

MEDIA RELEASE

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3 JUNE 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

At the Governance & Priorities Committee meeting held on April 15, 2026, the Committee received Bylaw 639/26, being the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw, for information. Rather than replacing Bylaw 525/19 in full, the Committee recommended targeted amendments, which are reflected in Bylaw 642/26. Today, Council gave first reading to Bylaw 642-26, being the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw Amendment Bylaw, and directed Administration to bring back the amended version to a future Council meeting for a second reading.

On June 11, 2025, the Access to Information Act (ATIA) and the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA) came into force, effectively replacing and repealing the former Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The legislation states that a municipality must adopt a Privacy Management Plan by June 11, 2026. Council gave all readings to Bylaw 644-26, being the *Access to Information Act* and *Protection of Privacy Act* Bylaw.

Council directed Administration to defer Policy AD-2.014, being the Privacy Management Program, and bring it forward to a future Governance & Priorities Meeting. The County's new Privacy Management Program (PMP) is being developed to ensure compliance with Alberta's new privacy legislation. The program will establish a framework for managing and protecting personal information, with the understanding that it may be refined over time as implementation progresses and additional guidance becomes available.

Woodlands County is a member of the Yellowhead Regional Library system, which provides residents with access to a wide range of resources through the broader library network. On April 1, 2026, Administration received correspondence from the Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) requesting Woodlands County Council consider a motion supporting an increase to the municipal levy for 2027. As such, Council supported an amendment to Schedule C of the Yellowhead Regional Library Master Membership Agreement to allow for an increase in the municipal levy from \$4.85 per capita to \$5.60 per capita, effective January 1, 2027, and directed Administration to inform the Yellowhead Regional Library of its decision prior to the July 30, 2026 deadline.

On May 13, 2026, the County received a sponsorship request letter and accompanying information package from the Whitecourt Charity Classic Committee. The request is for the County to partner as a sponsor for the inaugural Whitecourt Charity Classic Golf Tournament, to be held on August 27, 2026. Council received the funding request for the Whitecourt Charity Classic 'Swinging for a Scanner' for information and directed Administration to respond with a donation of two loads of gravel, not including trucking costs, and Woodlands County-branded items as prizes for the event.

Council received the Council Action Tracking Report January 01, 2026 - April 30, 2026, for information, including amendments.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 10 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, June 18 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, July 16 @ 9:30 a.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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