 24-11-840 **MOVED** by Councillor Peters

That Council move out of a closed meeting at 10:46 a.m.

CARRIED

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 10:46 a.m., Councillor Driedger joined the meeting virtually at 10:56 a.m. and Reeve Knelsen reconvened the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

CLOSED MEETING: **4. a) Wop May Airport (Fort Vermilion) – Agriculture Lease Agreement**

MOTION 24-11-841 **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That administration advertise the leasing opportunity for Part of SW-28-108-12-W5M, Part of SE-29-108-12-W5M, and Part of SE-28-108-12-W5M (LOC 090670) which included road allowance between SE-28-108-12-W5M and SW-27-108-12-W5M located at the Wop May airport, for bid.

CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING: **4. b) CAO Report**

MOTION 24-11-842 **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the CAO Report be received for information.

CARRIED

TENDERS: 5. a) None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6. a) None

GENERAL REPORTS: 8. a) None

AGRICULTURE SERVICES: 9. a) None

COMMUNITY SERVICES: 10. a) **Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) Grant Funding**

MOTION 24-11-843 **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the Zama City Sprinkler Plan and Shelter in Place Project for an estimated \$20,000 be brought forward to the 2025 budget deliberations.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SERVICES: 10. b) **Fire Truck Pump Replacement (ADDITION)**

MOTION 24-11-844 **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley
Requires Unanimous

That the 2024 One Time Project Budget be amended to include the Fire Truck Pump Repair Project in the amount of \$25,000 with funding coming from the General Operating Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE: 11. a) **Financial Reports – January – October 2024**

MOTION 24-11-845 **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the financial reports for January to October 2024 be received for information.

CARRIED

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

DELEGATIONS: 7. a) Expedition Management Consultants – Mackenzie County Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan

MOTION 24-11-846 **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the Draft Mackenzie County Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan be received for information.

CARRIED

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 12:02 p.m., Councillor Morris left the meeting virtually at 12:10 p.m. and Reeve Knelsen reconvened the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

OPERATIONS: 12. a) Approve New Policies PW045 Rural Road and Access Construction and ASB023 Surface Water Management

MOTION 24-11-847 **MOVED** by Councillor Peters

That Policy PW039 Rural Road Access Construction and Surface Water Management be rescinded.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-848 **MOVED** by Councillor Wiebe

That Policy PW045 Rural Road and Access Construction be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-849 **MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That Policy ASB023 Surface Water Management be approved as presented.

CARRIED

OPERATIONS: 12. b) Bylaw 1356-24 Unauthorized Use of Municipal Land in Road Allowances

MOTION 24-11-850 **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley
Requires 2/3

That first reading be given to Bylaw 1356-24 being the Unauthorized Use of Municipal Land in Road Allowances for Mackenzie County as amended.

CARRIED

UTILITIES:

13. a) Wolfe Lake Water Point (ADDITION)

Councillor Morris joined the meeting in person at 12:57 p.m.

MOTION 24-11-851
Requires Unanimous

MOVED by Councillor Peters

That the 2024 One Time Project Budget for the Wolfe Lake Rural Water Point project be amended by \$50,000 with funding coming from the Water/Sewer Infrastructure Reserve for additional excavation and that the lease be renewed for a longer term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

14. a) Bylaw 1353-24 Establishment of a Municipal Planning Commission

MOTION 24-11-852

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That first reading be given to Bylaw 1353-24 Establishment of a Municipal Planning Commission.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-853

MOVED by Councillor Braun

That second reading be given to Bylaw 1353-24 Establishment of a Municipal Planning Commission.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-854
Requires Unanimous

MOVED by Councillor Morris

That third reading be considered for Bylaw 1353-24 Establishment of a Municipal Planning Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 24-11-855

MOVED by Councillor Peters

That third reading be given to Bylaw 1353-24 Establishment of a Municipal Planning Commission.

CARRIED

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

14. b) Bylaw 1355-24 Partial Plan Cancellation and Lot Consolidation of Plan 842 0527, Block 01, Lots 13, 14 and 15 (Hamlet of Fort Vermilion).

MOTION 24-11-856

MOVED by Councillor Wardley

That first reading for Bylaw 1355-24 being a partial plan cancellation and lot consolidation of Plan 842 0527, Block 01, Lots 13, 14, and 15 in the Hamlet of Fort Vermilion be TABLED to gain additional clarity between the Government of Alberta and Boreal Housing Foundation grant requirements.

