

MEDIA RELEASE

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27 February 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Council gave second and third final reading to Bylaw 637/26, being the amended Annual ATB Borrowing Bylaw.

Administration received a letter on February 9, 2026, from the County Government of Tana River, Kenya, requesting that Woodlands County host an official delegation, expressing interest in learning from municipal best practices to strengthen its rural and urban development initiatives and governance structures. Council, in principle, approved hosting the Kenyan delegation in June 2026 and directed Administration to liaise with the delegation to confirm objectives, attendees, scheduling requirements, and associated costs, and to report back to Council with a detailed program and budget prior to any financial commitments.

Woodlands County has retained Qatalyst Research Group to facilitate the development of a new Strategic Plan for the 2026–2030 period. Council received Mr. Weicker's presentation from Qatalyst Research Group on the Strategic Planning Work Plan for information and adopted the Public Participation Plan as discussed.

Council received the Provincial RCMP and Whitecourt RCMP 2025 Q3 Reports for information and directed Administration to conduct a public survey to obtain input from Woodlands County residents on Policing Priorities for the 2026–2027 RCMP Community Priorities Plan (CPP), and that the results be reported to Council at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Council confirmed that the 2026 Interim Operating Budget remains in effect in accordance with sections 242 and 248 of the Municipal Government Act until replaced by the final 2026 Operating Budget. Council also directed Administration to draft a Policy or Policy amendment that further clarifies the Interim Operating Budget.

Council directed Administration to draft and/or implement a Facebook Poll and/or Survey Monkey Poll on the 2026 Interim Operating Budget to obtain ratepayer feedback during the 2026 budget process. Also, Administration is to develop a Public Participation Plan to support public engagement for the 2027 Operating and Capital Budgets by the end of Q2 2026 for councils' consideration.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, March 12 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, March 26 @ 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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