

MEDIA RELEASE

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WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

Alyssa Calliou, Manager of the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, presented the annual Chamber of Commerce update to Council. The presentation focused on the strong and valued partnership between the Chamber and Woodlands County, emphasizing collaborative efforts that support economic growth, tourism development, and community vitality. Council received the presentation for information.

Council deferred the adoption of Policy HR-7.004 – New Employee Orientation to the May 13 Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting, directing Administration to return with a revised policy that establishes governance expectations and delegates detailed onboarding requirements to administrative procedures, aligned with current practices and applicable legislation. Amendments also include changing the document owner from Human Resources to Council and adding the department to the policy header.

Council deferred Policy HR-7.003 – Payment of Wages and Salaries to the May 13 Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting, directing Administration to revise the policy to focus on governance expectations, move detailed payroll processes to administrative procedures, align with current systems, practices, and legislation, update the document owner to Council, and add the department to the policy header.

Council rescinded Policy 1962-09 – Court Leaves and adopted Policy HR-7.017 – Court Leaves, with amendments that changed the document owner from Human Resources to Council and added the department to the policy header.

Council rescinded Policy 1964-01 – Health & Safety and adopted Policy HS-3.001 – Health & Safety, with several amendments. These include adding definitions for permanent employees and part-time/casual employees, removing coverage for contractors, increasing the safety footwear reimbursement from \$90 to \$125 annually and from \$180 to \$250 biannually, updating the document owner to Council, and adding the department to the policy header.

Council authorized Administration to finalize and execute a Trail Manager Agreement with the Province of Alberta for the Centre of Alberta Natural Area, to the satisfaction of the Chief Administrative Officer and within the approved budget. This agreement will strengthen Woodlands County's ability to plan, build, and maintain trails by enhancing credibility, improving access to grant funding, and demonstrating alignment with provincial standards. It also supports positioning the County as a regional tourism destination.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 15 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, April 23 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, May 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in-person at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and live-streamed on the Woodlands County [YouTube channel](#). Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County [CivicWeb Portal](#).

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For more information:
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