

MEDIA RELEASE

Woodlands County
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JULY 20, 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

Woodlands County Council met on Thursday, July 16, 2026, to consider a variety of reports, presentations, and policy matters. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Whitecourt and District Library presentation
- GlobalMedic fire skid donation
- Growth Alberta Partnership (CAP) update
- Joint Tourism Committee
- CT Scanner Advocacy Committee
- Q2 Department Reports

Ms. Nancy Keough, Library Director of the Whitecourt and District Library, presented Council with an overview of the library's services and their impact on the community. Woodlands County and the Whitecourt and District Library Board's five-year funding agreement, originally scheduled to end in 2025, was extended by an additional year following the passage of Motion C-15-300-2025 at Council's August 13, 2025, meeting. Council received the presentation as information and directed Administration to refer it, along with the funding request, to a future Community Services Committee meeting.

Council approved the donation of three fire skid units from GlobalMedic to the Woodlands County Fire Departments in Blue Ridge (Station 3), Fort Assiniboine (Station 2), and Goose Lake (Station 5). On May 15, 2026, GlobalMedic officially presented the units to Woodlands County fire chiefs and members. The fire skid units enhance the County's ability to provide a rapid initial response to small grass and ditch fires. Council directed Administration to send a letter of appreciation to GlobalMedic for its generous donation and approved amendments to Policy F-5.208, *Acceptance of Donations and Donated Assets*, including the addition of Section 6, *Acceptance of Donations During a State of Local Emergency*.

Ms. Janet Jabush, Executive Director of the Growth Alberta Partnership (GAP), provided Council with an update on GAP, a regional economic development alliance that brings together municipalities and other stakeholders to advance shared economic and community priorities. Council received the presentation as information and directed Administration to return with options for \$ 2,000.00 in funding for GAP at a future Regular Council Meeting.

Council directed Administration to send a letter, signed under the Reeve's name, congratulating the newly elected Chief and Council of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and to extend an invitation to attend a dinner with Woodlands County Council this fall. The invitation recognizes the Nation's newly elected leadership following the June 19, 2026, election and reflects the County's commitment to maintaining a strong government-to-government relationship with its neighbouring First Nation.

Council approved the establishment of a Joint Tourism Committee with the Town of Whitecourt following a recommendation from the Whitecourt and Woodlands County Joint Liaison Committee. The committee will provide a collaborative approach to promoting and growing regional tourism by leveraging the County's natural attractions and the Town's tourism services. Administration from both municipalities will work together to develop Terms of Reference for consideration by each Council.

Council approved the establishment of a Joint Ad Hoc CT Scanner Regional Advocacy Committee with the Town of Whitecourt to support efforts to acquire a CT scanner for the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre, with the Terms of Reference to follow.



For more information:
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Council received quarterly reports from the Community Services and Finance & Business Supports divisions, highlighting work, projects, and initiatives aimed at improving residents' lives.

Council received the June 2026 Service Request Tracker Report as information and directed Administration to include, going forward, the number of service requests that did not fall within the service standard time.

Council received an update from Greg Edwards, Director of Infrastructure, on the status of several capital projects, including the riverbank erosion repairs at Cut Banks Road and Old Ferry Road, the Groat Creek slide repair, and the East Mountain Road slide repair. Through adjustments to the funding allocation for the East Mountain Road slide repair project, Administration identified approximately \$600,000.00 in potential surplus funding. Council directed Administration to explore options for reallocating those funds to the Tower Road and/or Bison Road rehabilitation projects.

Council received the June 2026 Council Action Tracker Report, the Q2 2026 Council Committee Action Tracker Report, and the Q2 2026 Policy Update Report as information.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 22 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, August 13 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Meeting – Wednesday, August 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, September 10 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

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