CARRIED

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

14. c) 2024-25 Small Community Opportunity Grant Application – Mackenzie Agriculture

MOTION 24-11-857

MOVED by Councillor Braun

That Mackenzie County Council direct administration to apply to the 2024-25 Small Community Opportunity Program Grant to fund the Mackenzie Agriculture update.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-858

MOVED by Councillor Wardley

That Mackenzie County Council support the application for the 2024-25 Small Community Opportunity Program Grant to fund the Mackenzie Agriculture update as the Managing Partner.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-859

MOVED by Councillor Morris

That Mackenzie County send a letter of support to the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) for the 2024-25 Northern and Regional Economic Development Program Grant.

CARRIED

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

**14. d) Request to use Solar and Geothermal for
Development in Hamlet**

MOTION 24-11-860

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That Council approve the developer request to use Geothermal Energy in hamlet.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION:

**15. a) Community Rail Advocacy Alliance – 2025
Membership**

MOTION 24-11-861

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance 2025 Membership be renewed in the amount of \$2,000.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION:

**15. b) 2025 NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC)
Annual General Meeting**

MOTION 24-11-862

MOVED by Councillor Wardley

That the following Councilor's be authorized to attend the NWT Association of Communities Annual General Meeting from February 26, 2025 – March 1, 2025 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

1. Reeve Knelsen
2. Councillor Cardinal

CARRIED

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 1:31 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

**15. c) Municipal Ward Boundary and Governance Review –
Engagement Findings**

MOTION 24-11-863

MOVED by Councillor Wardley

That the finance department develop to the best of their ability within the short timeline, a financial outline similar to that of the 2021 viability study, for the four options that were within the public engagement and submit to municipal affairs and circulate to council.

Councillor Wardley requested a recorded vote

In Favor	Opposed
Deputy Reeve Sarapuk	Reeve Knelsen
Councillor Cardinal	Councillor Braun
Councillor Morris	Councillor Driedger
Councillor Smith	Councillor Peters
Councillor Wardley	Councillor Wiebe

DEFEATED

MOTION 24-11-864 **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the Municipal Ward Boundary and Governance Review – Engagement Findings be received for information.

CARRIED

MOTION 24-11-865 **MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Council moves to support the creation of two municipalities, comprised of wards one through five and six through ten, this would create two growing municipalities that would be larger than most in landmass and above average in population and revenue, this would create governance structure and decision making that is closer to the people. That are sustainable long-term, would create another northern municipal voice, would allow for more northern priorities to be addressed and an additional northern partner with projects and grants, both new entities will strive to be long term positive northern advocates.

Councillor Wardley requested a recorded vote:

In Favor	Opposed
Deputy Reeve Sarapuk	Reeve Knelsen
Councillor Cardinal	Councillor Braun
Councillor Morris	Councillor Driedger
Councillor Smith	Councillor Peters
Councillor Wardley	Councillor Wiebe

DEFEATED

MOTION 24-11-866 **MOVED** by Councillor Morris

That in order to provide the best possible Rural based governance structure within and for the largest rural municipality in the province, which has diverse cultures and communities, a substantial industrial tax base that supports the way of life for our communities, has a mix of urban and rural areas and a large developing land base. Mackenzie County's governance structure, ward boundaries and specialized municipality status stay as it is, and that the minister of municipal affairs be notified of this council motion.

DEFEATED

MOTION 24-11-867 **MOVED BY** Councillor Wiebe

That Council draft a letter to Municipal Affairs that supports the amalgamation of Wards 9 and 10 because of variation of representation of population and the removal of the Specialized Municipality Status.

Councillor Wiebe requested a recorded vote:

In Favor	Opposed
Reeve Knelsen	Deputy Reeve Sarapuk
Councillor Braun	Councillor Cardinal
Councillor Driedger	Councillor Morris
Councillor Peters	Councillor Smith
Councillor Wiebe	Councillor Wardley

DEFEATED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS: 16. a) None

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: 17. a) Council Committee Reports (verbal)

Councillor Smith left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

MOTION 24-11-868 **MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the Council Committee Reports (verbal) be received for information.

CARRIED

**INFORMATION/
CORRESPONDENCE:**

18. a) Information/Correspondence

MOTION 24-11-869

MOVED by Councillor Peters

That the information/correspondence items be accepted for information purposes.

CARRIED

NOTICE OF MOTION:

19. a) None

**NEXT MEETING
DATES:**

20. a) Next Meeting Dates

Regular Council Meeting
December 10, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

Regular Council Meeting
January 14, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT:

21. a) Adjournment

MOTION 24-11-870

MOVED by Councillor Driedger

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

CARRIED

These minutes were approved at the December 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

(original signed)

Joshua Knelsen
Reeve

(original signed)

Darrell Derksen
Chief Administrative Officer

